

OUT OF THE TWILIGHT ZONE

An exhibition of artworks

by

CAROLINA MAGGIO

28th November - 15th December 2013

Oaktree & Tiger Gallery

Cover Images Text - “Anima Mundi”

“An intrinsic connection between all living things on the planet, which relates to our world in the way our soul relates to our body.

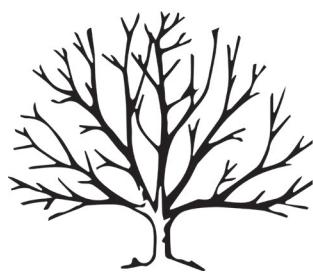
A mysterious entity, the soul. Its very nature escapes the possibility of proving its existence, yet never escaped human fantasy to the point of being the central subject of arguably our major ontological problem: are we more than merely physical?

If that which could signify the deepest essence of my existence as an individual can be called soul, then I wish it to be Anima Mundi, the Soul of the World.

I wish my soul to perceive itself as an immensely larger network of existences that together create human life. I wish our lives, in all its wonderful imperfections and magic, to be the force animating what we know as our world.

When I made this painting I had the experience of such intense sense of collectivity. It's my deepest wish for this work to successfully express this feeling.”

C.M.



&



Out of the Twilight Zone

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An exhibition of artworks by Carolina Maggio

"I believe that as long as we practice the awareness of being alive and we celebrate this magical experience, life itself is the artwork we are all working on."

For more details email us at
info@oaktreeandtiger.com

A selection of paintings, and more, may be viewed on the website.

CAROLINA MAGGIO

OUT OF THE TWILIGHT ZONE

28 NOV – 15 DEC 2013

“Before the day has ended, before the night will make everything seem different, out of the twilight zone I find freedom from myself, the image.”

Oaktree & Tiger Gallery is pleased to present “Out of the Twilight Zone” - a solo-show of an emerging artist Carolina Maggio.

Following her artistic pathway Maggio has been continuously exploring her inner self and the relations between the subconscious and the outside world. In attempts to bring together her vivid imagination and real life, which Maggio loves too much to exchange for the world of hallucinations, she discovered art as a means of healing. Maggio creates to liberate herself from her visions and the creatures born there, which are animated in her works. These wonderful and horrible inhabitants of the subconscious create the morphology of her inner life and emerge with stories to tell.

While speaking to the viewers from the darkness of the subconscious, Maggio’s works in the same time reflect these ideas from the bright side. This manner of expression could be tracked back to her travel to Mexico, where she first worked as a muralist and then escaped the cities to live with the natives in the rainforest. There she found the way Mexican people experience death, “with their vibrant colourful celebrations and ideas of an after life” and “reprogrammed my ego driven mind to see life as a grander, mysterious playground for our wondering spirit”.

Maggio’s expressive paintings are the images from the world found on the border of subconscious, the twilight zone of human imagination, where erotic feelings and aggressive impulses - Freudian “death instincts”- coexist. In this space, where light and dark share surface and in the same time juxtapose each other, Maggio finds the state of beauty, which she calls art.

As the curator Ryan Godwin comments: *“The first thing that strikes you about Carolina Maggio’s work is the depth and scope of imagination. Each piece takes the viewer on a fantastical visual journey through the mind of a genuine talent...”*

Kate Savchenko
Art Journalist



When They Pick the Dragon Fruit

Mixed media on canvas

145 x 120 cm

"The Twilight Zone. It is in that space where light and darkness cohabit that my vision is defined. The shadows make the light brighter, the light intensifies the contrast.

Within this juxtaposition I find a state of beauty I call art.

The rhythm of rising and setting; the balance of claire-obscur, both physically and mentally.

To me, creating is embracing the unknown. I do not know how my own end, as a creation of my species, will look, just as I don't know how what I'm creating will end. Through this discovery, the power of subconscious visions shows me an inner world made of wonderful and horrible creatures, who form the morphology of a hidden life and emerge with stories to tell.

Liberation is all they want. Liberation from the caves of the human subconscious, before the day has ended, before the night changes all, every one of them a stranger. In this twilight zone I find wonder. I find freedom from myself, the image."



A Tale of Innocence

Acrylic on canvas

90 x 120 cm



Narcissus & Narcosis

Oil and golden leaf on canvas

120 x 145 cm

The next time I catch you drawing on the walls you'll be in serious trouble!"

Now, this is what my mother could have said, when as a child I used to cover the walls of our house with countless drawings. If she had said that, I would perhaps be an employable person. She didn't, on the contrary, she thought well to cover every single wall of the house with gigantic white sheets of paper.

