



Further information on new work by R  di Martino at Artissima 2015

For her latest body of work the Italian artist R  di Martino has taken inspiration from the John Cheever's 1964 famous short story "The Swimmer". A cult short story which gained further notoriety with the 1968 film in which a still handsome Burt Lancaster plays a successful 50 year-old man who sets out to swim from pool to pool across county to return home only to discover to his astonishment that somehow his success has been undone.

The body of work is so far made up of film installation, sculpture and prints. For Artissima 2015 we will present the new work 'Poster for an unrealised film (IL NUOTATORE)' alongside new works from the series 'The Art of Swimming' created especially for the fair presentation.

"The Art of Swimming" series is inspired not only by the 'The Swimmer' but more directly by the book also titled "The Art of Swimming" by Monsieur Thevenot published in 1696, which comprises advice on how to swim which appears today rather naive and even ironic. Accompanying the text are diagrams which are equally peculiar, in some cases strikingly so.

Selected images are appropriated by the artist and appear on the raw cotton of a series of 1950's style deckchairs that are closed and hung from the wall –suggesting functionality but simultaneously denying it.

This new body of works reaffirms di Martino's interest in the representation of a reality suspended between the objective everyday life and the fiction of visual languages. Here though we see the introduction of the notion of failure and of failed promise; the film unrealised despite the advertisement of famous actors participation, the deckchairs that frustrate functionality as much as the diagrams might a potential swimmer.

