

Giulia Piscitelli

Born 1965 in Naples. Lives and works in Naples.

It is above all the human, in all its complexity, fragility, and absurdity, what Giulia Piscitelli engages with. Her artwork contains something very personal, often revealing those peculiar aspects of a human being that are generally neglected. It becomes a universal illustration and an observation of what humans do, what they are, and what they leave behind.

In the video *Untitled '89* (1989), one witnesses the washing of a skull. The scene is obscured through a blurred camera lens, changing angles, and dimmed light. Associations of memento mori and religious rituals come to mind - but the cleansing procedure takes place in the artist's bathtub, as if this was a typical daily activity that considers the trace of a human being as something familiar. At the same time, there is a sense of oddity to it and, through this, the wit inherent in Piscitelli's whole body of work becomes apparent. Her photograph *Tigre in Gaiola* (2002) shows the scene of a "tiger" sleeping on a meadow, in the background a miraculous view of the Gulf of Naples, at a place called "La Gaiola". But the tiger is not a tiger. It is the artist wearing a tiger's mask. The enchanted landscape is interrupted by a "real" person, which might merely seem like a staged fairytale, were it not a perfect example of the way Piscitelli's photographic and video work troubles jaded sensibilities by offering a vision of the world at once touchingly plain and disarmingly strange.

For her new film *Unter den Linden* (2008), Piscitelli documented encounters that took place during her brief spell in Berlin, shedding light onto unknown stories of the everyday. In the video we observe a lonely, soaked "one-legged" duck standing in the puddle of a park. We expect the sound of splashing, but listen to two drunken people insulting each other. The juxtaposed scenes seem unrelated and absurd, but they do exist and exemplify an integral—even if minor—aspect of life. Piscitelli has kept her acute sense for singling out situations that retain a bit of the momentary magic and cruelty of the everyday.

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Dal catalogo 5th BERLIN BIENNIAL FOR CONTEMPORARY 2008,
WHEN THINGS CAST NO SHADOW
A CURA DI ADAM SZYMCHYK E ELENA FILIPOVIC
TESTO DI STEPHANIE VON SPRETER