

## EMANUELE LO CASCIO

### TOP MANTA (From September 17th to October 17th 2009)

The **TOP MANTA** project of Italian artist **Emanuele Lo Cascio** is an exhibition born from the verification of a fact: the African immigrants, who sell clandestinely their goods on the streets of Barcelona, are forced to live in a constant state of emergency and in a need of flight. Always running to avoid being arrested by the police, these illegal sellers have invented a method to easily close the blanket where they display their products with a quick move, turning it into a bag, easy to carry and hide during the escape. This race with the "top manta" became a perfect symbol of the instability of the contemporary human condition.

### THE "TOP MANTA" VIDEO

2009

A work of videoart made *ex profeso* for this show at Espai Ubú. It will take place in the middle of Barcelona' Passeig de Gràcia, an elegant street full of business of the most exclusive international firms, a definitely distinguished and very highly regarded area of the city and paradigm of the quality of western life. Five young African men are going to participate in a real speed competition. Just like Olympic athletes, they will run passing on the baton (precisely the top manta) from the hand of one runner to another's. Everything will happen just as in a regular race, with its set off, its goal and its delimitations of space where the participants will run.

### WHITE MEN CAN'T RUN

2009

*Hanemüle* cotton paper  
and golden frame.

60 x 80 cm



In dialog with the work of videoart, Lo Cascio presents the photographic series *White Men Can't Run*. Three pictures of the great Olympic champion of athletics Carl Lewis in several moments of his professional career. The silhouette of his figure, symbol of success and sports glory, stands out before postal landscapes of the city of Barcelona. In opposition to the TOP MANTA video, the images of this series relate to the idea of race not as a situation of danger, but as a moment of celebration and victory, which is underlined by the golden frame in Greek style. The winner's gold.



## I'M SO TIRED

2009

Glass and wood.

33 x 60 cm



A glass bell with a wooden base, a receptacle that was formerly used to preserve holy sculptures made of gold, coral, ivory,... but this urn will not contain any object. It will be empty except for a set phrase carved in the wood by an illegal immigrant: "In God We Trust", the words coined on US dollars like a sacred text. The empty sacredness of money and work.

## CROWN

2009

Iron

30 x 40 cm



Buried in the wall, the sculpture is made by two big pieces of iron twisted and interlaced, as the old pastime of the nails where it is necessary to solve the puzzle. Crown is the prize, a weight, a game.

