

**News Release
No. 26/10.12.09**

Antonio Pauciulo

NELL'APERTO

***Catalogue Silvana Editoriale
with a critique by Maurizio Calvesi***

**Teatro Franco Parenti
10–22 December 2009**

*The world of work captured by the eyes of a painter:
Antonio Pauciulo tells the story of Maire Tecnimont Group*

Inauguration: Thursday 10 December 2009 at 6pm

Thursday 10 December 2009, the inauguration of the solo show of painter **Antonio Pauciulo** entitled "**NELL'APERTO**" ("In the Open") in the singular foyer of **Teatro Franco Parenti of Milan**. Born in Salerno, Pauciulo shuttles between Italy and Germany, the two countries where he lives and works.

The works displayed are the fruit of an extraordinary and unprecedented **meeting between Art and Industry**. In an installation of eight large compositions, the artist uses the language of painting to tell the story of the complex world of the international engineering and main contracting group **Maire Tecnimont** as a place of research and encounter with the secret reality of Man and the world.

The event celebrates a number of the Group's important **anniversaries** in 2008-2009, such as Maire's 25 years in business, 35 years since the founding of Tecnimont, and 50 years since the founding of TICB, the Indian subsidiary, and that of Sofregaz, the French subsidiary.

A creative process lasting more than 16 months thus produced eight canvases of high visual impact in terms of size, composition and the particular use of colour. In a dialectic comparison of "inside" and "outside", four of the paintings are dedicated to the interiors of the offices in India, Milan, Brindisi and Paris, while the other four depict the construction sites in Turin, Münchsmünster, Brazil and Kuwait.

The Maire Tecnimont world thus becomes a **human metaphor**, captured in the everyday business of work, in its social and cultural connections. Starting with the representation of the excavations for the Turin underground rail line extension through to the elegant aesthetics of the Paris offices, Pauciulo seems to want to emphasise the different levels of reality, illuminated by lights the source of which comes from the artist's interior vision and which, from that

vision, draw their "depth" to produce the "sensation" that Bacon spoke about. The artworks, structured according to a circular motion, like that of the worksite canvases, and linear in those of the offices, show clearly the search for "unity": large-scale engineering projects are, in fact, the fruit of team work based on a project shared between people with different expertise and skill sets, who belong to diverse ethnicities and cultures.

The diversity that cooperates instead of creating a barrier is a distinct value that the artist investigates and discovers in the human and cultural complexity of the Tecnimont Group, and which has a projection in what **Rainer Maria Rilke** called, in *Elegie duinesi*, "the open", meaning in the transcendent dimension of the real, through an interior process, a journey that inspires the whole work.

NELL'APERTO therefore represents a world where every thing and every person are both defined and distinct, but also nostalgic for a unity, for an "open" where the part is able to harmonise with the whole. "To weave a great cosmogony" is the aspiration, the possibility that Antonio Pauciulo sees in the final result, in a vision that enriches the debate on the relationship between art and industry with an unprecedented contribution. The pictorial outcome is "**the horizon of an explosion**" – as Maurizio Calvesi writes in his essay – where, however, matter does not disperse but, if anything, condenses, becomes more concise, releases light".

So it is no coincidence that the artist has conceived the entire work as a "**multilevel polyptych**", that is, a group of paintings held together by a formal, compositional and iconographic idea. The installation at the Teatro Franco Parenti, recently redesigned by Michele De Lucchi, facilitates their use, making possible the interpretive path created by the artist inside and outside an open cube, according to the direction of the arms of a cross, which connects earth and sky, East and West, and, simultaneously, the infinite pairs of inseparable opposites (light and dark, life and death, good and evil...) and that defines the centre of centripetal and centrifuge forces in which individual and collective life is expressed.

Guamari Arte is the organiser of the exhibition, which is accompanied by a catalogue published by Silvana Editoriale. Nell'Aperto closes on 22 December 2009.

Press Office:

Studio De Angelis tel. 02 324377 | e mail: stampa@deangelispress.it

INFO SHEET

"Nell'aperto" by Antonio Pauciulo

Place: Milan, Teatro Franco Parenti | largo Franco Parenti
(via Sabina corner via Vasari)

Date: 10–22 December 2009 (closed 12 and 21 December)

Produced by: Maire Tecnimont
tel. 02.63137930 comunicazione@mairitecnimont.it
Guamari Arte arte@guamari.it

Opening times: every day from 10am to 11pm (open all day)

Information for the public: 02-599951

Catalogue: Silvana Editoriale

Antonio Pauciulo

Antonio Pauciulo (1969), studied psychology and philosophy at La Sapienza University in Rome for several years before attending the *Accademia di Belle Arti* (fine arts academy) with Alfonso Avanesian. Between 1994 and 2001, after co-founding *grupposangiorgio*, he focused on painting, the graphic arts and multimedia experimentation. He currently splits his time between Berlin and Sant'Agello (Naples), the two cities in which he lives and works. Together with a group of other artists, he launched the LOFT360° project. His solo shows include: *Mietshaus – Eine Therapie* (Otto Nagel Public Gallery, Berlin 2005), *Le stanze della memoria* (Italian Embassy, Berlin 2005), and *Nudo interno* (Maison Heinrich Heine, the German cultural institute, Paris 2004). Group shows include: *Artissima 13* (Turin 2006), *III Berlin Kunstsalon* (Berlin 2006), and *Versprochen* (Galerie Ziegert for art, Berlin 2005).

Maire Tecnimont

Maire Tecnimont is an international engineering and main contracting group that operates in four core markets: Chemicals & Petrochemicals; Oil & Gas; Energy; and Infrastructure & Civil Engineering. The Group's success is thanks to its significant technological component and the advanced competencies gained in Project Management, Engineering, Procurement and Construction through the execution of complex projects across the world. The Group has developed important references in turnkey projects in a range of geographical regions. Currently, the Group is present in approximately 24 countries and four continents, has 37 subsidiaries, and a workforce of some 4,500 people, more than half employed abroad.