

ALESSANDRA BONOMO GALLERY

PRESS RELEASE

**ALESSANDRA BONOMO IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE ON APRIL 14TH
THE OPENING OF THE NEW GALLERY SPACE IN VIA DEL GESÙ 62
WITH AN EXHIBITION BY GERMAN ARTIST ELGER ESSER.**

On April 14th 2002, in Via del Gesù 62, Rome, Alessandra Bonomo opens the new gallery space with a photography exhibition by Elger Esser. The show will be open to the viewing public through June 3rd.

In her new space Alessandra Bonomo will present contemporary and international artists, as she has been doing since 1986. "A new and more functional space gives to our artists the possibility of different dimensions and an easier access for our public, that has been following us for more than 15 years. The intent is to enlarge the scene by showing artists that have never presented their work in Rome before. I have chosen Elger Esser's work for the first exhibition because he was raised in Rome, but at the same time his work well represents the contemporary art scene.

Esser, who has exhibited in the major contemporary art galleries in Europe and in the United States, quality of is immediately recognizable for the quality of his work.

Elger Esser's show presents two big landscapes of Venice and three portraits, among a series of photographs with names of towns found on a building of Epernay, France. Elger Esser photographs during his traveling and he travels to portray, as his photos are like paintings.

The artists will attend the opening reception.

(" Elger esser portrays landscapes although it is not nature that is the subject of his work, but rather the capacity for representing the physical and psychic conditions of vastness and emptiness...The setting is a pretext adopted after lengthy reflection on the potential of the photographic image...He photographs slices of absence...there is, first of all, a reflection on space...")

Esser discovers places, but photographs non –places, spaces that are known and penetrated in such depth as to plant the seed of non recognition, reveal their absolute essence....

The works' surfaces are carefully tinted in the darkroom into a limited tonal arc of ochre, browns, and greys, near to what layered tones of painting can produce...

Gustave Corot has been cited as an historical reference in Esser's work. I would add Rothko and Reinhardt, because there is no doubt that the artist has also inherited the legacy of monochrome pictures, the celebration of absolute tone").

Guglielmo Gigliotti

Opening reception: Sunday April 14th, 11:00 am.

Opening hours: Monday to Friday, from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Other visits by appointment.

Elger Esser: biography

Elger Esser (Stuttgart 1967) has spent his childhood in Rome, where he attended the German school. In 1997 he graduated at the Academy of Fine Arts in Düsseldorf, where he studied with Bernd Becher. Lives and works in Düsseldorf.

Among others, he had solo exhibitions in the gallery of Ileana Sonnabend, New York (1999, 2001), at Gallery 213 in Paris (1998, 2000), at Michael Hue-Williams in London (2001), at Gallery Johnen & Schöttle in Cologne (2001), at Gallery Andreas Grimm in Palma, Spain (1997, 1999), at Gallery De Zaal in Delft (1998, 2000) and at Thaddeus Roppac in Salzburg (2001).