

ISABELLA

MIRROR PROJECT #12

ZUZA GOLINSKA, CORRADO LEVI, REBA MAYBURY

IN COLLABORATION WITH VIAINDUSTRIAE

CURATED BY GIULIA CARPENTIERI

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF YULIYA SAY

Barriera inaugurates the twelfth edition of Mirror Project, an initiative realized in collaboration with the Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Foundation. Every year one of the participants of the Course of Studies and Curatorial Practices CAMPO is invited to develop a new project within the space.

The title *Isabella* is inspired by the memorable *Isabella, the duchess of the devils*, one of the most famous Italian erotic adventure comics of the 60s and 70s.

The story tells the erotic exploits of an attractive blonde woman who claims to kill her family, fighting and subduing anyone who wants to obstruct her. *Isabella* represents for the first time the manifestation of female sexual and political power, the woman who can no longer be imagined only as fragile and submissive but as a powerful dominatrix.

This counterculture had great importance for sexual emancipation and its spread, and gave visibility to all those fantasies deemed perverse, dirty, sick and unconventional. Not conforming to the heteronormative binary canon belonging to the cultural heritage that raised us, paraphilias were and are considered psychosexual abnormalities. This is why erotic fantasies and practices such as sadomasochism, BDSM and fetishism initially found a dimension among the characters and fetish pages of this porn-erotic comics. *Isabella* represents the point around which the narration of the exhibition is developed.

The sadomasochistic aspect of *Isabella, the duchess of devils* allows to widen the debate to gender issues, but primarily it allows a reflection on the complex dynamics of power in the field of sexuality. The exhibition is particularly focused on the relations of domination and submission within the practices of organized and consensual sadomasochism as a possible venue for the overthrow and experimentation of power in its various forms.

Through the works of Zuza Golinska, Reba Maybury,

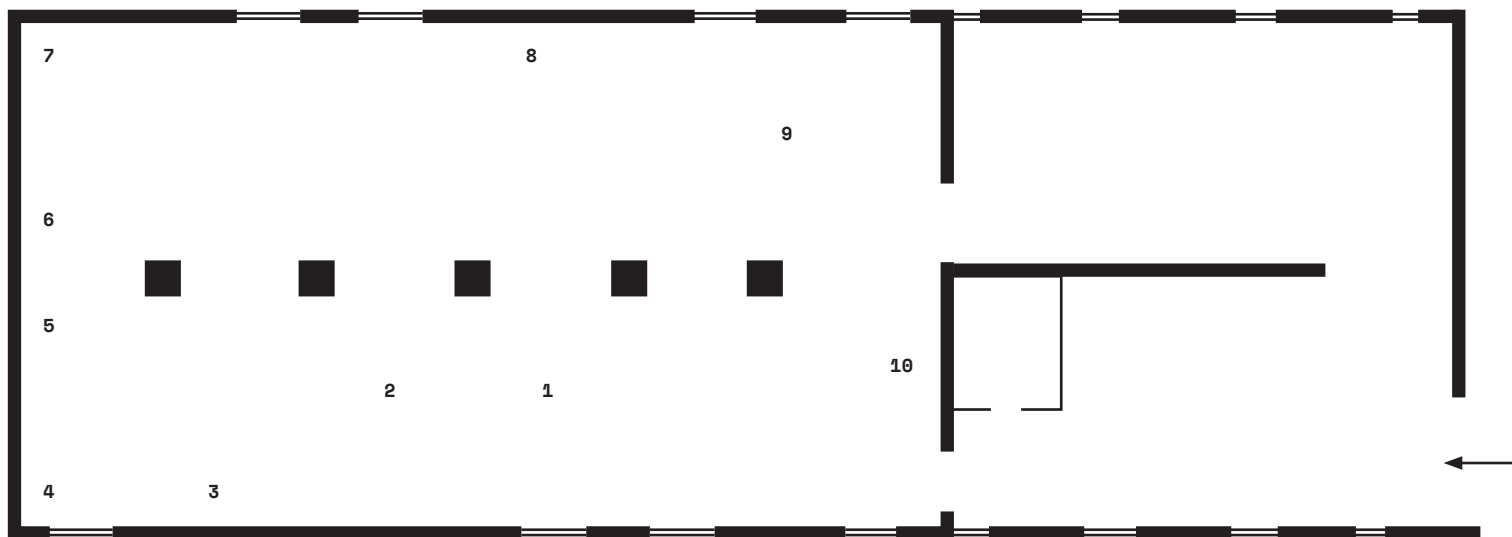
Corrado Levi and the collaboration with the publishing world of Viaindustriae, the exhibition display offers a dynamic dialogue between different times and points of view that broaden the contemporary concepts of power and female domination, and the particularities of a historical and archival past linked to the beginnings of a new erotic subculture and its cultural spread.

Zuza Golinska (1990 Gdańsk) is a Polish artist, she lives and works in Warsaw. She explores the relationship between humans, public space and architecture. Her work is strongly influenced by the way people behave and interact with the public sphere.

Corrado Levi (1936 Turin) is an artist and writer, architect and teacher at the Politecnico di Milano, but also a collector and discoverer of artistic talents: he is one of the most unique and interesting figures on the international artistic scene. Since the 1980s Levi has been an influential cultural animator, especially in Milan, where he curated numerous exhibitions. Through contact with different generations of artists and intellectuals, Levi collects and makes his many experiences, proposing a light and ironic art, but not without commitment and ethical sense.

