

**Raffaella Cortese** Via Rodolfo Farneti 10 20129 Milano Italia Tel. Fax 02-2043555

**For release**

**artist:** Umberto Cavenago  
**opening:** Thursday, October 17, 1996  
**gallery:** Raffaella Cortese Gallery, Via Rodolfo Farneti 10, 20129 Milan  
**exhibition dates:** October 17 to January 10, 1997  
**gallery hours:** Tuesday to Saturday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. or by appointment.

Umberto Cavenago's work redefines the traditional concept of sculpture. The artist uses technology and industrial production methods, overturning their functional logic and subverting it to his own ends.

For this current exhibition Cavenago has created an installation consisting of a conveyor belt made of stainless steel, 7.5 metres long, designed and executed according to industrial criteria. Ready to take its place in the production of consumer goods, it is located in an art gallery rather than in a factory. The blue PVC belt does not carry goods but ideas; completely devoid of any practical utility, it exists through this profound tension, thus stimulating reaction and thought.

In order to orient the work in accordance with the sun's east-west trajectory in the sky, the artist has made a hole in the wall separating two of the gallery's rooms.

To see the installation in its entirety the viewer, accompanied by the vibrating sound produced by the movement of the belt, must go from one room to the other, being both physically and emotionally involved and reflecting upon the human condition in the industrial era and the function of art.

Born in Milan in 1959, Cavenago is considered, since the 80's, as one of the most important young Italian artists. He continues to develop his work with a creativity which is being constantly renewed. He has participated in major one person shows in Italy and abroad and among the exhibitions we note: in 1990 *Aperto '90*, XLIV Biennale di Venezia, in 1991 *Metropolis* in Berlin, in 1993 *In Forma* at the Contemporary Art Centre L. Pecci in Prato and he is now showing at the 23<sup>a</sup> *Biennale of San Paolo* in Brazil.

**For further information please call the gallery**