

MONTSERRAT DIAZ

PORTFOLIO / 2021

AD
GALLERY

CONTEMPORARY
PHOTOGRAPHY
GALLERY

I WAS (DREAMING) HERE

The dream experience is as real as life during waking hours. I have been to these places, I have lived them even if for a few days, and the photograph shows it. I slept (and dreamed) in rooms full of history, of other people's lives, of ancient noises. I wished to possess them and to remain there forever, and I realized this wish by immortalizing the image printed on paper: a dream come true; an indelible and invisible signature on the wall: I was here (I was here).

I was (dreaming) here. Màlaga, 2016

I was (dreaming) here. Màlaga - La scala, 2016

I was (dreaming) here. Marche, 2020

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.

Total print size including white borders is 70x50x0,1 / 50x70x0,1 / 70x50x0,1 cm without frame.

Total print size including white borders and the black aluminium frame is 71x51x4 / 51x71x4 / 71x51x4 cm.

©2016-2020

Limited edition of 10.

880 €







MISE EN ABYME. IL SOGNO NEL SOGNO.

(Mise en abyme. The dream inside the dream)

Everything we live, everything we feel, the night becomes a dream. Life is like a matryoshka, an infinite container of many experiences and feelings. The dream world is a sensory space in which our lived experiences are reinterpreted in a symbolic key. A world where everything is possible.

This project of three photographs, is a matryoska sequence that recalls the photographic technique in which a same image is repeated to infinity within itself but increasingly reduced. In Literature however, the "*mise en abyme*" (from the French "*put into the abyss*"), indicates a sort of history in history, or a small story within the main story that summarizes some of its aspects.

Mise en abyme. Il sogno nel sogno I

Mise en abyme. Il sogno nel sogno II

Mise en abyme. Il sogno nel sogno III

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.

Total print size including white borders is 50x70x0,1 cm without frame.

Total print size including white borders and the black aluminium frame is 51x71x4 cm.

©2020

Limited edition of 5.

980 €







YO ERA

(I was)

A snapshot is an instant, a here and now moment frozen in time, a present that immediately becomes past for a future that is not yet known to us. There will be other eyes to observe us one day, and the portrait, like the reflection in the mirror, will tell them nothing of our identity if not how we appeared there in that instant, because identity may be found only in dreams, the rest is only appearance. The portrait that the woman holds in her hands is the only thing that has not been modified or altered in this image. This serves to underline the dreamlike nature of the work and reclaim the identity as creator.

I was. I create

Yo era ©2015

Yo era ©2019

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.

Total print size is 40x50x0,1 cm without frame.

Total print size including the black aluminium frame is 41x51x4 cm.

©2019

Limited edition of 10.

600 €





RITRATTI SENZ'ANIMA

(portrait without a soul)

Nowadays, interpersonal relations have changed and people meet and communicate through writing, in a world where visual and eye contact are increasingly rare connectors. It is said that the eyes are the windows to the soul, but what happens when it is exactly that which is missing? "*Ritratti senz'anima*" (portraits without souls) is a project composed of three portraits that represent the new generation and the current methods of communication and socialization, through Social Networks. If, before these systems made their appearance, our circle of acquaintances was practically limited to persons in our academic or work environment, today we can socialize with hundreds of people who, however, we have never physically met and who, for the most part, we never will meet, people who live far away from us or even in different countries. The fact that the nature of these "friendships" is fundamentally based on the written work, presents us with a distortion at the origin: the structure required in interpersonal relations fail the very moment in which visual contact is lacking, because without eye contact, there can be no real connection between two people, and the same may be said of the structure of the portrait which, missing eye contact, loses its essence to become, precisely, a portrait without a soul.

Ritratto senz'anima - Lui©

Ritratto senz'anima - Lei©

Ritratto senz'anima - L'infante©

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.

Total print size is 50x80x0,1 cm without frame.

Total print size including the white aluminium frame is 51x81x4 cm.

©2017

Limited edition of 15.