Reba Maybury (1990 Oxford) also known as Mistress Rebecca, is an Anglo-Pakistani artist who develops her artistic practice between domination, submission, sadomasochism and feminism. Her role as a dominatrix and activist (sometimes under the same pseudonym Mistress Rebecca) often relates to artistic practice, to “penetrate” male authority, his power, the mechanisms of domination and desire.

Viaindustriae is a publishing house, visual arts research center, archive and exhibition space in Foligno. Established as a cultural association in 2005, Viaindustriae promotes projects and artistic research ranging from museum exhibitions, site-specific installations, residences and publications in various formats.



1/4/7/10 **Zuza Golinska**, *Piercer Series*, steel variable size, 2018

2 **VIAINDUSTRAIE**, TAVOLO 1 / 11 objects
ISABELLA Uno per tutti, N.107, II series, June 1971, Ediperiodici, Milan
ISABELLA Tutti per uno, N.106, II series, May 1971, Ediperiodici, Milan
M. Giovannini, Foemina strips, antologia di fumetti femministi americani, 1979, Savelli, Rome
Enciclopedia dei Fumetti / Il fumetto erotico, N.37 (Barbarella), 1970, Sansoni publisher, Florence
ISABELLA Il vascello fantasma, N.59, II series, March 1969, Ediperiodici, Milan
La Bella e la Bestia, N.2 Year 1, 1974, Ep Pocket / Ediperiodici, Milan
Falena, Femmina senza pudore, N.16, Year 1, 1973, Series of the Falena, C.E.A., Milan
M.Giovannini, Dirty Stars. Trent'anni di dirty comics (1930-1960), 1978, Savelli, Rome
J. Sadoul, Le supersexy del fumetto, 1971, Elvypress, Milan
A. Abruzzese, Pornograffiti, Trame e figure del fumetto italiano per adulti, 1980, Napoleone publisher, Rome
Dossier Fumetto, 1977, Edifumetto, Milan

3 **Corrado Levi**, *Frustate al rosso*, 60 x 80 cm, 2019

5 **Reba Maybury**, *PRESENT GOD / ROLLING STONES SUB*
 Head by the Cat Banker in acrylic paint 14.53 pm 25.11.18
 Upper body by Macbeth in acrylic paint 21.56 pm 25.11.19
 Lower body by Cat Banker in acrylic paint 12.46 pm 25.11.18
 Feet by Macbeth in acrylic paint 20.30 pm 24.11.18
 (all made in Airbnb in Soho)
 75.5 x 39.5 inches, 2018

6 **Reba Maybury**, *TOOL SUB oink oink*
 Head by "Superman" in acrylic paint painted in apartment in Islington 18.19 pm 27.01.19
 Body by "The Indie music manager drw with acrylic pens in

hotel room in Barbican 16.47 pm 11.02.19
 Feet drawn around The Dutch WETTERS's feet, apartment in London Fields 16.13 pm 26.01.19
 67 x 39.5 inches, 2019

8 **Reba Maybury**, *Office Piece*, 2018, Artefact from Barrel's office, created under direction by Mistress Rebecca.
 Framed digital print of hi-res image sourced online, 61 x 41 x 2 cm (24 x 16 1/8 x 3/4 inches)

9 **VIAINDUSTRAIE**, TAVOLO 2 / 15 objects
I AM GONZO, my dirty italian zines fuck serious scientific books, 2021, Viaindustria, Foligno (Italy)
ISABELLA Questioni di cuore, N.81/100, II series, 1970, Ediperiodici, Milan
NANETTE La corte del padere degli Dei N.2, Year 2, 1970 Edizioni Liberati Spada, Rome
LUCREZIA, La mondana senza volto, N.113, Year 5, 1973, Elvypress, Milan
LUCIFERA Tra i due litiganti... il terzo gode!, N.40, Year 5, 1974, Ediperiodici, Milan
VARTAN Mani lorde, N.160, Year 7, 1975, Furio Viano publisher, Milan
JACULA Orgasmo precoce, N.155, Year 7, 1975, Ediperiodici, Milan
JACULA Orgasmo telepatico, N.178, Year 8, 1976, Ediperiodici, Milan
LUCREZIA, La giovane tigre, N.22, Year 2, 1970, Elvypress, Milan
ALIKA La donna che venne dal futuro, N.2, 1965, Series of the II thrilling dello spazio, Edizioni Attualità Periodici, Rome
URANELLA La morte verde, N.12, 1967 Edizioni Bianconi, Milan
JOLANKA La cripta infernale, N.41, Year 5, 1974 Furio Viano Editore, Milan
ODINA Notte di terrore, N.4, 1971 Series of the Bengala, Edizioni Bianconi, Milan
POMPEA La fonte miracolosa, N.16, Year 1, 1973, Edizioni Segi, Milan
LA GATTA Notti veneziane, N.7, Year 1, 1976, Edizioni Del Vascello, Milan

Barriera is a non-profit association for contemporary art founded in Turin in 2007 by a group of art collectors.

Through a series of initiatives, exhibitions and events, this art space creates opportunities for dialogue between artists, curators and collectors and engenders contaminations with other cultural environments. Barriera promotes curatorial strategies that encourage young artists to continue and widen their research while orienting it, through a sharing process, towards a production fed by the site specificities.

Barriera is curated by Sergey Kantsedal and Yuliya Say.

Editing e translation by Giulia Lenti.

The graphic design of the exhibition is by Désirée Nakouzi De Monte

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Via Crescentino 25, Torino
 www.associazionebarriera.com
 associazione.barriera.torino@gmail.com

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