

# VENICEPROJECTS

## **Transconnecting Tatoos Personal Exhibition of Jean-Luc Moerman**

Venice / 3-29 September 2011  
Venice Projects / Dorsoduro 868, 30123 Venice

The 2011-2012 Venice Projects season opens with a personal exhibition by Belgian artist Jean-Luc Moerman.

This artist's work can be divided essentially into three parts. The first one is an "urban tattoo", so defined by the artist himself who uses paint and stickers to decorate walls, shop windows, entire rooms, and even cars: a sort of artistic virus, an explosion of colors and shapes that invades the city.

In the second, he uses photo retouching on images that he then projects on to canvas, creating large oil paintings that depict icons of fashion and contemporary eroticism on whose bodies Moerman uses a brush to create tattoos, as in a primitive ritual.

Beginning in 2008-2009, these latter pieces led to a new series of works wherein the artist uses the same tattoo technique on icons of the past, historical figures, and the saints and martyrs portrayed by the old masters of painting. The third aspect of his work completes his artistic exploration, one that has been strongly influenced by the underground culture of tattoos, graffiti, hip hop, rock, and skaters. In a society where all judgments of merit and value are influenced by appearance and superficial impression, Moerman decided to use as his support skin, the surface of images. With the tattoos that cover the bodies of immortal icons of history, Moerman also restores to these characters their mortality, deconsecrating them while still emphasizing their mystical, almost religious value to the society that produced them because, as in most primitive communities, even those most advanced, the art of tattooing has deep symbolic meaning.

For his first exhibition in Venice, the artist will utilize his technique also on a support unusual for him, that of glass ... which will be tattooed like his paintings.

**Jean-Luc Moerman:** Born in 1967 in Brussels, Belgium, where he still lives and works, he is known for the tattoo technique that he applies to images of models, political figures, and international jet-setters. He covers faces, skin, and any other surface with his intriguing black-and-white or multicolored designs. He has participated in numerous personal and group exhibitions in Europe and Japan.

**Venice Projects:** Venice Projects promotes internationally recognized and young emerging contemporary artists, united by a common interest in experimenting with materials and their innovative use in unexplored contexts. In particular, it has an interest in those who occasionally or regularly use glass as a medium of contemporary expression. Venice Projects develops important cultural projects with an international scope in partnership with public and private institutions. Through cultural programming and site-specific projects, its aim is to create exciting opportunities for dialogue and experimentation related to the use of glass in contemporary art. The gallery was established in Switzerland in 2007, but it moved permanently to Venice in 2010.

### **INFORMATION**

**Exhibition:** Transconnecting tatoos / **Artist:** Jean-Luc Moerman

**Location:** Venice Projects, Dorsoduro 868, 30123 / **Period:** 3-29 September 2011

**Opening:** September 3 18.00/ **Hours:** daily from 10 am to 6 pm