

A dark, textured sculpture of a face in profile, looking right. The sculpture is made of a material with a rough, almost crystalline texture, possibly stone or a composite material. The face is shown from the nose up, with the nose pointing towards the right. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The name "COSIMA MONTAVOCI" is written in a simple, black, sans-serif font in the upper right portion of the image.

COSIMA MONTAVOCI



# La Caduta del Cavaliere (the fall of the Knight)



The figure of the knight falling down from the horse reveals the fragility of a character otherwise invincible.

The video installation connects this old myth to the Venetian tradition for newly graduates.

‘La Caduta del Cavaliere’ is part of a serie of works that reinterpret classical themes, of which the far memory, under display cases or framed in gold, doesn’t connect to our cultural context anymore. Through this reinterpretation, it becomes more accessible to the audience.

Exhibited in the Vishal in Haarlem in November 2012.

To see the full video, visit:

<http://cosimamontavoci.com/project/fall-knight/>







# Vanitas



The Vanitas is not ancient. After all, we never stopped ageing and dying.

I made my bread skulls to create a mortal double of the Vanitas. I tried to make them different from the ones offered by web-shops specialized in Vanitas, and I excluded tattoos for indisputable matters of taste. I tried to play a clean game, and I produced a honest fossil.

I worked the tumults of my skulls, slaves so tired of representing the Vanitas, with the powerful pictorial sensibility of mould. I made them die of antibiotics, basically.



My Vanitas is humble, yet one has to bow down to get close to it.

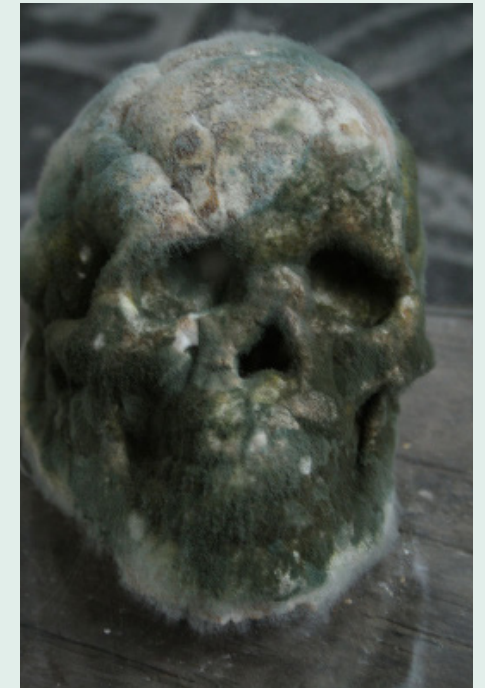
The work consists of 5 skulls, each conserved in a plexiglass display case.

Over the course of the exhibition the gracefully mould.



This work has been presented at the Oude Kerk in Amsterdam, Netherlands, from March 14 to April 6 2014.

The floors of the church were completely covered of graves.



To see the complete documentation, visit:

<http://cosimamontavoci.com/project/vanitas/>





# Tomb sculpture

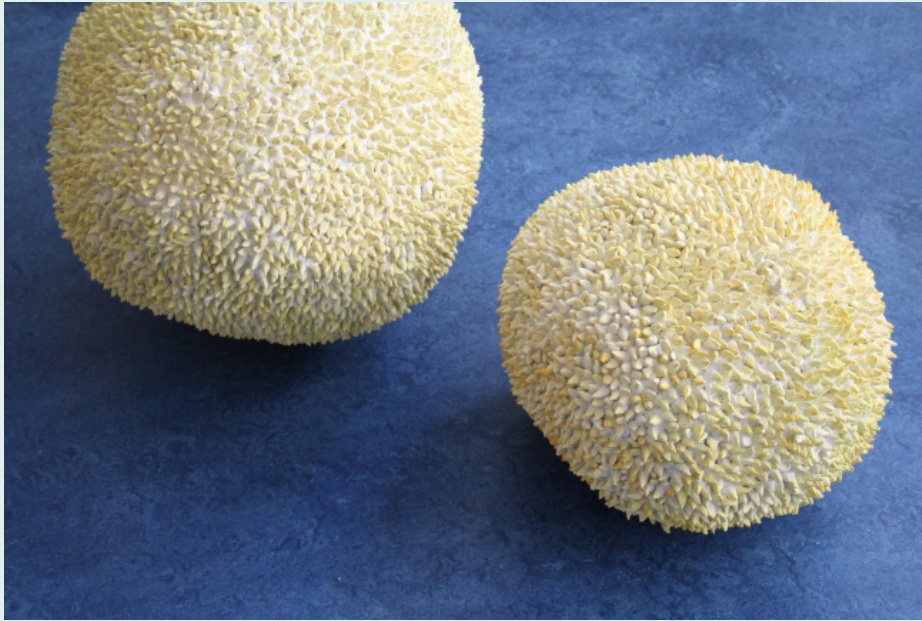
Tomb Sculpture is a serie of 4 sculptures that present themselves as roundish yellow objects covered in spikes. The spikes are casts of human teeth, revealing the root instead of the crown.

Although the title would normally suggest the end of a life, in this case it represents the end of a gesture, the action of filling up, and it is presented as 'the remains of an action'.

