

PRESS RELEASE**Jana Sterbak**

opening: Tuesday 26 May 2009 h. 18-21 the artist will be present
address: Galleria Raffaella Cortese Via Stradella 7 20129 Milano
date: 26 May – 31 July 2009
hours: from tuesday to saturday - 15.00-19.30 or on appointment

On the same evening there will be openings at the francesca kaufmann gallery with Pier Paolo Campanini, Kaleidoscope with Jos De Gruyter / Harald Thys and gallery Giò Marconi with the group show *Solaris*.

Raffaella Cortese is pleased to present the second solo show of the Czech born artist, Canadian naturalized Jana Sterbak. At the same time *Vanitas*, one of her most representative artwork, will be presented at Centre Pompidou in Paris on occasion of the group show *ELLES*.

Jana Sterbak is well known for her performance works in the 70's and 80's, dealing primarily with issues of power and sexuality. She works in different media, including sculptures, installations, photography, video, and performance.

Jana Sterbak's path started with her video *February*, presented at the Gallery on 2006, continued till 2008 creating a serie of 4 video works loosely based on the landscape paintings made by Pieter Brueghel. Sterbak's videos are presented on flat screens comparable in size to the Brueghel's five surviving panels. Emulating the style of the Flemish master, the videos' high resolution makes them jewel-like and scintillating, each opening a window onto highly detailed miniature universe. Unlike the renaissance paintings which show man engaged in agricultural pursuits, these moving images present scenes of leisure activities. These works celebrate the passing of time, a frequent preoccupation of the artist, in the context of contemporary urban culture's nostalgia for the great outdoors, the 'natural' world.

Jana Sterbak represented Canada in 2003 at the Venice Biennial. She has had many solo exhibitions worldwide, including Palais des Beaux-Arts, Brussels, Belgium (2006); Carré d'Art, Nîmes, France (2006); Haus der Kunst, München (2002); and Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago (1998).

A special thanks to Canadian Cultural Centre, Paris