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## **ENEL CONTEMPORANEA 2011: CARSTEN HÖLLER AT THE MACRO – MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART OF ROME - FROM DECEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 TO FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2012**

- *The Enel Contemporanea Award 2011 winning artwork by the German artist Carsten Höller was selected by the international jury, which met on June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2011 in Venice at the 54<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition, of which Enel is the main sponsor.*

**Rome, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – Enel Contemporanea comes back as a main feature of the MACRO – Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Roma-'s exhibition schedule in the autumn with one of the most important international artists today: Carsten Höller, the winner of the 2011 edition.**

Enel Contemporanea Award is the prize promoted by Enel within its programme entitled **Enel Contemporanea**, currently at its fifth edition, which calls for the annual production of original artworks by international artists on the theme of energy ([www.enelcontemporanea.com](http://www.enelcontemporanea.com)).

The winning work *Double Carousel with Zöllner Stripes* will be on display **from December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 to February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in free access** at the MACRO, the Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome. The artwork, consisting of **a double merry-go-round, is located in the space of the Enel Room** on the ground floor, which is one of the biggest exhibition halls in Europe.

The public will be also able to interact with **the two moving merry-go-rounds created by the artist. Turning slowly and in opposite directions, the merry-go-rounds allow the public to get on and off easily**, as if they were enormous mills or grindstones, where the people, sitting on top, come closer together and move further apart in constant rotation.

Around the merry-go-rounds, criss-crossing lines (the "*Zöllner Stripes*") create a terrific visual effect, where in spatial perception is deformed, creating a slowed-down vision of reality.

Still within Enel Contemporanea, in order to further highlight the theme of double and disorientation, **the artist has also created a video with more than 30 couples of homozygous twins** on the two moving merry-go-rounds. The video will be on display at the MACRO Museum alongside the installation.

The *Double Carousel with Zöllner Stripes* artwork was selected by the international jury, which met on June 2<sup>nd</sup> in Venice at the 54<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibition, of which Enel is the main sponsor. The jury chose the laureate among 3 internationally recognised artists invited to participate in the competition, each presenting an original artwork, by the Artistic Director of the Award, Francesco Bonami.

The jury, presided by **Gianluca Comin**, Enel Group Director of External Relations, was made up of representatives of some of the most prestigious international arts institutions: **Joseph Backstein** (Commissioner of the Moscow Art Biennial), **Luca Massimo Barbero** (Associate Curator Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice), **Iwona Blazwick** (Director of the Whitechapel Gallery, London), **Massimiliano Gioni** (Artistic Director of the Nicola Trussardi Foundation, Milan), **Ivo Mesquita** (Chief Commissioner of the Sao Paulo National Gallery), **Jack Persekian** (Director of the Al-Ma'mal Foundation for Contemporary Art, Jerusalem).

*Born in Brussels in 1961 (to German parents), **Carsten Höller** a graduate in agricultural sciences with a specialization in plant pathology and a Masters' thesis on olfactory communication between insects, uses art as a cognitive tool in probing objective reality and perception. Disorientation is a key feature in most of his works from the rotating mushrooms suspended from the ceiling of the Prada Foundation in 2000 to the five steel Test Site slides in Turbine Hall at London's Tate Modern in 2006, as part of the Unilever Series, to his recent exhibition, Soma, at the Hamburger Bahnhof Museum of Contemporary Art in Berlin. Carsten Höller has participated in numerous group and solo exhibitions in such prestigious international institutions as the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam and the Bregenz Kunsthau. He represented Sweden at the Venice Biennial 51<sup>st</sup> International Art Exhibition (with Miriam Bäckström) and has participated in numerous editions of Documenta and the São Paulo Biennial. The New Museum in New York is currently featuring his solo show entitled Carsten Höller: Experience. He lives and works in Stockholm.*

With the launch of the **fifth edition of Enel Contemporanea** and the decision to become the **main sponsor of the Venice Biennial 54<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> International Art Exhibitions** (June 4<sup>th</sup> - November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and 2013), **Enel confirms its commitment to supporting art** and culture in all its different forms and expressions, by working alongside important institutions in order to benefit society.

For the past number of years, Enel has focused on contemporary art due to its ability to express and transmit values of innovation, attention to the environment and an openness to the world. Today, these values constitute the three fundamental axes pertaining to the creation of a sustainable future and also reflect the evolution of a company like Enel.

*Enel Contemporanea calls for the production of an original artwork every year based on the theme of energy, a challenge open to artists of all nationalities ([www.enelcontemporanea.com](http://www.enelcontemporanea.com)). It is an initiative, today at its fifth edition, that attempts to explore the concept of energy through the universal language of art. Since 2010, Enel Contemporanea has come up with a new, even more international concept: The Enel Contemporanea Award, a prize for international artists, by invitation, with a panel of experts called upon to select the winning piece.*

*The previous editions of Enel Contemporanea have presented the works of eight international artists: **in 2010** Dutch duo **Bik Van der Pol's** "Butterfly House" inaugurated the new MACRO – Rome Contemporary Art Museum. **In 2009**, there was the open-air installation by American **Doug Aitken** on the tip of the Tiber Island in Rome. **In 2008**, an eco-sustainable waiting room was created by the American **Jeffrey Inaba** (a permanent*

artwork, installed at the Policlinico Umberto I Hospital in Rome); a playful series of images, neon lights and video projections was shown by **assume vivid astro focus** in the middle of the Largo Argentina ruins in Rome and a hidden garden was created by the **A12** group in the Venice lagoon as part of the 11<sup>th</sup> Venice Architecture Biennial. **In 2007**, there was the great work in progress at the Piazza del Popolo, Rome by Italian artist **Patrick Tuttofuoco**, an interactive water fountain by the Danish **Jeppe Hein** in the Garbatella district and a suggestive lunar eclipse by the English **Angela Bulloch** above the Ara Pacis in Rome.

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

## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION ENEL CONTEMPORANEA 2011**

Carsten Höller  
*Double Carousel with Zöllner Stripes*  
MACRO, Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome

Opening days: December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 to February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (free entry to Enel Contemporanea)  
Opening hours: Tuesday-Sunday: 11.00 am - 10.00 pm. Last admission 1 hour before closing time. Closed Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, May 1, December 25<sup>th</sup>.

December 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>: 11.00 am - 2.00 pm

The museum is also open every Saturday evening, from October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 to January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (excluding Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>), until 1.00 am (last admission 0.00 am).

Inauguration by invitation only on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011  
Web site: [www.enelcontemporanea.com](http://www.enelcontemporanea.com)  
Information: [enelcontemporanea@enelaward.com](mailto:enelcontemporanea@enelaward.com)

MACRO – Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome  
Entry: Via Nizza 138, Rome  
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[www.macro.roma.museum](http://www.macro.roma.museum)  
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