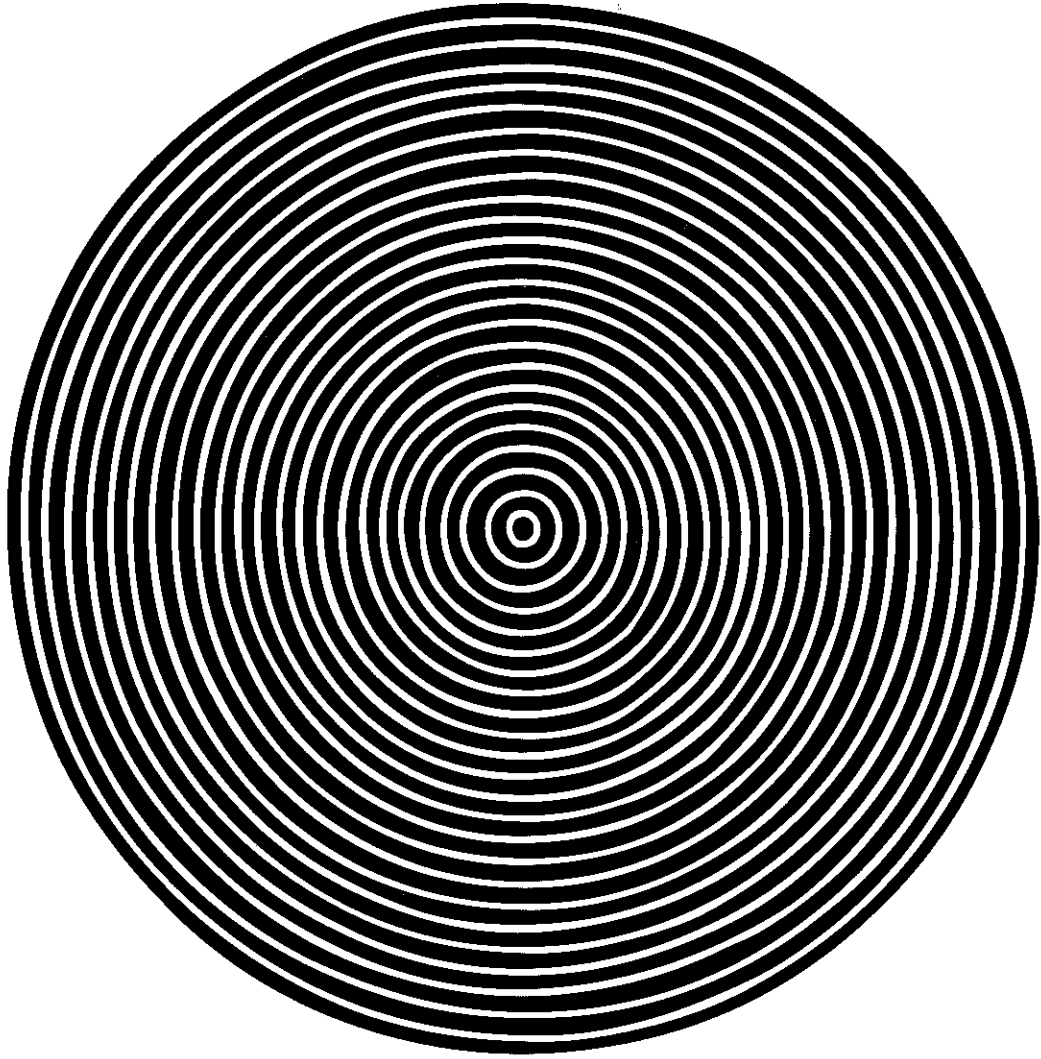


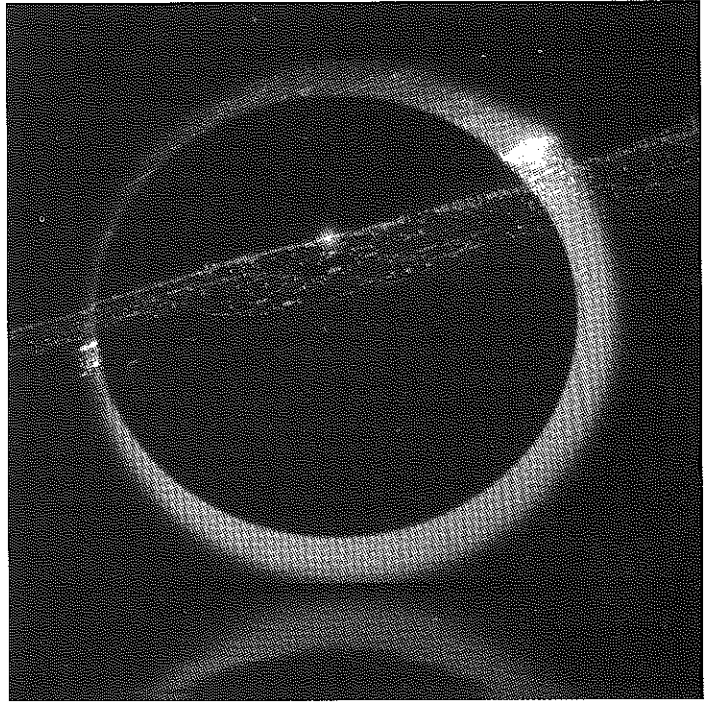
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**CIRCLES**



## TAKE A BREAK WITH GRAZIA TODERI

JON SOLMUNDSON

Being a part of Curtin University, it amazes me that some people haven't taken a moment of downtime to check out the John Curtin Gallery. If you happen to fall into that group, allow me to give you an excuse to check it out.

The latest exhibition, a collection of work from Grazia Toderi, was brought in all the way from Italy to be displayed as part of the Perth cultural festival. I was lucky enough to attend the opening of the exhibition and trust me, it's something you might want to check out. Heck, the US Consular was there, bodyguard and all. It's some serious business art.

Though you can take what you want from any piece of art, there's no denying that the work on display is immediately enthralling and very original. "Rendezvous," which is currently occupying the main gallery, has an undeniably hypnotic motion to it. The video is projected across a huge white wall, making it easy to sit down on the bench opposite and take a minute to just take it in.

Two chunks of NASA's Gemini rocket follow a slow spiral in opposite directions across a backdrop of classical architecture, sometimes moving in unison, but never completely lining up. It's a striking contrast to say the least. Though hard to relate to immediately, hearing Grazia share fond memories of watching the Apollo moon landing on television begins to connect the dots. It's the power of these images she saw as a child that seem to have given her such a passion for video.