1100 €







I PHOTO

In portraits, gesture is a fundamental component. Here, it is evident that the woman has a phone with which she is taking a selfie or is photographing a tray of fruit, despite the object does not actually appear in her hands. Just a few years ago, no one would have understood. Today, a new gesture and a new word have become a part of our lives, thanks to mobile phones, with which we use not only speak, but also to take photographs, and communicating by sharing images that talk about us has become a habit, almost a need. Mankind has always felt the need to tell its story. The question is: are we sure we can truly communicate who we are or are we doing everything possible to offer an improved image of ourselves and our lives? Thanks to the digital worlds, we can modify reality and make it more interesting, and here the volatile would show that chimera that photography gifts us with through techniques such as photomontages.

I Photo – Selfie with Pelican

I Photo – Selfie with lemons & Butterfly

I Photo

I Photo – Selfie with Paxis Unicornis

I Photo – Selfie with Blue Parrot

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.

Total print size including white borders is 50x50x0,1 cm without frame.

Total print size including white borders and the black aluminium frame is 51x51x4 cm.

©2019

Limited edition of 10.

700 €











HIC ET NUNC

This is how our life is: here and now. Time flowing through our fingers, without even a second to stop and observe. We live in front of a mirror, or in front of a screen. Always more I, always less us. We no longer talk: we post, we say things to an infinite audience of listeners looking for consensus. But in the end, we are speaking words only to ourselves. We watch the world through scrolling images, always different, always immediately in front of our eyes, on our phone display, but we never look up, we never stop to contemplate. We no longer remember that we are supposed to wilt. We are immersed in an eternal present, and death must not exist. Aging is not permitted, forever young. We tell ourselves this every day in the mirror... but mirrors lie.

Hic et nunc

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.

Total print size including white borders is 65x65x0,1 cm without frame.

Total print size including white borders and the white lacquered frame is 69x69x3,5 cm.

©2017

Limited edition of 15

750 €



VUOTO
(emptiness)

Emptiness is a cry within the silence, an unheard voice, our inability to change things paralyzes us and there is no one to come wake us. Emptiness is an abandoned house, a memory without a trace, a message written somewhere on a wall. But we do not see it with our eyes wide open ...

Vuoto
Il tempo sospeso
Il vuoto dentro

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.
Total print size including white borders is 65x65x0,1 cm without frame.
Total print size including white borders and the white lacquered frame is 69x69x3,5 cm.
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Limited edition of 15.

850 €







SILENZIO

(silence)

Silence is never total. Thoughts linger in the mind and the body is always listening. Lacking any other sound, we become objects, like vases of flowers resting on the table in an empty house. In the silence of certain nights, our interior voice become a familiar voice that keeps us awake and morning is a white sheet of paper that frightens us. Even the past has a sound in the silence. It is an echo o voices, the reminiscence of a life once lived and in part forgotten.

Blanca mañana, blanca espera

Divenire

Reminiscenze

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.

Total print size including white borders is 65x65x0,1 cm without frame.

Total print size including white borders and the white lacquered frame is 69x69x3,5 cm.

©2015-2018

Limited edition of 15

750 €







MOTH

The moth, in dream symbolism, represents our dark side, our intimate and deeper self that wishes to make contact with the rational, without however being able to because we do not listen. It is only in dreams that, masquerading as a nighttime butterfly, this darker self can surface, because in the oneiric world, which is created by us and within ourselves, all those parts that make up our being are free to talk to one another. Perhaps listening to them would save us from becoming something we are not?

Moth
Me and the others
In my own

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.
Total print size including white borders is 70x50x0,1 cm without frame.
Total print size including white borders and the black aluminium frame is 51x71x4 cm.
©2018
Limited edition of 10.

990 €







RITRATTO IN BIANCO E NERO

(Black and white portrait)

Among the processes used by Borges to create a fantasy effect in his tales, is the description of a work inside the work, through both intertextuality and paratextuality. Black and white photography, within the image, in fact signifies that we are before a fictional work. Two portraits, Morning and Evening, that recount two moments of the day that are intimately connected to dreams and therefore to a fantasy world which, in a certain sense, is a part of our lives, even if we have no control over what happens to us in our dreams and rarely can we bring back with us vivid memories of that world, but rather we come back with, if anything, a handful of sensations and a few fleeting images. If at dawn we are still touched by the experiences we have had in our dream world, in the evening we adore sunsets, ready to live new dreams.

Ritratto in bianco e nero – Mattino

Ritratto in bianco e nero – Sera

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.

Total print size including white borders is 65x65x0,1 cm without frame.

