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Documentary Photography & Visual Activism

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HOLY DUALITY has been constructed on the basis of my necessity to talk about one of my subjects of interests, the study of identities, recalling slightly the concept of Ralph Eugene Meytard behind the masks. I wanted to create images that could be explored, analyzing the complex facets of personalities and feelings despite the absence of facial expressions.

The images going also to represent a sort of comparison of how the psychological aspect could influence and affect our mind and how the body instead can endure under some circumstances developing a sense of resilience and defence and consequently reinforcing the mind .A circuit of alternated emotions that describes and leads to reflection and try to explain some passages of individual development, where body and mind flowing independently but meet in single point like in sort of life balance's research.

Two opposite ways to be and perceive things, the extreme poles of feelings but in connection and inevitably present, in different measures, in the path of each of us.The sequences are progressive in the sense that the book starts with a timid introduction of my self to then be extended on different themes like general vision on women ,how they feel broken and how courageously are able to rebirth,the enslavement by certain addictions and habits without ever trying to live without them,how since childhood we develop the faculty of resistance,how I recognize in the motherhood the love concept rather than in the Christian doctrine but despite that of how much the religion it is culturally part of me,impassibility and force of reaction,time perception,moments of pause and respite that we allow to ourselves,the stage of feeling in harmony with yourself, a far physical contact that remain vivid imprinted inside. Love and pain, fragilities and strengths,spirituality and carnality, staticity and movement,bond and disconnection,susceptibility and fortification,desire and fear the 2 faces of the same medal.

All fruit of lived events and imagination, points of view,memories, cultural beliefs/rituals ,observations and investigation of behaviours.

The layout has been elaborated on my perception of dualism concept adapting it to this context and on the pages, choosing in some cases to spread a single image over 2 pages,position and associating more pictures together or using a single image followed by a blank space.The world Holy is not related specifically to the religion but is meant to suggest the blessing of living experiences in an extended way where even the "negative" aspects contribute to the personal growth and thanks to which we forge our character.

I didn't just want to limit myself to the single individuals and this is why in the final page I wanted to include a scene involving 2 subjects that intersect with each other, giving rise to a domestic dynamic, always keeping the rhythm of the hidden faces....a kind of introduction for an eventual book sequel.Technically the images have been produced digitally, in some applying the photomontage method to represent metaphorically

risk,addiction,transmutation,embarrassment. Aesthetically the evolution of this project was made possible by taking a cue from artists who have proposed portraits where often the face is not visible. One of these is Brook DiDonato. Even though she is considered a surrealist photographer, she is keen to clarify that it is all based on reality. "Everything is sort of familiar and it's almost a distortion of the familiar so there is not anything particularly fantastic with it. I have my version of what they mean to me....but I like the open storyline (referred to the different interpretation by audience) (Brook DiDonato,2020) Another photographer I have been inspired by is Marta Blue, she is a river in flood in terms of creativity and production, considering the fact that she started her photographic path recently in 2018. But regardless the indisputable beauty of the images is the intense motive for which these artists take pictures that represents something in which I reflect myself artistically. "The word exigence is the perfect word It comes from an unconscious need, my projects I think are often accompanied by the concepts of self-representation and identification....the intention is to bring out the contrast between what is real and what to make believe it is real." (Marta Blue,2021) The influence of my culture and background is relevant in the formation of the bodywork. Irene Ferri built a project on Italian culture, her purpose was to minimize the aura of pessimism aroused in the Italians and that made us forget what this country sentimentally represents. She collected stories and thoughts and translated them into photographs asking the simple question "What binds you to this land?" "These flashes of true Italy, small emotional fragments, will be exhibited in a final exhibition entitled "It's all here"(Irene Ferri,2018) "We try to reconnect with our country. Through memories and awareness." (Irene Ferri,2018) I felt inspired by her capacity to narrate, images and phrases that resurfaced memories and sensations, represented in my own way in some passages of my book.

