

Fondazione Nicola Trussardi presents:
IF I HAD YOU
A project by Darren Almond

**FONDAZIONE
NICOLA
TRUSSARDI**

In the monumental space of Palazzo della Ragione, Milan, the Nicola Trussardi Foundation presents a new video installation by British artist Darren Almond. The exhibition, on view from November 4, 2003 will transform one of the historic treasures of the city into a crisscrossing tapestry of geography and history.

Darren Almond, one of the most original voices in contemporary British art, is a tireless traveler. For his recent projects he has explored his own native country in search of memories and personal experiences: he has plunged himself into Kazakhstani mineshafts to capture remote landscapes and ancient rituals, stretched time by ploughing the waves of the ocean with an enormous digital clock, and brought into a museum environment the white visions of the Antarctic. For this new project, his first solo exhibition in Italy, Darren Almond will bring to Milan the melancholic atmosphere of the small seaside town of Blackpool: the lights of the dance halls reveal the landscape of this old-style amusement town, while old women dancing in Almond's video inspire slow and moving reflections.

Palazzo della Ragione in Via dei Mercanti is one of the most important medieval buildings in Milan, and over the centuries, it has become a living depot of memories and stories. For his ambitious project produced by the Nicola Trussardi Foundation, Darren Almond personally chose this spaces, stratified with personal and collective dramas. An ideal sequel to his world-famous video 'Traction' – in which fragments of his familiar adventure are recomposed in an historic fresco – Darren Almond's new installation IF I HAD YOU presents a series of video-projections. Framed within Blackpool's oldest dance halls, Darren Almond portrays lonely dancers in an intimate tale, a sentimental journey into the past, a monument to melancholy, a struggle against time.

With the exhibition IF I HAD YOU, the Nicola Trussardi Foundation continues its adventure in the public spaces of the city of Milan. Searching for a synthesis between tradition and research, the Nicola Trussardi Foundation explores the city and discovers forgotten spaces by opening them up to the energies of today's art. Darren Almond's exhibition follows the successful project SHORT CUT, by Michael Elmgreen & Ingar Dragset, shown in the Ottagono of Galleria Vittorio Emanuele (May 2003), recreating an imaginary and fantastic world free of the imposed boundaries of time and space.

Darren Almond was born in Wigan, England, in 1971. He currently lives and works in London. Darren Almond has had solo exhibitions in some of the most prestigious international institutions for contemporary art: among them Tate Britain and the Institute of Contemporary Art, both in London, the Zürich Kunsthalle and the Renaissance Society in Chicago. He has taken part in several important collective exhibitions worldwide, such as 'Sensation' and 'Apocalypse' at the Royal Academy of Arts in London, and shows at other important venues such as the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the De Appel Foundation in Amsterdam and the Museum Fredericianum in Kassel. His work was included in the most recent edition of the Venice Biennale, and he appears in the cult book 'Cream 3', a nominee among the most significant young contemporary artists. Darren Almond has been selected to take part in 'Outlook', an international contemporary art exhibition opening in Athens, Greece, in late October 2003.

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Hard Facts

FONDAZIONE NICOLA TRUSSARDI

Title: IF I HAD YOU

Artist: Darren Almond (1971, Wigan, England)
He lives and works in London.

Curated by: Massimiliano Gioni, Artistic Director
Fondazione Nicola Trussardi

At: Palazzo della Ragione
Via dei Mercanti, Milan, Italy

Dates : November, 4 2003 - November, 23 2003
Opened everyday from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM
Free entrance

Press Conference: November, 4 2003
Palazzo Trussardi Marino alla Scala
Piazza della Scala 5
Milan
at 11:30 AM

Opening: November, 4 2003
Palazzo della Ragione
Via dei Mercanti
Milan
at 6:30 PM

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thanks to:



«History is all about passing on information» Darren Almond

Darren Almond is one of the most interesting British artists working today. Through his videos, sculptures and installations Almond plays the role of a romantic pioneer exploring the most hidden sides of history and geography: he has traveled across Britain to its furthest, most extreme towns, ploughed lonely oceans, and plunged himself into the depths of Kazakhstani mines.

Darren Almond describes a world free from the obstacles of time and space: enormous digital clocks traveling across the ocean, personal biographies becoming collective stories, time machines following ghosts of memory, fragments of history of the last century reemerging as private remembrances. In Darren Almond's works, distance disappears and time stretches, while nature becomes an intimate landscape. For the 'Fullmoon' series, the artist photographed nature under a full moon, in the same sites where old masters such as Constable, Turner and Friedrich had painted their canvases centuries earlier. For his video 'A' Darren Almond traveled to the Antarctic shooting the dazzling and ever-changing ice landscapes.

Darren Almond is a tireless traveler through time: his work is a pendulum between the past and the present. In his oeuvre, the everyday heroes of our time and their stories compose the novel of History in which sense and sensibility fuse in both individual and collective narrations.

Darren Almond will present in November for the Nicola Trussardi Foundation his new video-installation IF I HAD YOU – an ideal sequel to his famous 'Traction' video. A lonely elderly couple dances to an old song; the slow steps follow History's rhythm across the empty space of a dance hall.

Darren Almond was born in Wigan, England, in 1971, and now lives and works in London. He has had solo exhibitions in some of the most prestigious international institutions for contemporary art; among them Tate Britain and the Institute of Contemporary Art, both in London, the Zurich Kunsthalle and the Renaissance Society in Chicago. He has taken part in several important collective exhibitions worldwide, such as 'Sensation' and 'Apocalypse' at the Royal Academy of Arts in London, and shows at other important venues as the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the De Appel Foundation in Amsterdam and the Museum Fredericianum in Kassel. His work was included in the most recent edition of the Venice Biennale, to which he brought – after several arduous and long trips around the world – 'Meantime', a digital clock set in a steel sea container. An out-of-scale white fan was his installation for the second Berlin Biennale of 2001; in Berlin, again he presented the video 'Schacta', an epic poem about work shot in the mines of Kazakhstan. Almond's works are part of important collections of international contemporary art such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Saatchi Collection in London, the Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo in Turin, the Rubell Family Collection in Miami and the Kramlich Collection in San Francisco. Darren Almond has been selected amongst the most interesting young artist to take part on the editorial cult project Cream 3, Phaidon Press (2003).

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