Total print size including white borders and the white lacquered wood frame is 69x69x3,5 cm.

©2017

Limited edition of 15

850 €





TEMPUS FUGIT

Tempus Fugit is a reflection on death and on how this presence that hovers around us may somehow disturb us. A time comes in ones childhood when something happens, something changes: awareness of death is a disturbing discovery that somehow wipes away the innocence of existence in every child. Every mother, like her, wishes to stop time and cover her daughters eyes, in the impossible attempt to protect her from the wound that the awareness of death will open in her soul. In the same way, the child covers her mother's eyes, like a guardian angel who tries to hold back her tears, whispering words of comfort and urging her not to dwell on the thought. But death is there, it exists and it is an irreparable part of life. This is a well loved-theme in my native culture. In the Hispanic world, speaking of death and spirits is not a taboo, quite to the contrary. Almost as an attempt to charm it, death enters our homes and we speak of her openly.

Tempus Fugit I
Tempus fugit II

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.
Total print size including white borders is 51x65x0,1 /65x65x0,1 cm without frame.
Total print size including white borders and the black aluminium frame is 52x66x4/ 66x66x4 cm.
©2017
Limited edition of 15

850 €





ATTO POETICO

(Poetic act)

In the mirror, our eyes seek out ourselves, but what would happen if in that space of solitary eye contact mirrors revealed themselves to the obvious multiplication of that which the eyes are sure to see? We would find ourselves contemplating our souls. But mirrors never show you your souls and, if by chance you should glimpse it, know that you are dreaming. According to Borges, there is not much difference between the act of dreaming and the act of poetry, seeing as both dreams and poetry can be generated or created by us. These images may be called oneiric as they have been created by me as if they were poems: mirrors do not reflect the reality of what stands before them, as we would expect, but instead, a surprising image that generates a perturbing sensation, similar to that created by certain dreams.

Atto poetico

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.

Total print size is 50x70x0,1 cm without frame.

Total print size including the black aluminium frame is 51x71x4 cm.

Mondi sospesi. Di ricordi e di ombre

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.

Total print size is 50x70x0,1 cm without frame.

Total print size including the black aluminium frame is 51x71x4 cm.

Sogno lucido

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.

Total print size including white borders is 50x50x0,1 cm without frame.

Total print size including white borders and the black aluminium frame is 51x51x4 cm.

©2017

Limited edition of 10

950 €

Lo sguardo (The glance)

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.

Total print size including white borders is 50x50x0,1 cm without frame.

Total print size including white borders and the black aluminium frame is 51x51x4 cm.

Labirinti

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.

Total print size including white borders is 50x50x0,1 cm without frame.

Total print size including white borders and the black aluminium frame is 51x51x4 cm.

Malvasia

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.

Total print size including white borders is 50x50x0,1 cm without frame.

