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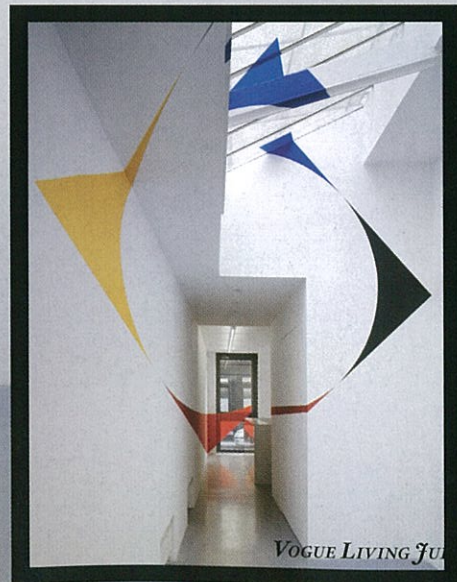
MILAN REPORT

INSPIRATIONAL IDEAS FROM THE WORLD'S GREATEST DESIGN FAIR
THEATRICAL SPACES IN A MILANESE INTERIOR BY PIERO LISSONI

ANOTHER DIMENSION

*Soon to appear at Tasmania's MONA,
Felice Varini's plays on perspective
turn trompe l'oeil into a 3D experience.*

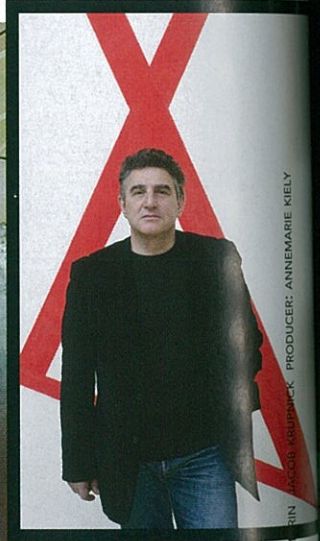
Felice Varini painted the 3D work *Carré bleu noir rouge et jaune au disque blanc Mr. Memory* (2011) over this void at Galerie Martine Aboucaya, Paris.





BIG DEAL, YOU think – more Photoshopping masquerading as fine art. Except that it's not. What the eye presumes to be a computer-generated circle incised from a multi-coloured square super-imposed over the image of a white corridor is, in actuality, four colours painstakingly painted onto several surfaces of a three-dimensional space so that perspective play renders the geometry complete from only one viewpoint. Move from that single vantage spot and the circle in square splays off into broken fragments that abstract the artwork over the space. This subversion of the *trompe l'oeil* tradition (a two-dimensional image appearing as three-dimensional) over built structure is by Swiss-born, France-based artist Felice Varini who, commissioned to work his magic at Tasmania's Museum of Old and New Art (MONA), will challenge the precepts of viewing art within the wider curatorial agenda of its *Theatre of the World* exhibition (see

page 98). Speaking down the line from Paris, Varini declares that he doesn't know what he will be creating for MONA because he hasn't yet established a relationship with its site. "The discovery of the place where I am invited to produce one or more artworks is essential to the first step," he says. "This place will give me the rule in order to build my painting." The 'game' between Varini and site-specific volume produces a very controlled, highly contextual art, but it is serendipity – the indescribable, infinitely variable forms and colours emanating from the different viewpoints of the end work – that pushes it into the realms of visual poetry. "What stimulates and influences me?" he asks himself, after declaring the world's infrastructure and architecture his canvas. "This is a great question that I hope I never find the answer to." ANNEMARIE KIELY
See Varini's viewpoint on MONA from 23 June–8 April, 2013.



Top: Varini painted and exhibited *Cercles et suite d'éclats* (2009) on the Swiss village of Vercorin.
Above: Felice Varini.
Left: *Spirale di rette* (2007) was exhibited at Galerie Damisch-Danant as part of Design Miami.

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