



Wolfgang Weileder
Le Terme

From 16th October to 31th October 2008

On Thursday 16th October will start, in Piazza Oberdan in Milan, the construction of the time-based site specific sculpture titled *Le Terme*. The latest work of German artist Wolfgang Weileder explores the border between space and time, temporary and permanent architecture, and between what is visible and what is imaginable, revealing Diurno P.ta Venezia through a process of reconstruction and transfer.

The Diurno, a derelict 1920's public bath-house, abandoned in the last twenty years, is situated directly beneath the square, hidden from sight and memory.

Over a period of fifteen days a group of builders from R.Bau, aided by student apprentices, will simultaneously construct and de-construct a section of the Bath. The architectural structure which lies forgotten underneath the surface will be revealed in a performative gesture, mirroring the location and the proportions; the square's surface becomes the mirror of memory and Diurno is upturned as an image reflected in the water, water that is the site's peculiarity.

The sculpture will directly reference the shape and scale of the architecture below (three and a half metres high and sixty metres long). The construction and de-construction will be shown in a choreographic sequence, slowly moving the work around Piazza Oberdan. The memory, that pervades places and evokes old sensations, will be increased by the artistic project, that will exalt the relationship between the transiency of recollections, memory's elaboration and the solid, imperturbable presence of the architecture.

Whilst reflecting the permanence and immobility of the remains below, *Le Terme* is a structure of constant movement where walls appear and disappear and the construction of the monumental becomes a visible experience, encouraging a public discussion about the city's forgotten spaces.

The project will be recorded using photographic cameras that will be positioned strategically around the sculpture. The photographic plates will be exposed for the duration of the project. This process will produce black and white photographs resulting in large-scale images, that ultimately reveal the only complete view of the replica of Diurno Venezia. Images that will be the ghosts of the architecture already vanished. The photographs will be shown in a future exhibition at Ciocca Arte Contemporanea.

Wolfgang Weileder is born in 1965 in Munich and lives in Newcastle. He attended the School of Visual Arts in New York and the Academy of Fine Arts in Munich.

In 2002 the German artist started his important series of time based architecture, that explore the relationship between temporary and permanent architecture. This series includes: the house-projects: *house-city* (Newcastle, 2003), *house-madrid* (Madrid, 2004), *house-birmingham* (Birmingham, 2005) - URL: <http://www.house-projects.com>; *Transfer*, the construction and de-construction of the Milton Keynes Gallery's architectural cube (Milton Keynes, 2006) - URL: <http://www.transfer-project.org> and *fold-up*, a temporary full scale architectural structure reminiscent of an unfinished paper cutout model (Sunderland, 2008) - URL: <http://www.fold-up.info>

The project is realised with the support and sponsorship :

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