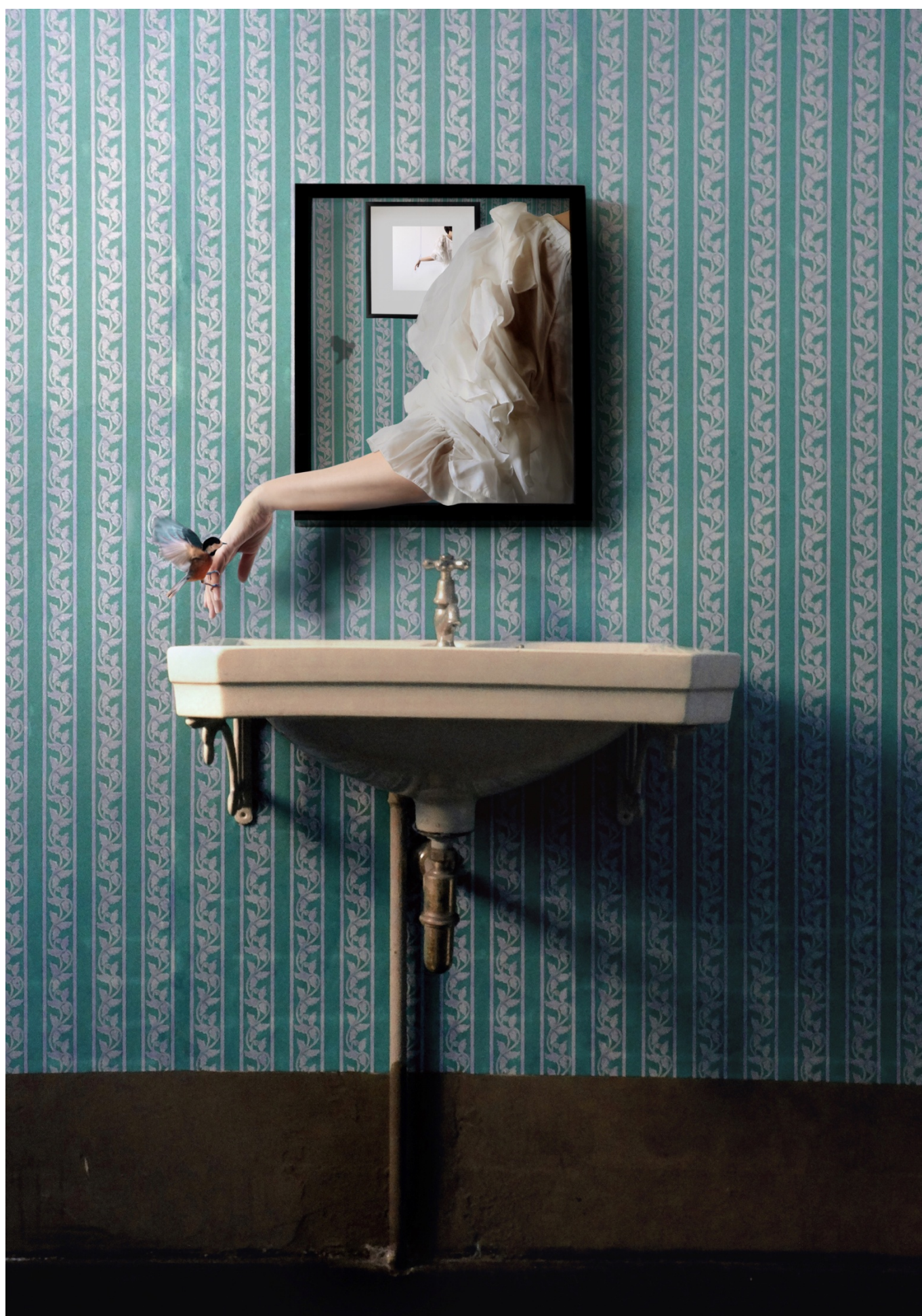
Total print size including white borders and the black aluminium frame is 51x51x4 cm.

©2017-2018

Limited edition of 10

950 €













ENTRANABLE

The fish is a symbol of life, so at first these images could seem to represent maternity. Nevertheless, like for Tierra Madre, here we are dealing with the creation of a new image through a photographic photomontage. The hands, mine, seem to want to firmly hold the animal that fluctuates in front of me. The Spanish work *Entrañable* means dear, but it has a blood-relation and fraternal connotation that the Italian word does not have; indeed, it recalls *las entrañas*, that is, the entrails.

Entrañable I ***Entrañable II***

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.
Total print size including white borders is 65x65x0,1 cm without frame.
Total print size including white borders the white lacquered frame is 69x69x3,5 cm.
©2018
Limited edition of 10

1100 €





TIERRA MADRE

Here I speak of myself as mother-creator of oneiric images. Without a head and with no limbs, the body, my body, becomes a column and a container for birth in the creative sense of the word. In dreams, we, all of us, generate a new world in our minds, which is the result of events we have lived during our waking hours. Oneiric images, created through photomontage techniques, imitate this process, displaying a new world made up of a non-existent reality, but that is the product of moments that have been actually captured. The result, like for dreams, is an attractive and linear image which, however, intends to provoke in us sensations that are both fleeting and perturbing.

Tierra Madre I©

Tierra Madre II©

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.

Total print size including white borders is 65x65x0,1 cm without frame.

Total print size including white borders and the white lacquered frame is 69x69x3,5 cm.

©2015-2018

Limited edition of 15.

850 €





PORTRAIT OF WOMAN WITH LIZARD

Interacting with the public is the intention that describes this work. In this self-portrait, I look directly into the camera, knowing that in the future I will look directly into other eyes. Eyes that will inevitably look at me, and will do so with a certain fear, seeing as I have a desert lizard on my head. Do I know it is there? They will ask themselves. And I will look at them with the expression of someone who is asking herself why that look of fear in their eyes. Perhaps I do not know the animal is on my hat, or perhaps I do, but I do not understand why this should generate apprehension, seeing as it is not, nor can it be, real.

