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Press
Release

ENEL CONTEMPORANEA AWARD 2011: THE WINNER IS THE ARTIST CARSTEN HOLLER

- *The international jury convened on 2nd June in Venice, during the 54th International Art Exhibition, for which Enel is the Main Sponsor, and chose the winner from the three artists invited to participate this year: Carsten Höller, Bruce Mau and Paola Pivi.*
- *The winning work of the Enel Contemporanea Award 2011 will be unveiled in Rome in the fall.*

Rome, 3rd June 2011 – Carsten Höller is the winner of the Enel Contemporanea Award 2011, the prize organized by Enel within the Enel Contemporanea project, now in its fifth year, that leads to the production of artworks on the theme of energy by artists of different nations (www.enelcontemporanea.com).

The winning work, *"Double Carousel with Zöllner Stripes"*, will be donated and shown in the fall at MACRO – the Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome. In the large Enel hall of the museum, visitors will be able to interact with **two moving carousels** created by the artist. **The carousels move very slowly, in opposite directions, allowing people to freely get on and off**, as if they were enormous windmills or millwheels on which seated persons approach and are separated by the constant rotating motion. Around them, visual lines in an apparently intersecting pattern create an overall destabilizing effect, in an experience that distorts spatial perceptions.

Gathered on 2 June in Venice, in coordination with the opening of the 54th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, of which Enel is the Main Sponsor, the jury selected the winner from three renowned artists of international stature – **Carsten Höller** (Belgium), **Bruce Mau** (Canada) and **Paola Pivi** (Italy) – invited to submit a project by the Artistic Director of the Award, **Francesco Bonami**.

The jury was chaired by **Gianluca Comin**, Director of External Relations of Enel, and included representatives of some of the world's most prestigious art institutions: **Joseph Backstein** (Commission of the Biennial of Contemporary Art of Moscow), **Luca Massimo Barbero** (Director of the MACRO, Rome), **Iwona Blazwick** (Director of the Whitechapel Gallery, London), **Massimiliano Gioni** (Artistic Director of Fondazione Nicola Trussardi, Milan), **Ivo Mesquita** (Chief Curator of the Pinacoteca do Estado of Sao Paulo), **Jack Persekian** (Director of the Al-Ma'mal Foundation for Contemporary Art, Jerusalem).

*Born in Brussels in 1961, after taking a degree in Agronomy, specializing in phytopathology with a thesis on olfactory communication among insects, **Carsten Höller** thinks of art as a cognitive tool, investigating objective reality and its perception by using disorientation as an indispensable characteristic of all his works: from the rotating mushrooms suspended from the ceiling of the Prada Foundation in 2000 to the five steel chutes of Test Site installed in the Turbine Hall of the Tate Modern in London in 2006 for the Unilever Series, all the way to his latest exhibition, Soma, at the Hamburger Bahnhof - Museum für Gegenwart in Berlin. His work*

has been featured in many group shows and solo shows, in some of the world's most important institutions, including the Boijmans Van Beuningen Museum of Rotterdam, the Museum of Contemporary Art of Zagreb and the Kunsthaus Bregenz. The artist represented Sweden at the 51st International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennial, and has participated several times at the Biennial of Sao Paulo and at Documenta. The New Museum in New York will soon present a solo show of his work. He lives and works in Stockholm.

With the launch of the **5th annual program of Enel Contemporanea** and the decision to become the **Main Sponsor of the 54th and 55th International Art Exhibitions of the Venice Biennial** (held from 4 June to 27 November in 2011 and 2013), **Enel confirms its commitment to support art** and culture in a wide range of different forms and expressions, working side by side with important institutions for the benefit of the community at large. Over the past few years Enel has embraced the language of contemporary art due to its ability to express and communicate the values of innovation, environmental commitment and an international outlook, the three main drivers of a sustainable future, which clearly represent the route to growth for a corporation like Enel today.

Enel Contemporanea is the project produced by Enel calling for the creation, each year, of artworks on the theme of energy, created by artists of different nationalities (www.enelcontemporanea.it). An initiative, now in its fifth edition, aimed at exploring the concept of energy through the universal language of art. Since 2010, Enel Contemporanea has been based on an updated and even more international formula: the Enel Contemporanea Award, an invitational competition involving internationally acclaimed artists, with selection of the winning project by a jury of experts.

*Previous editions of Enel Contemporanea have featured the works of eight international artists: in 2010, the "butterfly house" by the Dutch art duo **Bik Van der Pol**, seen at the opening of the new MACRO – Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome. In 2009, the outdoor installation by the American artist **Doug Aitken** on the Isola Tiberina in Rome. In 2008, an eco-sustainable waiting room by the American artist **Jeffrey Inaba** was installed at the Policlinico Umberto I of Rome (a permanent work), while an itinerary of images, neon lights and video projections by **assume vivid astro focus** was installed amidst the ruins at Largo Argentina in Rome, and a hidden garden by the group **A12** was placed in the Venice Lagoon, during the 11th International Architecture Exhibition of the Venice Biennial. In 2007, in Rome, a large work/construction site by the Italian artist **Patrick Tuttofuoco** was seen at Piazza del Popolo, as well as an interactive fountain by the Danish artist **Jeppe Hein** in the Garbatella neighborhood, and an evocative lunar eclipse by the English artist **Angela Bulloch** over the Ara Pacis.*

Enel is Italy's largest power company, the leading European utility in terms of earnings (EBITDA), and Europe's second utility in terms of installed capacity. It is a diversified corporation active in the sectors of electrical power and gas. Today Enel operates in 40 countries worldwide, has over 95,000 MW of net installed capacity, and sells electricity and gas to more than 61 million customers.

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