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Press release

**Ian Tweedy "It's only a matter of time"**  
**Curated by Marco Scotini**

**8 November – 29 December 2007**

Studio Dabbeni presents the first large personal exhibition on the American artist Ian Tweedy curated by Marco Scotini. "It's only a matter of time" - the title of the exhibition - goes directly to the heart of the research into personal memory and social history that underpins all Ian Tweedy's painted work. We may not know where or when but we do know that something is inevitably about to happen, or has perhaps already irreparably happened. Something imminent looms threateningly over every moment in history. It is only a matter of time. Like a sort of History hacker, Ian Tweedy keeps inventing his own "time machines"; crossovers through spaces and events, series of cut-up geographical and identity associations. An explorer of the memory and archivist of the present, Ian Tweedy produces ambiguously dated and fragmentary tales via the optional and non-linear assembly of images drawn from photographs of war, politics, architecture and everyday life. The synchronic juxtaposition of paintings, documentary photographs and drawings belonging to different times and places is open to a variety of potential interpretations that are left as such for the observer. His biography of a person with no roots, an American born on a military base in Germany who then moved from one camp to another on foreign soil, is merely a shred of a broader social history that now brings us all together on a global scale. It is no coincidence that the archive of b/w photographs that forms the basis of all his projects is a stopgap for the lack of direct experience in his own history. A former graffiti artist and now a "muralist" on large surfaces, Tweedy's figurative repertoire may be made up of pictures of collective life and political events taken from newspapers and glossy magazines of the Fifties and Sixties, but he also uses documents from the past and the canvas covers of old books, so that every surface he works on represents a memory and has a story. In Tweedy, repetition becomes a way of giving fresh life to what has already happened. The "It's only a matter of time" exhibition at the Studio Dabbeni starts with a wall painting that can be seen through the gallery window. It is a monochrome-red portrayal of a landscape of piles of debris and rubble, a sort of anonymous Ground Zero that belongs to a time in the past and an unidentifiable geographical zone. Inside, a sequence of five large drawings reconstructs the stages of first aid being given at the scene of an accident or some other emergency, as in a standard manual from another time. The image portraying two life-size men is repeated as the patient gradually rises from a prone position to his feet. The title *5 Steps (possibilities for a Monument)* plays intentionally on the ambiguity between reactivation and memory. The exhibition ends with a large series of painted old canvas book-covers.

**Solo Exhibitions**  
**2007**

It's only a matter of time, Studio Dabbeni, Lugano, 8 novembre - 29 dicembre

**2006**

A History out of context, Prometeogallery, Milano, 25 ottobre - 25 novembre

**Group Exhibitions**

**2007**

PragueBiennale 3, Praga, Der Prozess. Memoria collettiva e storia sociale, 24 maggio - 16 Settembre

Cities from Below, Fondazione Teseco, Pisa, 18 novembre 2006 - 28 settembre 2007

**2006**

Capital Culture, Prometeogallery, Milano, 21 giugno - 15 settembre

The People's Choice: Tools for an Art and Community Center, Isola

Art Center, Milano, 27 marzo - 7 maggio

Un lavoro fatto ad arte, Palazzo Te, Mantova, 14 gennaio - 5 febbraio

**2005**

Who uses the space?, Isola Art Center, Milano, 5 - 22 maggio

**2004**

Gestures of Trans... Open Space gallery, Milano, 9 - 12 maggio

**Selected Bibliography**

Alessandro Rabottini, Work Art in Progress, Galleria Civica di Arte Contemporanea Trento, n. 20, 2007

Marco Scotini, temporale, Edizioni Studio Dabbeni n.64-65, 2007

Marco Scotini, "Ouverture", Ian Tweedy, Flash Art, giugno/luglio, 2007

"Speciale Milanese, Dizionario della giovane arte Milanese",

**Opening:** Thursday November 8 - 18.00

**Duration:** November 8 – December 29, 2007

**Opening Hours:**

Tuesday - Friday 09.30 - 12.00 14.30 - 18.30

Saturday 09.30 - 12.00 14.30 - 17.00

Sunday/Monday Closed

Flash Art, aprile/ maggio, 2007

Rosella Moratto, "Muresan/Tweedy", Arte e critica n.4 dicembre 2006 Febbraio 2007.

Ciprian says - Ian Tweedy at Prometeogallery, Mousse n.4, novembre 2006

Marco Scotini, Ian Tweedy, THEEND magazine, 2006

Self-portraits, tema celeste n.113, gennaio/febbraio 2006

Prometeogallery / 2 Personali, Metro, 25 ottobre, 2006



**Monument # 3**

**Wall Drawing**

**PragueBiennale 3, Praga, Der Prozess. Collective**

**Memory and Social History, May 24 – September 16 2007**