Portrait of woman with lizard

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.

Total print size including white borders is 65x65x0,1 cm without frame.

Total print size including black borders and the black aluminium frame is 66x66x0,1 cm.

©2018

Limited edition of 10.

950 €



IL SUSSULTO

The shudder, insofar as it is a primordial reaction, is something we have in common with animals. We have a survival instinct. Uncontrolled, it makes us frightened and makes us scream. The body is suddenly pervaded by involuntary movements the sole scope of which is to make us flee from danger. If the communication between individuals is not verbal, it is often involuntary and is nevertheless part of a flow of communication, an instinctive and sudden reaction has a very precise intention that is common to all species. Fear is an intrinsic instinct that all species on the planet share, humans included. Even in dreams, we may feel fear, fear towards something that we ourselves have created and that makes us shudder and even wake up. Here, we know we are looking at oneiric images because we can perceive that it is impossible for a dragonfly to land on a finger of that it not fly away when the woman screams. And the same is true of the bird, that would have flown to the woman's face. This would not happen in real life, unless the animal did not need to defend itself or its offspring.

Il sussulto. Libellula©

Il sussulto. Passerotto©

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.

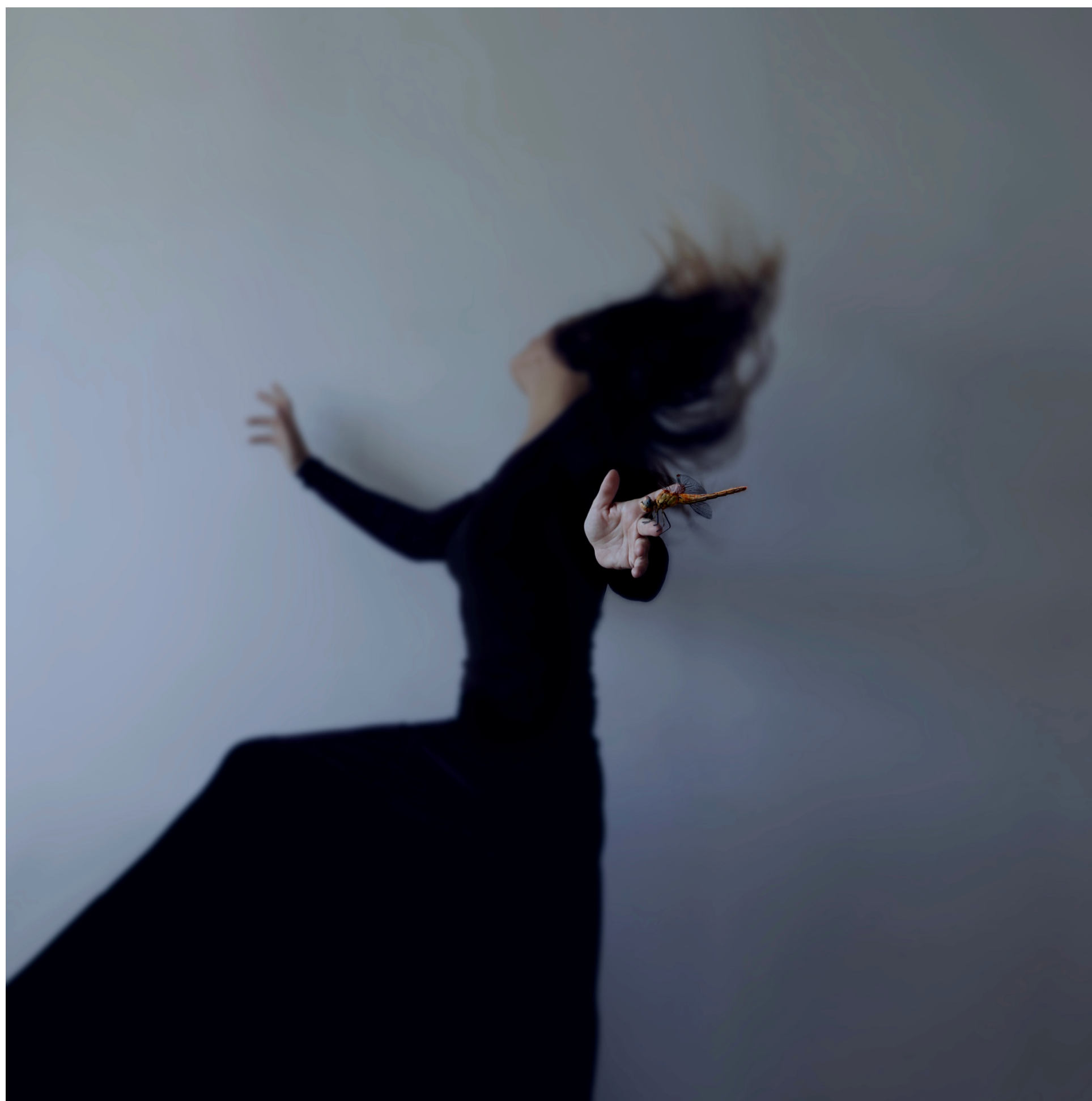
Total print size including white borders 50x50x0,1 cm without frame.

