



Comune di Roma

Assessorato alle Politiche Culturali  
e della Comunicazione  
Sovrintendenza ai Beni Culturali

# MACRO

MUSEO D'ARTE CONTEMPORANEA ROMA

## AARON YOUNG *SLIPPERY WHEN WET*



Aaron Young, *Untitled (un-mounted)*, 2008  
Private Collection

### MACRO

Via Reggio Emilia, 54 Roma  
Right Panorama Gallery, first floor  
June 1 – August 22, 2010

Curated by Costanza Paissan

Preview:  
May 27 through May 30

Open to the Public:  
June 1, 2010

*Aaron Young creates a fascinating atmosphere where different places, languages and dimensions coexist within one of MACRO's galleries. He presents to his audience a voyage through video, sculpture, and installation into the universe of a young American artist.*

On the occasion of the opening of the summer 2010 exhibition program, MACRO will dedicate one of its large galleries to a solo show from the young American artist Aaron Young (San Francisco, California, 1972), curated by Costanza Paissan. Called upon to create a site-specific installation, Young re-imagined the exhibition space by infusing it with urban ambience, demonstrating how the diverse stories and languages of a city can coexist.

The installation stencilled on the floor in tires and motor oil stimulates both sight and smell by surrounding the observer in a familiar atmosphere; a large city scarred by the criss-crossing of traffic. The artist accesses the world of abstract expressionism, charges it with dripping techniques typical of action painting, and combines this with the energy and vitality of the street.

The four videos in the show were shot in a variety of locations from the Palace of Versailles to a frozen lake in New York State. The camera is constantly being flipped upside down and kicked around by the artist until it is fully destroyed. The resulting footage creates a melange of sights and sounds, catching the viewer off-guard and upsetting his sense of space. One of the videos, created specially for this exhibition presents a liberal and disillusioned interpretation of Rome's classical image and that of a symbolic monument, the Colosseum.

Concluding the show is a series of sculptures that reclaim the streets (sidewalks, police barricades, graffiti) and west-coast slang (*Go back to the Valley*). What is apparently "ready-made" is proven otherwise by the

technical complexity of the sculptures. Young paints cast bronze to give it the appearance of the original object; it is a spontaneous, relaxed, and ironic game, based on the dialogue between street culture and artistic creation. These objects have the capacity to present themselves as independent forms of aesthetic expression, as images of unexpected beauty.

Aaron Young (San Francisco, California, 1972), lives and works between Los Angeles and New York. He obtained a diploma from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2001 and earned a Master of Fine Arts from Yale University in 2004. The artist works with sculpture, video, installation, and painting. His work has been shown in important galleries such as the P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, New York; The Astrup Fearnley Museet for Moderne Kunst in Oslo (2005), the Kunst-Werke Berlin (2008) and in international shows such as the Whitney Biennial (2006) and the Moscow Biennial (2007).

***The show by AARON YOUNG “Slippery When Wet” is an event promoted by the City of Rome, Council of Culture and Communication -Superintendence of Cultural Heritage.***

*This show has been realized with generous support from:  
**Bortolami Gallery, Gagosian Gallery, Galerie Almine Rech.***

**MACRO**

Via Reggio Emilia 54 Roma

Open from Tuesday to Sunday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

MACROTICKET: MACRO + MACROFUTURE:

Single ticket, € 4.50, € 3.00 concession. Valid for 7 days

[www.macro.roma.museum](http://www.macro.roma.museum)

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MACRO Communication Office

Massimiliano Moschetta - Nicolò Scialanga

T +39 06 671070443

[stampa.macro@comune.roma.it](mailto:stampa.macro@comune.roma.it)

Zetema Cultural Project Press Office

Patrizia Morici T +39 06 82077371 +39 348 5486548

[p.morici@zetema.it](mailto:p.morici@zetema.it)

Giuseppina Alessio T +39 06 82077327 +39 340 4206562

[g.alessio@zetema.it](mailto:g.alessio@zetema.it)

