

REVIEWS

SARAH MORRIS / SETH PRICE

MAMbo - BOLOGNA



SARAH MORRIS, *Taurus [Origami]*, 2009. Wall painting, 311 x 400 cm. Courtesy Jay Jopling/White Cube, London. Photo: Matteo Morini.

With this double solo exhibition, MAMbo confirms its opening up to the liveliest international contemporary scene. Seth Price's sophisticated research provides the visitor with conceptual paths which parallel the changing experiences of contemporary society. On the wall, the "Vacuum Formed" works show plastic reliefs of ropes or faces. These subjects have undergone a vacuum-packing process. The plastic wrapping material becomes a skin, which fixes reality through its changing state — malleable

to solid. Beside these works, a video shows sea waves, realized with three-dimensional modelling. Further into the exhibition, two works from the series "Silhouettes" display carved wooden surfaces, in which "negative" images of faces or traces of actions are rendered.

A self-reflexive analysis of making and exhibiting art is also present. This is the case with Price's reproductions on canvas of existing calendar pages, wherein there are images of American paintings realized between the two world wars. Finally, in the video *Redistribution* (2009), the focal point of Price's solo show, art becomes the subject of itself, through a new perspective in comparison to the typically tautological forms of the '70s: the artist in conversation simply explains his works.

A different matrix characterizes Sarah Morris's work. Her eleven paintings, huge wall painting and film express the desire to emotionally enter urban environments and explore interpersonal relationships, maintaining the capacity to reflect upon their own contexts. This happens in the film *Beijing* (2009), which displays images of the inaugural events at the last Beijing Olympic games. The shots of the

backstage, depicting a suspended and abstract atmosphere, introduce a subtle reflection on the spectacularization and capitalism that we experience everyday.

The five olympic circles are the subject of the series of paintings titled "Rings," while complexity is again the protagonist in the series dedicated to the practice of origami, which includes the large site-specific work *Taurus* (2009).

(Translated from Italian by Alessandra Olivari)

Guido Molinari

SETH PRICE, Installation view at MAMbo, Bologna 2009.

