

## Press release

### **Jack Sal at the Gandini Chapel 1986/2012**

Saturday, 23 June 2012 – 11.00 AM

Gandini Chapel, Montà (Padua)

Speakers: the artist, Bruno Corà, and Luigi Attardi



*“The chapel project – the process of its realization and its final form – has been conceived as an experience of deep religious encounter. The work of art will act as guide to a parallel experience where man's actions are directed on Earth with a view towards the attainment of a heavenly vision”,* is how Jack Sal put it in 1986.

It was in that year that the American artist realized the cycle of frescoes in the early-Eighteenth Century Gandini Chapel (also known as Holy Mary of Motherhood) at Montà (Padua), under the patronage of the “Incontri Internazionali d'Arte” and with the support of the Alliata and Gandini families.

Consecrated to Catholic religious functions, the small octagonal-shaped church represents a rare combination of neoclassical architecture and contemporary art: in particular, this specific creation marks the evolution of Sal's artistic language from Abstract Expressionism to Conceptual Art.

Although the history of 20<sup>th</sup> Century art contains various examples of chapels associated with the work of famous artists, from Le Corbusier to Rothko, Cocteau, Chagall, Subira, Gaudi, Botero, and LeWitt, the Gandini Chapel is a rare example of Conceptual and Minimalist Art. In fact, the pictorial style of the frescoes by Jack Sal – whose works have been exhibited alongside those of renowned exponents of those movements and, in particular, alongside the work of Sol Lewitt – makes use of only three colors: red on the eight wall-panels (to symbolize the realm of nature), blue on the vaulted ceiling (to symbolize the realm of the divine) and black in the material marks – individual, thick brush strokes the size of human heads – which follow upon one another on the walls (to symbolize the actions of mankind in the world).

In the wake of the work of restoration of the chapel carried in 2011, on the occasion of its re-opening to the public, the conference **Jack Sal at the Gandini Chapel 1986/2012** will be

held on **Saturday, 23 June at 11.00 AM** with the artist, Bruno Corà and Luigi Attardi as speakers.

The event will take place under the patronage of

Under the patronage of



## incontri internazionali d'arte

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### Jack Sal at the Gandini Chapel 1986/2012

Saturday, 23 June 2012 – 11.00 AM

Gandini Chapel (a.k.a. Holy Mary of Motherhood)  
via Due Palazzi, 2 – Montà (Padua)

Organization: Association for Poetry

Coordination: Maria Attardi, Manuela De Leonardis

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Bilingual Italian/English catalogue

### Biographical information about the artist

**Jack Sal** (Waterbury, USA 1954) lives in New York, Rome and Todi. A minimalist conceptual artist, he began his artistic career with *cliché verre*. In his work, there is a constant reference to the history and prehistory of photography, and to *cliché verre* technique in particular. *"His creative and idiosyncratic use of photographic paper together with his mark-making technique are the coordinates along which he introduces the concepts of place and time in his work..."*, writes Alessandro Cassin about Sal's work; *"... His site-*

*specific installations bear witness to his interest in the interaction between work of art and architectural, psychological and social context. For Sal the work of art is the tangible manifestation of an action. His objects, sculptures, paintings and installations subvert the traditional assumptions of art, forcing viewers to broaden their expectations about the nature and functioning of the process of fruition of works of art.”*

In 1981, the International Museum of Photography/George Eastman House in Rochester hosts his first exhibition in an institutional context; numerous other exhibitions will follow, among which one at the Ludwig Museum in Cologne. In 2006 he produces *White/Wash II*, a permanent monument for the victims of the 1946 pogrom at Kielce (Poland), sponsored by The United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad.

Among his recent personal exhibitions: *De/Portees*, Hebrew Museum, Bologna – 2012; *O/Ring/O*, Stiftung für Medien-Kunst und Philosophie, Berlin – 2011; *in/line* ARTcore contemporary gallery, Bari - 2011; *O/Ring/O*, Caffé Quadri, Venice – 2011 (performance on the occasion of the 54<sup>th</sup> Biennial of Venice), *Action/Re/Action*, Palazzo Morelli Fine Art, Todi - 2011; *De/Portees*, IIC of Osaka and Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University – 2011; *Fotogenic Nan Sen*, Roonee 247 Photography Gallery, Tokyo – 2011; *Steel/Particles*, Edicola RaRa, Terlizzi (BA) – 2010; *De/Portees*, IIC of New York and the “Casa della Memoria e della Storia”, Rome – 2010; *East/West*, Caffé Quadri, Venice (performance with Yooah Park on the occasion of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Biennial of Venice); *Re/Vision*, Zone:Contemporary Art, New York – 2009.

Among his recent collective exhibitions: *25 Years - Anniversary Show: Part 2*, Gallery Onetwentyeight, New York – 2012; *Jack Sal, Masakazu Yasuda, Chisato Saito. Going out Roonee – welcome to photography*, Esprit Nouveau Gallery, Okayama (Japan) - 2012; *The Edge of Vision*, Ronna and Eric Hoffman Gallery of Contemporary Art-Lewis & Clark College of Arts & Sciences, Portland (USA) 2012; *Transnational Art 2012*, Contemporary Art Center Osaka, Osaka – 2012; *Natività*, Provincial Museum of Ceramics, Deruta (PG) – 2011; *L'artista come Rishi*, Museum of Oriental Art, Rome – 2011; *The Edge of Vision*, Center for Creative Photography-CCP, Tucson (USA) 2010; *Jordan Festival Amman* (Jordan) – 2009; *Chiamata All'ARTE* - Villa Pignatelli Museum, Naples – 2009; *An Austrian Walk/March*, MIR/Museum im Rathaus, Gleisdorf (Austria) – 2009; *The Edge of Vision*, Aperture Foundation, New York – 2009.