



STEELIFE

**The Triennale of Milan
26 May - 26 August 2009**

briefing note nr. 1

The **Triennale of Milan** and **Marcegaglia** present **Steellife**, the first international art exhibition dedicated to steel and its masterful crafters, artists - curated by art critic **Elisabetta Pozzetti**.

This unprecedented exhibition is staged during the fiftieth year since the foundation of **Marcegaglia**, an Italy-based industrial and financial group, leader in Europe and on a world scale in the steel metallurgy sector.

The passion for steel, together with the ability to transform it, has become Marcegaglia's signature style: with this special event, **Marcegaglia** has set steel apart from its function while endorsing an exhibition project of high cultural and aesthetic relevance, in line with its entrepreneurial values, a peculiar harmony of technological innovation and respect for human resources.

Visitors will be amazed by the works exhibited in **Steellife**, reflecting different cultural and geographical backgrounds, by the environmental installations and their physical "embrace", by the imaginative power arising from the exhibits.

The exhibition title wishes to condense the talent and intuition expressed by artists in the process of giving new forms, new life to steel.

Selected by the curator, the works are the expression of three different continents and the result of original and open-minded approaches to a material that can be as hard to manipulate as it is rich in artistic potential.

Different styles, solutions and backgrounds are bound by one unchanging factor: age. All selected artists are born between 1960 and 1980, and are members of the "young generation", as young and pioneering is their approach to the raw material.



The works of venezuelan artist **Magdalena Fernandez Arriaga** (Caracas, 1964) have a peculiar formal lightness that can give a delicate and floaty feeling to a material best known for its solidity and structural strength. Her installations vibrate in tune with atmospheric light and space variations, interacting with the visitor as an additional channel to express the never-ending flux of reality.

Another original approach is that of German-born **Julia Bornefeld** (Kiel, 1963). Her works “act” into space involving three senses: sight, touch and hearing. Deep semantic implications are connected with every installation, meanings that may become polemic if not sustained by an irreducible imaginative component.

The vision of Japanese artist **Tetsuya Nakamura** (Chiba, 1968) is rooted in the visionary world of cartoon imagery. He creates futuristic machines and spacecrafts to make human dreams travel into infinity, with psychedelic coatings over outlandish plastic figures.

Machines of totally different kind are those conceived by Swiss artist **Luc Mattenberger** (Geneve, 1980): raging, diabolical, provocative. Machines that actually can be seen operating, expressing assertively - and with a bit of disrespect - all their robotic vitality through movements, sound and smell.

Pakistan-born **Adeela Suleman** (Karachi, 1970) has a visionary approach that allows her to mix the aesthetics of recycling with the creation of ambiguous and skeletal shapes, or with bizarre translations of traditional icons, creating polychromatic and multi-shaped headwears referring to the oriental imagery and to the artist’s inspiration.

Italian **Francesco Bocchini** (Cesena, 1969) masterfully works recycled metal sheet into new forms of life, building wacky crank-handled machinery that populate a world of eccentric subjects, coming from a realm of dreams fueled by a deeply poetic, ironic and playful imagination.

Indian artist **Subodh Gupta** (Khagaul, 1964) “contaminates” spaces through imposing installations, looking monumental yet made up of everyday objects that, out of their context, acquire the immanence of sculpture.

Chinese-born **Zhang Huan** (An Yang City, 1965) focuses on the human body as the center of subjectivity and the shrine of spirituality. In his work conceived expressly for Steellife, recollection becomes a motivating force for new, deep reflections not only on the East, but on the world as a whole.



The exhibition path is enriched by the live reportages shot during the works' manufacturing and installation by photographer **Alberto Giovanni** (Ferrara, 1970), clever storyteller and talented player of human emotions.

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Curated by: Elisabetta Pozzetti

Promoter: Marcegaglia

Concept and Organization: Studio Chiesa

Opening hours: 10.30 - 20.30; giovedì 10.30 - 23.00; monday closed

Entry: 6/5/4 euros

www.triennale.it

www.steelife.marcegaglia.com

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