

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center

Museum of Modern Art affiliate
22-25 Jackson Ave at 46th Ave
Long Island City, New York 11101
t: 718.784.2084 f: 718.482.9454
www.ps1.org



EXHIBITION PRESS RELEASE
GINO DE DOMINICIS

October 19 through January 26, 2009. Opening Day Celebration: October 19, 12-6PM

(Long Island City, NY — October 8, 2008) P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center is proud to announce the first major American museum exhibition of the Italian artist Gino De Dominicis, presented in P.S.1's first floor Main Gallery and basement Vault, with additional works concurrently on view in *Here is Every. Four Decades of Contemporary Art* in the Contemporary Galleries of The Museum of Modern Art.

An Italian artist who purposely shrouded himself in mystery and stood apart from popular artistic trends, De Dominicis exhibited very little in North America. He worked in a variety of mediums including sculpture, painting, film, and installation. This exhibition focuses primarily on the paintings the artist made in the 1980s and '90s, as he considered this art form the pinnacle of visual expression. Important historical works such as *Palla*, 1970, first exhibited at the Venice Biennale in 1972, will be included, as well as *D'IO*, 1971, an audio recording of the artist's laugh. The exhibition also features drawing, as well as sculptural works on wood, paper, and in a few cases, canvas.

De Dominicis' paintings are figurative and often produced using materials as basic as tempera and pencil on board. Concentrating on the human figure, De Dominicis often referenced mythical and epic leaders like Gilgamesh, the Sumerian king who sought immortality, and Urvashi, the Hindu Veda goddess of beauty. De Dominicis' paintings convey notions of immortality, beauty, and esotericism. A mysterious element pervades these works as the figures undergo various facial and bodily compressions: noses, eyes, mouths, and eyebrows are elongated and occasionally become fine fissures, while surreal imagery such as tiny fork-like hands and beak-like crania are paired with out-of-proportion arms, torsos, and legs. For Gino De Dominicis, painting performed a primary and extraordinary function, reaffirming the legacy of the artist as a powerful and creative force.

Gino De Dominicis (1947, Ancona, Italy – 1998, Rome, Italy) has had solo exhibitions at Galleria De Dominicis, Acona, Italy (1967); Palazzo Taverna, Rome, Italy (1972, 1977); Galleria Lia Rumma, Naples, Italy (1988); The Murray and Isabella Rayburn Foundation, New York, NY (1989); Centre National d'Art Contemporain, Grenoble, France (1990). He has also been featured in major exhibitions such as Documenta V, Kassel, Germany (1972); 40th Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy (1980); Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France (1981); 44th Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy (1990); 47th Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy (1997).

Organized by:

Alanna Heiss, P.S.1 Director
Andrea Bellini, P.S.1 Curatorial Advisor
Laura Cherubini, Professor at the Brera Academy of Milan and Curator

The exhibition is made possible by the Province of Ancona, Isabella del Frate Rayburn, and Maria Rosa and Gilberto Sandretto.

Additional funding is provided by The Italian Cultural Institute, The Contemporary Arts Council of The Museum of Modern Art, the Nancy Olnick and Giorgio Spanu Collection, New York, and Il Gattopardo.

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center

Background:

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center is one of the largest and oldest organizations in the United States solely devoted to contemporary art. Established in 1976 by Alanna Heiss, P.S.1 originated from The Institute for Art and Urban Resources, a not-for-profit organization founded five years prior with the mission of turning abandoned, underutilized buildings in New York City into artist studios and exhibition spaces. P.S.1 became an affiliate of The Museum of Modern Art in 2000. In 2004, P.S.1 launched the world's first Internet art radio station, Art Radio WPS1.org, which operates out of the historic Clocktower in Lower Manhattan.

Support:

Operations and programs of P.S.1 are supported by the P.S.1 Board of Directors; the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; Helen M. Marshall, Queens Borough President; The Council of the City of New York; and public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency. Additional funding is provided by individuals, foundations, and corporate contributions.

Exhibitions at P.S.1 are made possible by the Annual Exhibition Fund with support from Peter Norton and the Peter Norton Family Foundation, Agnes Gund and Daniel Shapiro, Lawton W. Fitt and James I. McLaren Foundation, Kathy and Richard S. Fuld, Jr., Michel Zaleski, Sydie Lansing, Philip E. and Shelley Fox Aarons, Mimi and Peter Haas Fund, Anna Marie and Robert F. Shapiro, Sheldrake Organization, and David Teiger, with additional funding from Enzo Viscusi, John Comfort, Lewis B. and Dorothy Cullman, E. William Judson, Donald L. Bryant, Dennis W. LaBarre, Clarissa Alcock Bronfman, Ena Swansea, Douglas S. Cramer, Simone Development Companies, *Men's Vogue*, Barneys New York, John V. Cioffi, Heineken USA, and Susan G. Jacoby in honor of Peter Norton and Gwen Adams.

Time Out New York is the official print partner of exhibitions and public programs at P.S.1.

Directions:

P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center is located at 22-25 Jackson Avenue at 46th Avenue in Long Island City, Queens, across the Queensboro Bridge from midtown Manhattan. It is easily accessible by bus and subway. Traveling by subway, visitors should take either the E or V to 23 Street-Ely Avenue (note that the V does not run on weekends); the 7 to 45 Road-Courthouse Square; or the G to Court Square or 21 Street-Van Alst. Visitors may also take the Q67 bus to Jackson and 46th Avenues or the B61 to Jackson Avenue.

Hours:

P.S.1 is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday. It is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years Day.

- artbook@PS1 is open from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursday through Sunday.
- LeRosier Café is open from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Thursday through Monday.

Admission:

Admission is a \$5.00 suggested donation; \$2.00 for students and senior citizens; free for MoMA members and MoMA admission ticket holders. The MoMA ticket must be presented at P.S.1 within thirty days of date on ticket and is not valid during Warm Up or other P.S.1 events or benefits.

Web Sites:

www.ps1.org • www.wps1.org • www.moma.org

Contact:

April Hunt, Marketing and Communications Coordinator, april@ps1.org or 718.786.3139

###