That very stroke of genius, as other providential happenings, still keeps me unemployable and a genuine lover of art.

I paint. Not like traditional painters though, who I believe to be ever so rare to find. I paint like a traveller. Like a person who was given a good eye, strong curious hands and plenty of vision. I paint to go to mysterious faraway places, to discover matter and transform it. Be transformed by it.

Most of us live persistently in the world of matter, where our biggest concern is our mortality. In this world it is easy to relate to two-dimensions. Why? Because that is what we can control. And painting, being an image created on a flat surface, exists in that “easy” dimension, where our mind seems to rest and sometimes open with bliss. When that happens we call a painting an artwork.



Sweet Kraken
Acrylic on canvas
80 x 105 cm



The Angel of Bondage

Acrylic on canvas

75 x 105 cm

I want to give to the world artworks created by discovery. My passion is to explore the multi-dimensionality of creativity and strive to make of my work a place of self-discovery for others.

I was given some tools to do this, since I can recall: I do not fear death, I can reproduce images exactly as they appear in my mind, I am synesthetic and I benefit from the richness of this sensorial intoxication.

Don't get me wrong, I do not think to be different from any other person, in the overall. As I mentioned above, I am simply unemployable, hence I have to compensate with other skills.

This has always created trouble in my personal relationships too, and perhaps love will always represent that great challenge that produces such a tremendous amount of pain to make oneself humble. That makes us look at life with renewed wide open eyes and a will to illustrate the complexity of human emotions: why do we suffer when we are given so many possibilities to enjoy life?

Perhaps because of an illusion of separation from others, from life itself. When we are cut from our primal world, the womb we were generated in, we are getting ready for infinite experiences of separation which will be painful and we will fear them.



The Region of Dawn

Acrylic on canvas

120 x 145 cm





Anima Mundi
Mixed media on canvas
300 x 250 cm



All the Boy Wanted was to Be a Virgin Girl

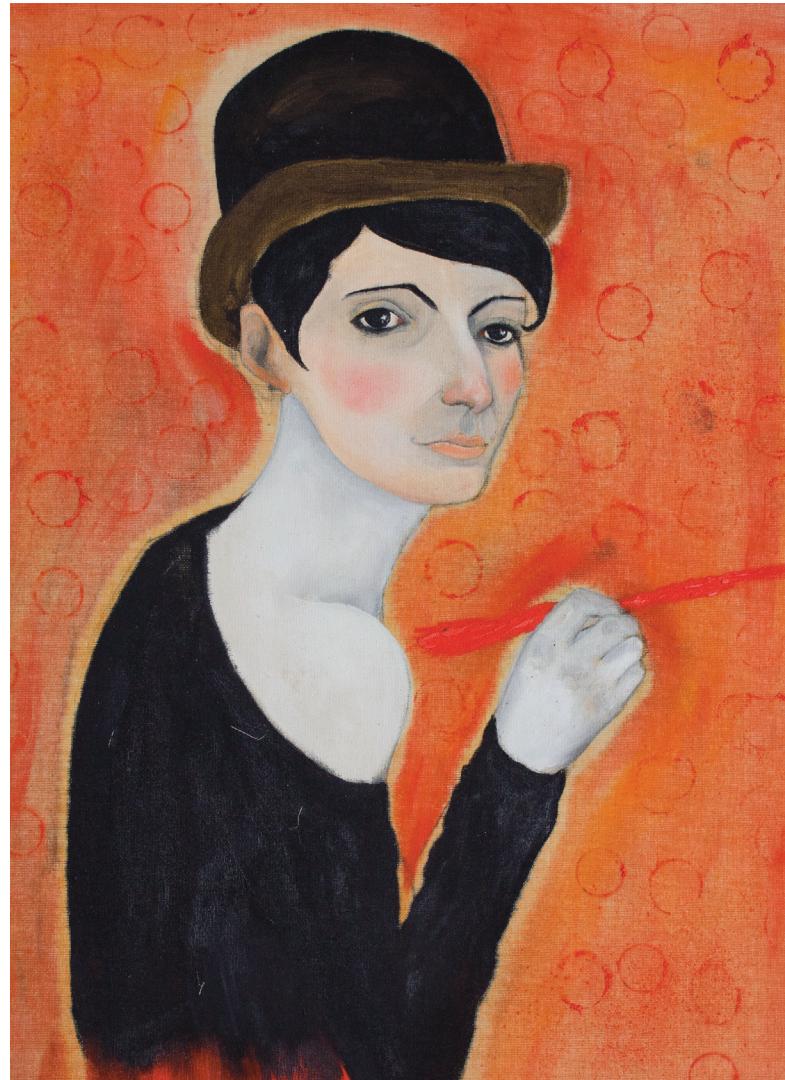
Mixed media on canvas

75 x 105 cm

Little did we know, when we were held in the innocence of childhood, that things would have gotten so rough!

