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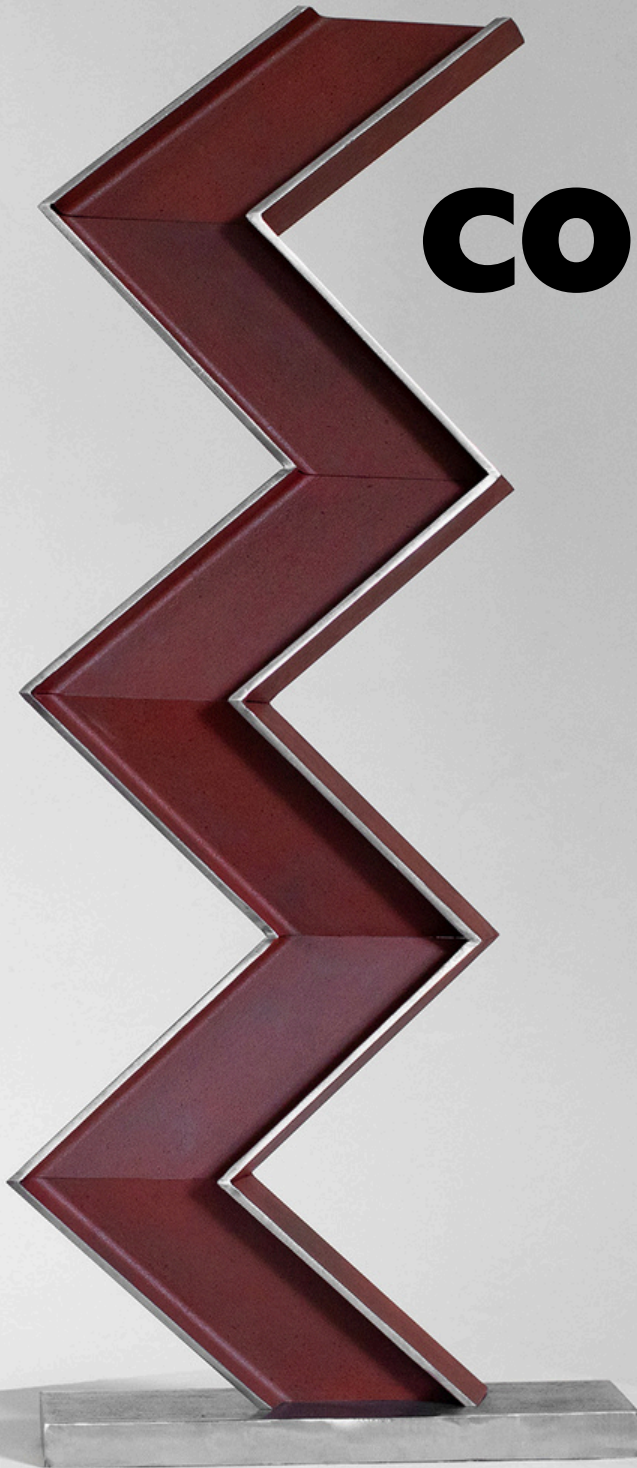
COLLECT ART

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GIORDANO CIONI



I am passionate to capture the arcane in contemporary contexts, weaving the language of Western symbol, ritual and myth through a queer lens. Via photographic compositions of unorthodox subjects and hieroglyphic sculptures forged from industrial materials I trace ancestral codes embedded in corporealities, landscapes, and ritual acts. Drawing from sources as diverse as Egyptian mythology, Renaissance cosmology and Christian iconography, I reimagine ancient spiritual systems through a radically fluid reorientation. In so doing, I ultimately wish to create portals; subjects that amalgamate magical possibilities and act as vessels towards new mythological narratives and heightened spiritual sensibilities.



Across sculpture and photography the work of Giordano Cioni, explores Western myth, ritual and symbol. He has published internationally and has released two books. Among selected prizes, he has been granted the All Out + MTV Photo Award (2021) and the Portrait of Humanity (2023). Their work has been exhibited across Europe including group shows at The Holy Art Gallery (London), Palazzo Bembo (Venice), and Rossocinabro Gallery (Rome) as well as three solo exhibitions in Berlin at tête (2020) and Organ Kritischer Kunst (2022 and 2023).



Luna Duran: Venus Conjunct Chiron - Inkjet print, 100x130cm, 2023

The extreme ritual performance of the Bolivian artist Luna Duran, embodying the myth of the wounded centaur conjunct with Venus in the night sky through a full body hook suspension and hand-made jewellery pierced onto her thigh.