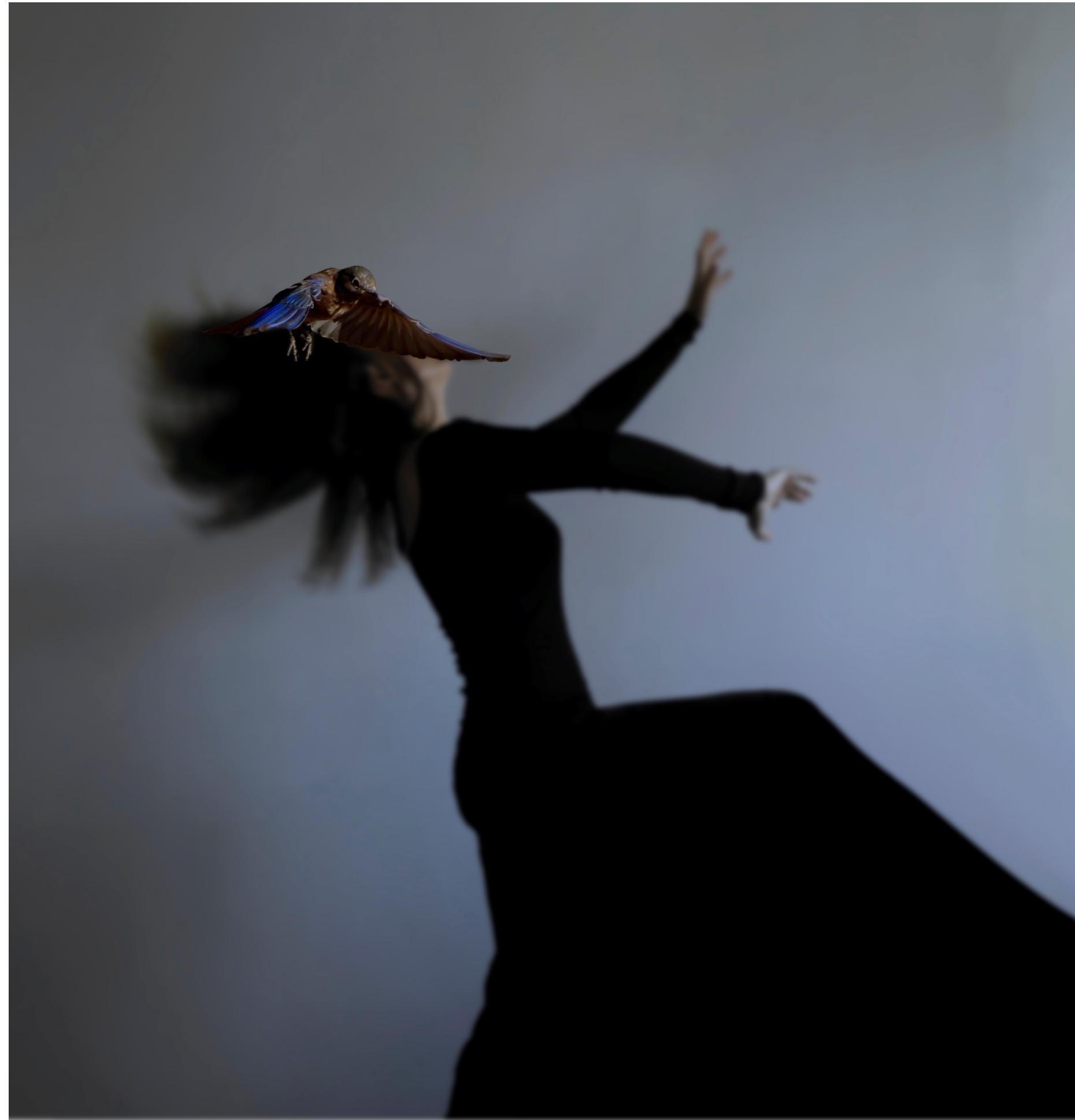
Total print size including white borders and the white lacquered frame is 54x54x3,5 cm.