Well, this is another reason I make art: life experiences can be rough and creativity heals the wounds and makes them worthwhile.

I believe that as long as we practice the awareness of being alive and we celebrate this magical experience, life itself is the artwork we are all working on.



The Magician
Oil on canvas
47 x 62 cm

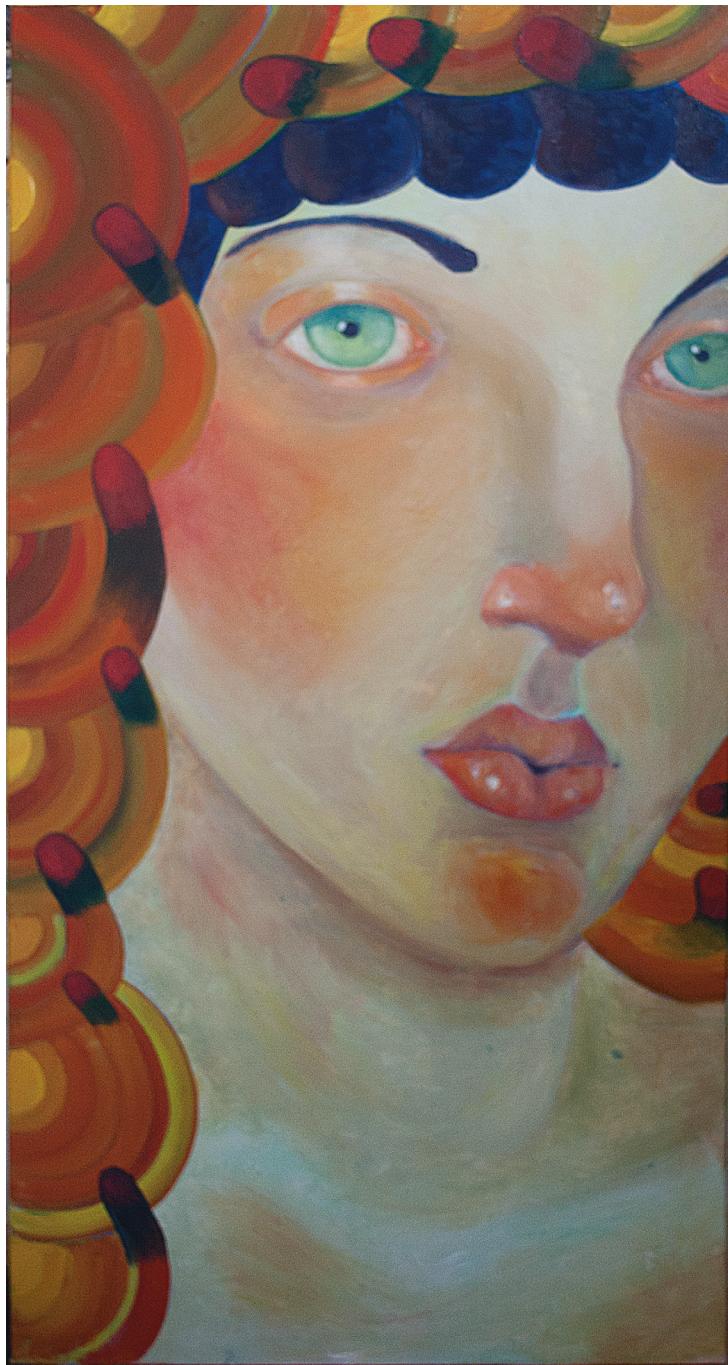


The Gods of Pop Corn

Mixed media on canvas

81 x 120 cm

When I paint now I use a strategy I found not long time ago and that was meant to avoid this very risk of mechanical patterns in the artistic process, which so easily makes us loose the connection with the grandiosity of the creative act. It was a time in my life that you could describe as the artistic equivalent of a writer's block. I felt nauseated by the repetitive patterns in my artworks and the predictability of my imagination. This was all based on the fear to explore the unknown in my work, which I believe is often generate by the encounter with the art world's business related expectations.



Huntress

Oil on canvas

80 x 130 cm

However, to mechanise imagination kills the joy of creating and if you spot yourself doing that you better kill the whole thing at once and start again from afresh, from a new innocence. Yes, easier said that...

Personally, I discovered fractals, stains, clouds and all those self-similar shapes that work as microcosmic analogy to macrocosmic realities.

The beginning was quite providential. I happened to accidentally drop some coffee on a paper, and soon enough realized that the liquid created an image in which my eye immediately recognized several figures.



