



Marco Mazzoni

Marco Mazzoni was born in 1982 in Tortona, Italy, and is currently based in Milan. Marcos work is not advocated by size, but are strong and powerful in the depictions of various women that are removed of features that make them instantly recognizable...



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Delicately rendered colour-pencil drawings of Marco Mazzoni symbolise the mystical roles and religious practices of healing women. These ornate and intricate drawings partly reveal. Anonymous figures with symbolic plants and living things that they use in their rituals and practices. They seem to represent an ideal of femininity and mysticism rather than exact portraits based on reality. Mazzoni's isolated women are idealised, beautiful, youthful and seductive and they exist in a strange, floating world of deep black pools and brilliant light.

The circular compositions, which allude to the cycles of Nature, depict medicinal and lysergic plants, pollinator butterflies and birds which drink their nectar, and hidden amidst leaves and wings emerge the faces of these women forced to hide their sensuality and their knowledge due to bigotry imposed by religion, accused of witchcraft because they are herbarie, herbalists. Female healers and midwives held an important role within the community.

They were female figures who were respected and their knowledge of medicinal herbs bestowed upon them a power that the Church and the Medieval state tried to hinder. With the advent of the Counter-Reformation, the stance taken on those who healed with herbs became severe; the ecclesiastic authorities created an irreparable rift between folk medicine, prac-



Mazzoni weaves a world based on Italian folklore, made up of Janas and Cogas, female figures who, according to Sardinian beliefs, seduce, enchant, curse, and heal. His work is an homage to the secret art of healers; each drawing is saturated with metaphors that tell their story.





'Nubicuculia'
Colored pencils on paper



"Insecurity", Colored pencils on paper



"Self Esteem" (2013), Colored pencils on papers

"River of Milk", Colored
Pencils on paper





Their loss of identity draws the viewer towards the image, due to the sheer mystery connected with his works. Marcos firm hand evokes a compelling and fleeting sensation. The ghostly fairytale images renders a mix of flowers, birds and faces lacking of globular organs. These details takes the viewer captive and makes the works both haunting and compelling. Lately Marco has been working on a series of Moleskine drawings where animals are in constant struggle concerning life or death, with plants and the ferocious fauna attacking the

