

KÜNSTLERHAUS BETHANIEN

P R E S S R E L E A S E

FLAVIO DE MARCO

"Stella Island is the world's newest wonder. Situated in the heart of the Aegean Sea, in the Southern Cyclades, Stella is the largest artificial island ever created. It's surface area of approximately 150 square kilometers features the greatest variety of different landscape types of any region that size. The island was designed like a collage of various natural environments, and features everything from deserts to forests, mountains, and tropical beaches". (from the book Stella by Flavio de Marco)

The model island is the basis of the latest project *Stella* by Italian artist Flavio de Marco, whose practice belongs in the field of conceptual painting and an extended concept of painting. The associated experiences of space and time constitute a central theme in de Marco's conceptual approach.

Since 1999 the artist has been researching and investigating contemporary landscapes, inspired by the form of the computer screen. In his new paintings he connects individual elements of various computer programs with classically painted landscapes, so that an exciting and at the same time harmonious interaction emerges between two extremely different possibilities for the perception of landscape. *Stella Island* is the artist's attempt to find a means of presenting landscape in painting in a contemporary way.

The starting point behind this artistic exploration is the book *Stella*, written by Flavio de Marco himself, in which details of his paintings and drawing serve as illustrations. Inspired by the model of the travel guide, this book advertises the imaginary island with its wide range of geographical conditions. In addition, the reader is given an insight into the island's history, infrastructure and population.

Following its inauguration at the Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin further venues for the exhibition project will be in December at the Frankendael Foundation in Amsterdam and the Galleria nazionale d'arte moderna in Rome (2014). *Stella* is generously supported by INVITALIA and Mesmer Artistic Association.

FLAVIO DE MARCO, born in Lecce (Apulia) in 1975, lives and works in Berlin. Latest solo exhibitions incl.: Synecdoche Vedute, Italian Cultural Institute, London (2011); Vedute, Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia (2010); Portrait of a Collection, Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art, London (2009); Souvenir Schifanoia, PAC - Palazzo Massari, Ferrara (2007). Info: www.flaviodemarco.it

Joint opening: THURSDAY, 22 AUGUST 2013, 7 – 10 PM
Showroom at Kottbusser Straße 10

Exhibitions: 23 AUGUST – 22 SEPTEMBER 2013
Tuesday – Sunday, 2 – 7 pm
Entrance free

ATELIERS UND BÜROS: Kohlfurter Straße 41–43 · 10999 Berlin · SCHAURAUM: Kottbusser Straße 10

TEL: +49 (0)30 616 903 0 · FAX: +49 (0)30 616 903 30 · info@bethanien.de · www.bethanien.de

RECHTSFORM: Künstlerhaus Bethanien GmbH · SITZ: Berlin · AG Charlottenburg

GESCHÄFTSFÜHRUNG: Christoph Tannert · Andrea Boche · HANDELSREGISTER: HRG 8089