In fact, none of the six works are the old paint on canvas. Each one is projected onto a wall, composed of a unique combination of footage,

still images, and video filters. It produces something that appears to be very ethereal, but is composed of very grounded elements.

That's a feeling Grazia was able to explain when I spoke with her. "It's about the light," she said, commenting on the connection between the works on show. "The light of the projectors, the light that we create, and the natural light." It's easy to see what she means as, deeper into the gallery, images of the city lights at night and the sun catching on ocean spray sit within ten meters of each other.

The other striking feature of the work is its duality, with four of the pieces sharing an "ocular" perspective, as Grazia calls it. As if viewed through a stranger's eyes, the image is broken into two halves with brighter inner circles and a duller edge. Again Grazia provided insight for me. "It's about the contrast in our lives - the two halves. On one hand we have the personal, and on the other this social reality. The view of the outsider."

So if you're in the area, stop in and take a look. It'll only take you a few minutes to look through the gallery, and Grazia assures me that the progress of the video isn't important. It isn't a film, you don't have to watch it from start to finish. Just sit down, follow the movement and enjoy a single slow, quiet moment. I know we could all use it once in awhile.

**YOU CAN CHECK OUT GRAZIA'S EXHIBITION FROM NOW UNTIL APRIL 14.**

*image: Grazia Toderi, Atlante Rosso, 2011, looped video projection, sound*