

Twin Mind

Spazio Carbonesi is proud to present *Twin Mind* – the first in a series of exhibitions that explore synchronicity in contemporary art. The project seeks to facilitate the dialogue and creative exchange between artists from different backgrounds, whose creations are profoundly similar.

Julia Zastava (Russia) and Emiliano Maggi (Italy) had never met before the installation of the show started. The artists submitted their proposals for the exhibition independently without being aware of each other's ideas. Joined in the indissoluble installation and in a unique space – the ballroom of the Spazio Carbonesi – the duet investigate the ambivalence of human-animal relations, where animal becomes a human alter-ego and the artist's twin mind. Coming from radically different cultural contexts, the works of Zastava and Maggi possess a fundamental structural similarity and our perception of each artist's oeuvre is enriched in proximity to that of the other. Both artists share the same range of themes, imagery and mythological liberty in expression; they privilege the imaginary over reality.

For Spazio Carbonesi, Julia Zastava has created a paper installation, that introduces a 'psycho-physical' chain which is the artist's interpretation of the food chain. We only need to find the right place in it for us, humans. Do we eat or we are eaten? The very notion of being human, of being, is put in doubt, as well as the conventional human-animal hierarchy. Zastava's characters often possess elements of both sexes, have zoomorphic features, or wear animal masks. Concealment of identity and mutation as an alternative to perseverance constitute the obsessive world of the artist, where trauma is a normal state and art is a tool for healing.

Emiliano Maggi's research is concentrated around the inextricable fusion of human and animal identity. The main personages of his oneiric visions are animals embodied within humans, zoomorphic or anthropomorphic creatures whose mutual exchange develops into a productive collaboration. A human turns into an animal, acquiring primitive wild qualities and purity of the vision while the animal is endowed with human voice and power. For his research the artist goes into forests and records foxes' cries in the moments of coition, takes random pictures in pitch darkness that after development reveal foxes. For Spazio Carbonesi, Emiliano Maggi performs a live re-enactment of the myth of the Silver Fox.