©2019

Limited edition of 10.

850 €





DESDE DENTRO

There are two of me: one lives in the real world; the other knows how to dream even with her eyes wide open. Without the second, the first would find herself with diligent and practical hands and with two eyes that are good only for seeing. Sometimes the two talk to each other, especially during sleep, and so waking becomes color-tinted and scented. Hands become wings, eyes observe the world from the inside. Within me, there is a self-portrait in which I am slowly transforming into the animal at my side. We have both been extrapolated from our place of origin. However, both of us were contemplating the world before us at the moment of the snapshot, and inside myself, when I photographed him, I knew it would have ended up like this. We would be together forever, immersed in silence, contemplating an eternal present.

Desde dentro

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.

Total print size is 75x60x0,1 cm without frame.

Total print size including the white aluminium frame is 76x61x4 cm.

©2018

Limited edition of 10.

850 €



BISOGNI (needs)

The end of childhood is a place filled with shadows. We are not convinced we wish to become butterflies, but at the same time, we have an innate need to fly. Losing one's wings, leaving behind that magic thinking that made us fly by imagination, bent on saving beauty at all costs. Nothing to do but to content ourselves with escaping, balanced between dream and reality.

Attraverso lo specchio

Bisogni

La portatrice del gelsomino

Equilibri

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.

Total print size including white borders is 70x50x0,1 cm without frame.

Total print size including white borders and the black aluminium frame is 71x51x4 cm.

©2020, 2019, 2020, 2016

Limited edition of 10.

950 €









OSCURIDADES

(darkness)

This series in black and white is a fragile voice that speaks of the darkest and most intimate part of ourselves, the part made up of insecurities, fear and unmentionable feelings. Different voices live together in all of us. We keep some of these voices, because of their disturbing nature, well hidden in silence, but sometimes we dream them, and we call them nightmares. Sometimes, we should sit and talk to them, feel the shiver of sincerity, to broaden our knowledge of ourselves.

Fra il cielo e la terra

Riflessa

Il salto

L'ira

Presentimenti

Lei balla da sola

Irreale

Suonerò per me

Sud

Printed photography on museum quality cotton Hahnemuhle Rag White, 310gr.

Total print size including white borders is 50x35x0,1 cm without frame.

Total print size including white borders and the black aluminium frame is 51x36x4 cm.

©2015-2018

Limited edition of 10

750 €



















BIOGRAPHY

Montserrat Diaz was born in Malaga, Spain, in 1976. She has been living in Milan since 2000, where she obtained her university degree in Foreign Languages and Literature and where she teaches Spanish as a second language for foreigners. She has always had a certain talent for painting, but photography is her preferred medium of self-expression. This passion for photography was born in 2014, and she began studying as an autodidact, cultivating the minimalist genre, to which she is keenly attracted. It was when she discovered photomontages that she began to explore other, more intimate and personal territories. The idea that life has the substance as dreams forms the basis of her conceptual thought, and through the use of photomontages, she strives to imitate the act of dreaming: dreams are a world created by us and in us, made of re-elaborated actual moments. They are a precious means of communications with our inner selves, through a shared symbolism. In the same way, Montserrat creates new, unreal scenarios, starting from “photographed pieces of reality” pieced together. A re-elaboration of reality that aims to create an image that that explore the meanders of the human soul, capable of generating a strong reaction in the audience. Her exhibitions began in 2016, when she participated in the Turin event Paratissima 12. From that moment on, her career took flight: In 2017, she won the selection call issued by Malamegi Lab and exhibited her works at the Galleria Imagoars in Venice, winning the first prize among the participants. That same year, the management of Paratissima selects one of her works for the graphics of the G@P (“Galleries at Paratissima”) catalogue and to promote the event, and offers her a space in the photography section of NoPhoto for Paratissima Torino. The works that she exhibited at that event won the Premio Galleria Bonetti prize and the Premio Mauto prize.

