

*The new boring*  
*Pennacchio Argentato*  
*July 17 - August 21*

Midway Contemporary Art is pleased to announce *The new boring*: the US debut of Pennacchio Argentato. *The new boring* is an installation of photographs and mixed media sculptures by the collaborative team of artists Pasquale Pennacchio and Marisa Argentato. Their project at Midway presents three lurching gray slabs that establish a relationship to the body through their scale, postures and their steel grab rails. Having a familiar aura of neither being objects, nor monuments, these mute forms exist in a quasi-anthropomorphic state. Austerely installed within the gallery, they further their connection to minimalism for visitors accustomed to such installation practices. But, like much of Pennacchio Argentato's previous sculptural and photographic-based work, these seemingly monolithic forms are in reality fairly sophisticated counterfeits, offering up a version of minimalist muscle by way of Bowflex® and slant step. Paired with each of the sculptures are photographs of a young, tanned, and muscle-toned Arnold Schwarzenegger that suggest a steroid induced aberration of classical ideals of form. Transparent formal connections are established between these and their three dimensional counterparts. The oxymoronic and self-deprecating title, *The new boring*, further suggests that a planned obsolescence has been built into the very design of these heterodox forms.

\* \* \* \*

Pasquale Pennacchio (b. 1979) and Marisa Argentato, (b. 1977) are currently based in Naples, Italy. Recent solo exhibitions include: *Landings 4*, Landings Project Space, Vestfossen; *Marisa Argentato & Pasquale Pennacchio @ Economy*, Studio 10, London; *Frieze; Do It Just*, Gallerie Opdahl, Berlin; and *Estate*, T293, Naples. Over the past few years, they have participated in group exhibitions that include: *Au Pair*, Borgo Medievale di Castelbasso; *Dude, where's my Career?*, MMK Zollamt / Portikus, Frankfurt; '+10/2009 – shortlist zum Columbus- Förderprojekt, Columbus Art Foundation, Leipzig; *Warm Summer Days*, *Indoors*, Sandy Brown, Berlin; *Rundgag*, Städelschule Academy, Frankfurt am Main. They have upcoming exhibitions with Gallery T293 in Naples this fall and a solo exhibition curated by LATITUDES at the LABORATORIO 987, a project space at MUSAC, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León next winter. They will also participate in a group exhibition at MAGASIN – Centre National d'Art Contemporain in Grenoble this fall.