Tsuki - Inkjet print, 53x72cm, 2021

The ritualistic lunar dance of Tsuki over a mysterious industrial structure.



Your work explores Western myth, ritual, and symbolism. How do you reinterpret these traditions while maintaining their core essence?

My approach to spiritual traditions is rather unorthodox and constantly shaped by my lived experience. I engage with these systems of knowledge seriously while filtering them through my unique perspective. The integrity of my process lies in representing only the symbols that hold transformative power in my life and resonate directly with my practice. It's about integration rather than appropriation, allowing these traditions to evolve rather than merely replicating them.

You describe your work as creating “portals” that amalgamate magical possibilities. How do you envision these portals functioning for viewers?

I hope they spark the viewer's imagination and offer a narrative beyond the constraints of capitalist thought. The Western world has been severed from its ancestral roots through centuries of colonial erasure and cultural homogenization. I want my work to act as an opening: an invitation to reconnect with more ancient and sacred dimensions of human experience.

Kareem Ghoniem

Inkjet print in black aluminium frame

54x79cm, 2019

A Sufi dance by queer dervish Kareem Ghoniem inside a construction site.



Your hieroglyphic sculptures integrate industrial materials with ancient themes. What draws you to this contrast, and what significance does it hold in your work?

By using industrial materials like steel profiles, inox, and concrete, I aim to render those ancient themes contemporary. It's a way of reconfiguring tradition within the urban landscape and asking: What possibilities does this context offer for spiritual evolution? Rather than reinforcing the divide between the hyper-industrialized present and our ancestral past, I seek ways to create continuity between them.

Mythological and spiritual references play a central role in your art. How do you balance historical accuracy with artistic reinterpretation?

To me, myth is not a crystallized relic of the past but a fluid and living tale. I'm not concerned with strict historical accuracy; rather, I allow these stories to take on a present-day shape. My approach is intuitive rather than academic; I engage with spiritual material in a way that lets it be embodied through new forms of expression.

How does your personal identity influence the way you engage with and reimagine ancestral codes, symbols, and rituals?

My queer, anti-colonial perspective inevitably shapes how I relate to these symbols. Both positions are acts of reconfiguration, breaking away from rigid structures and social hierarchies to open up more fluid and egalitarian possibilities. Through the intersectional lens, I also approach ancient rituals, not as fixed dogmatic rites but as evolving acts that respond to the present-day political climate.

Abbà & Guardian - Concrete/ Steel & Stainless steel, 58x24x10cm/ 24x33x4cm, 2024



How does context shape the way your art is received?

From former factories to white cubes, each environment interacts with my work differently. In raw, industrial spaces, the materiality of my sculptures becomes more pronounced, while in galleries, the conceptual aspects often take center stage. Context is never neutral; it actively shapes how the work is perceived and experienced.

What is the relationship between your photographic and sculptural practices?

In the past, they served distinct roles, but now they are increasingly merging. An example is my recent photographic work, presented with sculptural frames engraved with glyphs and patterns; elements that add symbolic depth to the compositions. My photography treats the body as a living sculpture, a plastic entity with a totemic presence. My sculptural approach is becoming more compositionally ambitious, influenced by photography's ability to frame and structure visual elements.

Your use of Christian iconography, Renaissance cosmology, and Egyptian mythology suggests a deep engagement with history. What role does research play in your creative process?

Research is a fundamental and ongoing aspect of my practice, but I don't confine it to a single form. Information comes from diverse sources: academic investigations, conversations with strangers, or daily life observations. The key is not to fixate on rigid methodologies but to stay deeply engaged with whatever I am exploring. Remaining open and curious has always expanded the depth of my research.



Winning the All Out + MTV Photo Award and Portrait of Humanity suggests a strong human-centered narrative in your work. How do you approach storytelling through your visual language?

I am interested in portraiture's ability to allow human subjects to express themselves symbolically. In my work, human presence is often layered with archetypal significance, making each portrait a gateway to a broader narrative. I seek to capture moments where subjects transcend their identities and connect with a ritualistic dimension.

Looking ahead, are there new mythologies or spiritual systems you are eager to explore or reinterpret in your future work?

In my upcoming solo exhibition, I am exploring the esoteric significance of the Precession of the Equinoxes and the current transition from the Age of Pisces to the Age of Aquarius. This shift is not merely astrological; it signals a profound transformation in collective consciousness, culture, and myth. I am currently investigating how this dawning cosmic cycle expresses itself in contemporary aesthetics and imagination.

Cretto

Digital photograph, 2020
An obscure piece of land art in the Sicilian inland.