In 2018 she participated in both Paratissima Bologna I and Paratissima Milano I, the latter being the edition in which she won the PRS Talent Prize. She participated in the Sorrento Young Art festival, an artistic event curated by Paolo Feroce, and in the collective photographic exhibition curated by Martin Vegas held by ImagNation in Paris. Her first personal exhibit, entitled The oneiric photography of Montserrat Diaz, took place that same year in the DVO_ showroom in Milan, where exhibited a large number of her works. In October 2018, the Galleria Interni Bonetti hosted her second personal exhibit. In 2019, the Galleria FIAF Photoclub EYE BFI in Felice sul Panaro (Modena) hosted her third personal exhibit. In the meantime, she participated in various collective exhibits and collaborated with the magazine Fuoriasse, a literary cooperative, and with Studio Ata/Plan Buy®/Barbara Corsico photography.

PERSONAL EXHIBITS

2018, "The oneiric Photography of Montserrat Diaz", Spazio DVO_ ,MILANO/ITALIA
2018 "Ritratti senz'anima", Galleria Interni Bonetti, TORINO/ITALIA.
2019, "Atto poetico", Galleria FIAF e Photoclub Eyes, MODENA/ITALIA.
2019 "Tierra madre y otros", Fototeca siracusana, SIRACUSA/ITALIA.

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITS

2016, Paratissima 12/NoPhoto, TORINO/ITALIA.
2017, MIIT museum, TORINO/ITALIA.
2017, MalamegiLab 7, Galleria Imagoars, VENEZIA/ITALIA.
2017, Paratissima 13/NoPhoto, TORINO/ITALIA.
2017-2018, MAUTO automobile museum, TORINO/ITALIA.
2018, "Animali notturni", Paratissima, BOLOGNA/ITALIA.
2018, Sorrento Young Art, SORRENTO/ITALIA.
2018, ImageNation, PARIGI/FRANCIA.
2018, Paratissima Art&Photo Fair, MILANO/ITALIA.
2018, Paratissima 14/ N.I.C.E project, TORINO/ITALIA.
2019, "Other Identity", Primo Piano di Palazzo Grillo, GENOVA/ITALIA.
2019, Bianco Festival della fotografia, Galleria d'Arte A51puntolab, ALESSANDRIA/ITALIA.
2019, Asylum Fantastic Fest, Palazzo Doria Pamphilij, ROMA/ITALIA.
2019, Paratissima 15/Phocus, TORINO/ITALIA.
2019, Autoritratto, AD Gallery/ONART Gallery, FIRENZE/ITALIA.

PRIZES

2017, 1st Prize, Malamegi Lab7, VENEZIA/ITALIA.
2017, Premio Mauto, Paratissima XIII, TORINO/ITALIA. 2017, Premio Bonetti, Paratissima XIII TORINO/ITALIA.
2018, PRS Talent Prize, Paratissima Art&Photo Fair I, MILANO/ITALIA.

PUBLICATIONS

2018, *ClickMagazine*, pp. 6-17 and cover, January, MILANO/ITALIA

2018, *ThalamusMagazine*, September, MADRID/SPAGNA

2019, "The mysterious world of Montserrat Diaz Photography", *MysteryTribune*, Spring, NEWYORK/USA

2020, "Il corpotempo", *Gente di fotografia*, N°74, ITALIA.



AD Gallery

www.adgallery.it

Art gallery dedicated to contemporary photography

Fine-Art works of great photographic quality printed on photographic paper certifiable for duration, suited to exhibition and sale as works of art. Fine-Art is a vast concept, a complex and wise mix of print media, special inks, professional printers, expert black and white print technicians and Art.

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Photography is one of the most creative and varied, interesting and accessible art forms, and it is a constantly evolving one. Hence, it offers the best opportunity for starting an art collection, whatever your budget or your competence in the field of art.

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(Alberto Desirò)

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