Its playful aesthetics, the contrast with the blue floor and the almost intimate environment prepared for the 'Teeth Balls', help the viewer to feel at ease, to get closer to the objects and touch them, before realizing that it's made of teeth.







The sculptures go from 40cm to 1 meter in diameter. The work has been exhibited at the Gerrit Rietveld Academie Graduation Show 2015, Amsterdam.

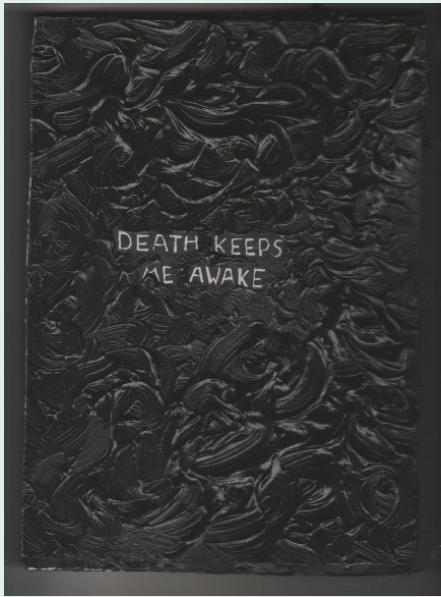
*"An ossuary, a place where bones are kept in order to conserve the remnants of a human body, it often consists in a cell or a small church, where once the skeletons are gathered they lose any reference to a single person. After great catastrophes the number of bones was often so large that they were hanged on any surface available, resulting in spectacular decorations of sacred interiors with a mixture of ironic and macabre connotations. Cosima Montavoci's Tomb Sculpture, share the same attitude by covering the crust of undefined rounded sculptures with casts of her own teeth. The constant memento mori, which accompanies our daily life through the aging and decay of our body, it is here reversed by using human spoilages to fill a temporal gap by means of repeating a gesture."*

Emma Panza.





# Death keeps me awake and Skull with a Snorkel



My thesis has been presented at the Graduation Show 2015 and it's entirely hand-made. There are only 7 copies.

It is entitled 'Death keeps me awake', and it has been defined as an essay with a 'Gothic' presence; its aged pages are presented inside a thickly painted back folder and a small white text 'Death keeps me awake' at the center of the cover.

Every page is hand-written, so that the viewer is somehow intimidated by this object that would like to become relic.

It's almost a farce, on the edge between facts and fantasy, a fragile world where mortality and immortality dance the Can-Can, where the artist survives becoming a fossil, where you can enjoy the beautiful moment where art that loses context ends in the trash, where antibiotics kill and formaline gives eternal life to the dying icon of Death that are the bread skulls.

Where artists, artworks, and writers of the past accompany us as Charon guided Dante through Hell.

To see the complete version or download the Pdf visit:  
<http://cosimamontavoci.com/project/death-keeps-me-awake/>



*"[...] Cosima's thesis is a startlingly gothic presentation, hand-written on used paper and presented in a thickly hand-painted black box. Her text considers the image of death in the art practices of a number of contemporary artists, with emphasis on the work of the Italian artist Vittorio Basaglia, and relates these to a selection of images of death from European art history. This evolves into a consideration of the relationship between the mortal body and the body of the work of art, the in-between role of fossilization, and its relationship to the traditional Vanitas.*

*The thesis concludes with a consideration of her own practice in relation to this field of enquiry."*

Janice McNab, Kris Dittel, Koenraad Dedobbeleer.







"Untitled" pencil and scratches with a knife on paper.



"The Elders" serie of 10 linoleum etchings.



Calcography engraving, drypoint, etching and, soft-ground and aquatint.

- Dog and girl.
- Koala.
- The sky of Cairo.



"Untitled". Site-specific painting, set inside an abandoned house in Doel, ghost town close to Antwerp, Belgium.





"Meeting, Purely visual criticism on politics".  
Materials: pink panties, cotton, glasses, woolen thread. The swing is about 2 x 3.5 metres.



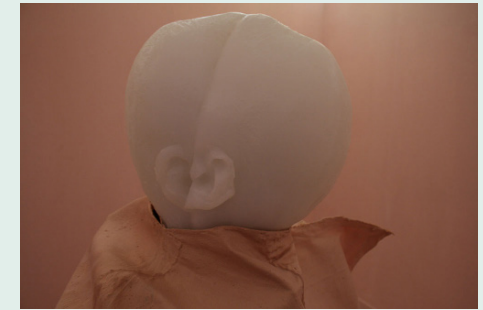
"You look in the mirror and don't recognize yourself" (Carlos Castaneda).  
Private collection.



"Little Toothbrush Factory". Hand-made toothbrushes; 6 months of work, over 300 euros spent to make something that is everywhere available at low price and given for granted.



"You made me, now I make you". Cotton wool and fabric entirely sewed by hand.



"Teeth Temple".  
A whole room painted in pink latex, latex cape, fabric and hair on a painted metal structure, hand-made teeth, wax head.



"One minute portrait of time".  
Video still. clay, videocamera, pedestal.





DEATH KEEPS  
ME AWAKE