Figures:

1,2 Ralph Eugene Meatyard

3,4,5,6,7,8,9 Brooke DiDonato

10,11,12,13,14 Marta Blue

15,16,17,18 Irene Ferri

19 Annie Collinge

20 Hellen van Meen

21 Gleeson Paulino

22 Nadia del Pozo

23 Michael Famighetti

24 Matthew Thompson

25 Chloe Alexandra

26 Tania Franco Klein

27 Jonny Briggs

28 Paul Hill

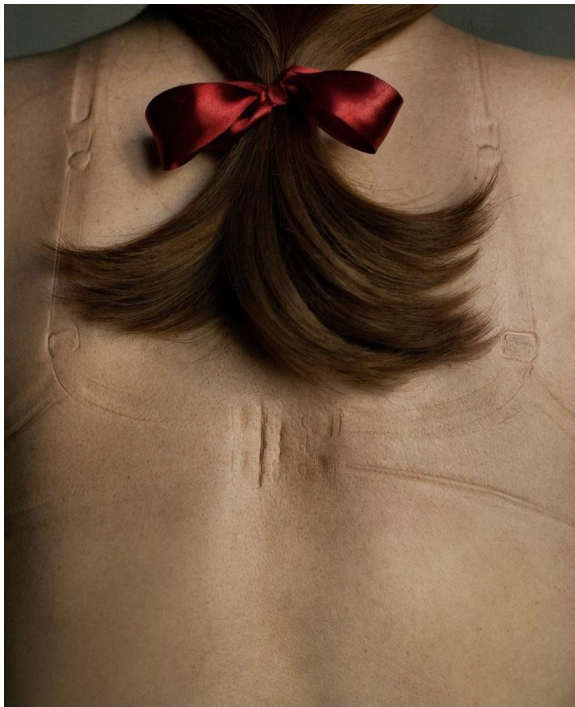
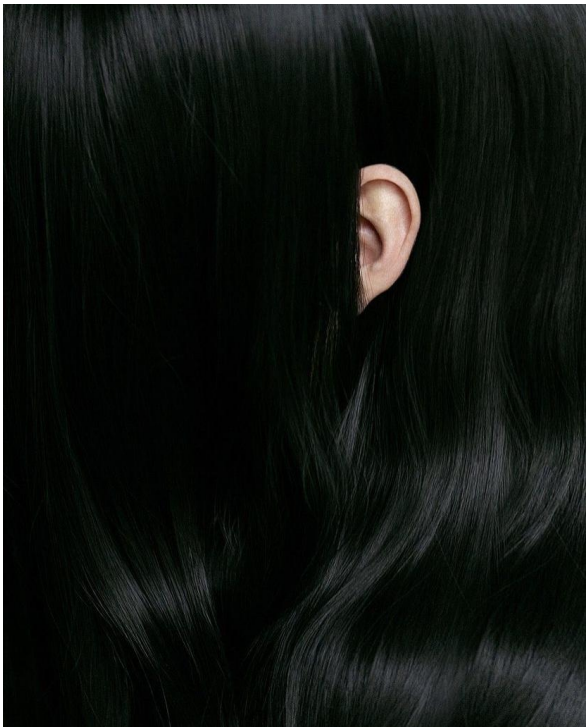
29,30,31,32 images produced by me but not included in the book.













"Italy is my mother-in-law who, as soon as she arrives to visit me and the children, asks me if I have an onion to cook the soffritto, which when cooking prepares for at least 8 people, who keeps her beautiful dress for Sunday mass. " (Irene Ferri)



"For me, Italy is my grandmother who turns into a strangely taciturn person as she recites the rosary." (Irene Ferri)



In my opinion it is very important to re-evaluate ugliness in photography. As a female, you always expect a romantic, subtle sugar-coated product. Here I want to subvert these expectations.(Irene Ferri)



“A few months ago I was in Naples and it was raining. I was walking down the street and all I could hear on that Sunday morning was the rattle of the ceramic coffee cups Cups Cups Cups Cups Cups.

I finally understood that for me this was the sound of Italy I saw a lady who, while she was painting the corridor of the condominium during the quarantine, drank coffee from this cup and at times placed it on the staircase full of paint.

A mixture of nostalgia, sadness and pride came over me.” Irene Ferri









Jobson C. (2020) A Conversation with Photographer Brooke DiDonato Explores the Process and Inspiration Behind Her Surreal Imagery. Available at: <https://www.thisiscolossal.com/interviews/interview-brooke-didonato/>

<https://martablue.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/ire.ferri/?hl=en>