

The Centro d'Arte Contemporanea Ticino opens on Saturday, January 19, 2002 at 5:30 pm the new year exhibition season with a show – with catalogue – mainly dedicated to the video works of Silvano Repetto (1968) and the duo Minelli & Repetto.

This public opportunity and the present important, mature moment of the artistic production of Repetto clash. The exhibition is in fact part of a cycle of two shows of him. The first tour has been scheduled at the 5610 Gallery in Tokyo in October '01.

The artist, who features with his partner Gian Paolo Minelli (1968) their common works in two exhibitions both in the Gallery Martin Krebs in Berne and Bernhard Bischoff in Thun, presents in Bellinzona - installed in three rooms of the CACTicino – one big work entitled Desert (2001-2002). It is a video installation putting on stage through some wall projections and a monitor assemblage the relation man-tracks-death-memory.

Achieved in Great Britain and in Italy, the work tells about the extinction of the mankind (a theme preferred by Repetto), whose tracks he keeps through technology and - in this particular case – through the video representation. The author imagines, represents and documents a hypothetical and paradoxical disappearance of mankind, as well as the technologies discovered by the man, which – instead – continue to exist even after the man's death.

The enormous screws (reproduced in detail on three large wall projections), giving electric energy for the conservation of the human kind too and the desert seashores with no sort of life give to the observer that feeling of distress given by the sense of emptiness or by the idea of immediate extinction.

The dialectic relation work of art-public recreates for the observer a feeling of rebellion, almost genetical, toward death and fall of life and of its values, to get him to stimulate his thinking that human kind is the centre of life instead of technology.

The room with the four hands work by Minelli & Repetto entitled Acqua (Water), 1999-2002 is not very different from the rest, but it is conceived as a full part of Desert.

The water is the principal element of an installation work made technically by objects, video tapes, photography and the water itself. The thematic development – that links immediately to Repetto's work – around water and its gradual decrease on earth shows once again the relation between mankind and natural element.

If on one side Silvano Repetto puts in evidence the man's impotence toward the intrusive technique created by the man himself continuously functioning even after his death, on the other hand Minelli & Repetto focus on the human scarce consideration of a natural element (the water), that gives life and keeps it longer.

The catalogue issued for this event contains texts by Tobia Bezzola, Kumico Sejima and an introduction by Mario Casanova.

Mario Casanova_2002