Hemispheres

Oil on canvas

60 x 80 cm



Narciso

Oil on canvas

80 x 110 cm

Once my eye defined the images in the stain of coffee that was now dry, I then started to follow their outline with a pen, to bring to life the visions that they suggested.

This means that I do not need to “think” about what to paint. I simply SEE it and then follow the outline.

The outline! Something which exists in everything we see, but appears invisible (we cannot see the outline of objects) and yet it reveals itself when depicted. Beyond this, colours make the inner journey possible. Being perception of light, they never end to surprise me.

In my case, the subconscious is surely the main colour I use to do what I do. It's always an experience of self-discovery and as liberating as it is, I wish this experience will allow me to share its benefits with others.

I hope inspiration will come from this.



The Gods of Summer Festivals

Mixed media on canvas

120 x 120 cm



Cosmogony

Oil on canvas

30 x 30 cm

Maggio has travelled extensively throughout the world and uses many of her experiences to create her work.

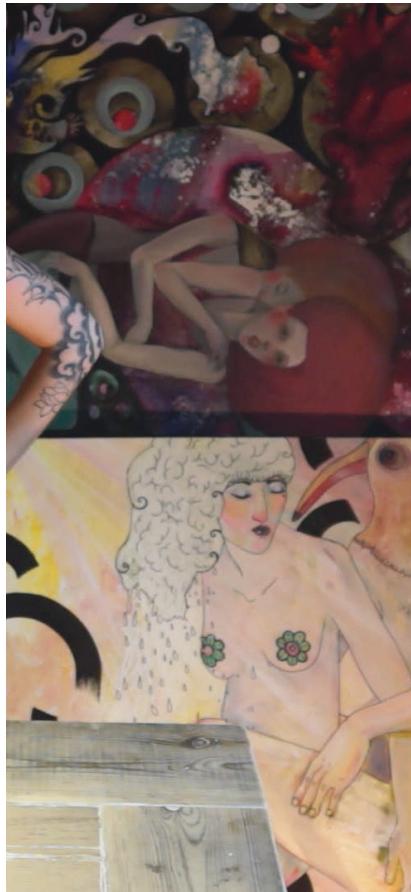
In the 2005 she left Milan for London where her work was well received. She completed her degree in photography, travelled to New York, and lived and worked with various art movements.

Travelling on to Mexico, she worked as a muralist in San Cristobal and exhibited and sold her work in an art centre of the city. She then spent one year exploring the reality of Central America's native tribes, living and working within the indigenous community that initiated her to the mysteries of their mystical traditions. This had a great impact on Maggio's life and signified a major inspiration for her art.

Once back in UK Maggio founds the Imaginary Beings art collective and took it to Italy, Portugal, Germany, Spain, and to major museums of Buenos Aires.

At this very moment Maggio is working within the Imaginary Beings collective, which travels around the world to connect, create and inspire.





Oak & Tiger Gallery
Solo Show
South Kensington, London 2013, UK

The Red Hand Gallery
Tufnell Park, London 2013, UK

I=U Art Festival
Art Performance
Hackney, London 2013, UK

Secret Garden Festival
Commission
UK 2013

Hoxton Gallery
Solo Exhibition
Hackney, London 2013, UK

The London Guildhall
Art Performance
London 2013, UK

Gallery Different
Goodge Street, London 2013, UK

CECAL Centre of Experimentation and Art
Loulé 2013, PORTUGAL

Omega Gallery
Arts Omega Show
London 2013, UK

Conrad-Hilton Hotel
Commission
Loulé 2012, PORTUGAL

The Borges Cultural Centre
Solo Show
Buenos Aires 2012, ARGENTINA

British Art Show 7
Plymouth Art Fair
Vessel Gallery, Plymouth 2011, UK

British Art Show 7
Devonport Guildhall, Plymouth 2011, UK

Bowie Gallery
Solo Show
Totnes 2010, UK

While Rome Burns
Queen's Elm Art Gallery
Chelsea, London 2009, UK

Brick Lane Gallery
Shoreditch, London 2009, UK

Magma Gallery
New York 2008, USA

Kinoki art Gallery
Solo Show- Saint Cristobal 2008, MEXICO

As Yet Unknown Gallery
Camden Town, London 2006-2007, UK

CREDITS

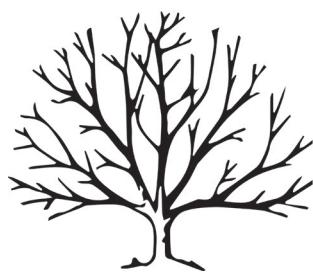
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Carolina Maggio would like to say...

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&



