

Elea, 2009

Plaster cast, plexiglas sheet, lithograph on die-cut cardstock
Cast h 14.5 cm, sheet Ø 47 cm, lithograph 33 x 41 cm,
overall dimensions 15 x 47 x 47 cm
Edition of 150 in Arabic numerals plus 15 artist's proofs
Banca della Svizzera Italiana, Lugano

The plaster bust of the Greek philosopher Parmenides is placed on a plexiglas round which holds down a shaped photographic reproduction – as if it were made up of two round shapes arranged so that they are askew. The photograph is in turn placed on a blank sheet with a line drawing on it. The photographic image reproduces a night-time sky with planetary motifs and with the repeated image of Parmenides' face, rotated 45 degrees each time, so that the cast appears to be orbiting in the cosmic space.

In the artist's own words: "Elea, ancient Greek colony – a name that does not designate any place today – was situated on the coast of Cilento near what is currently the city of Salerno. It was the seat of the pre-Socratic Eleatic school whose major exponent was Parmenides. The image evoking Elea, far from every territorial reference, alludes to the light-years crossed by the figure of Time: Parmenides' face seems to find and recognize itself in the negative reflection located between the celestial bodies".¹



¹ G. Paolini, note in the colophon accompanying the multiple.

Entry by Bettina Della Casa