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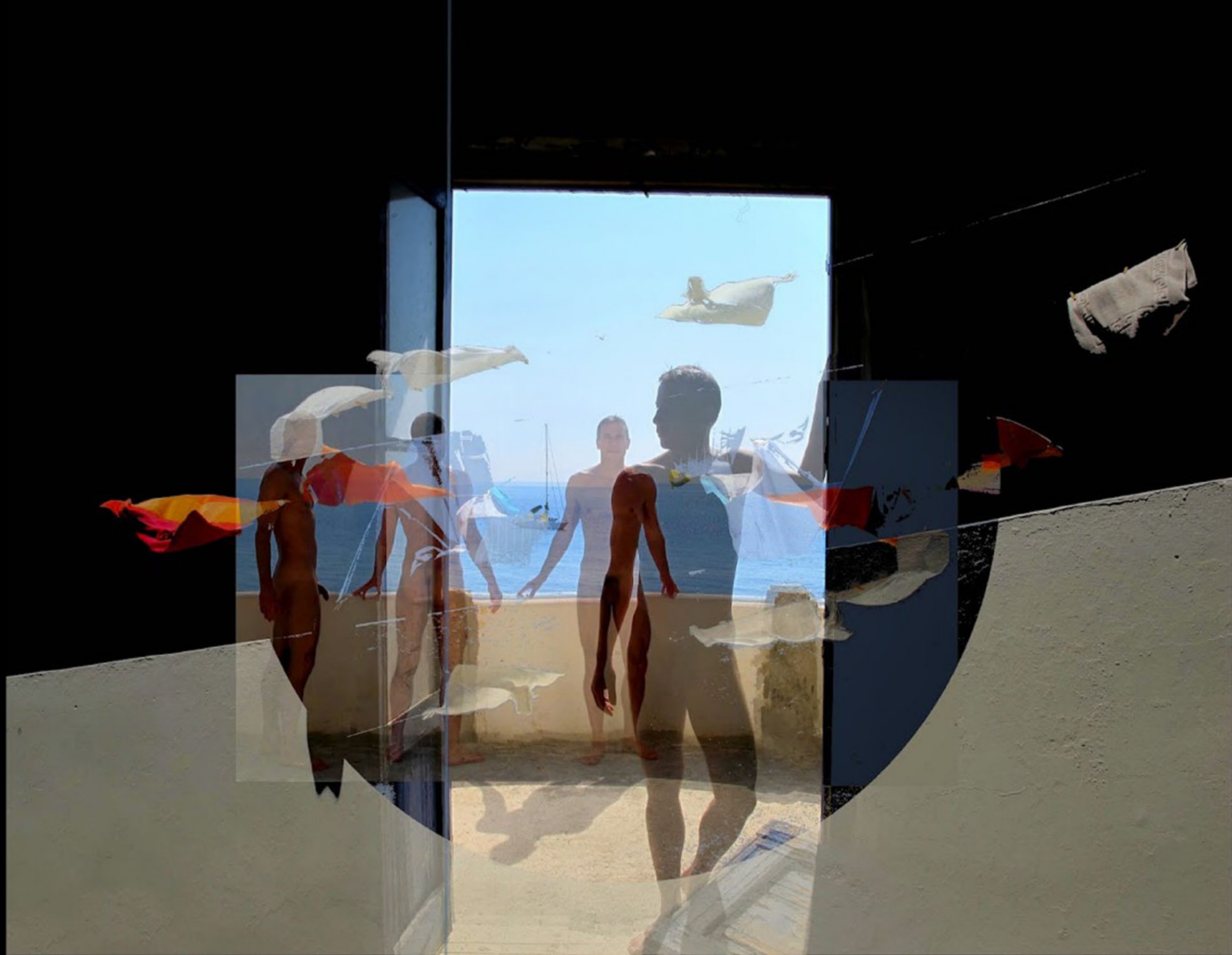
SIA HYRULA

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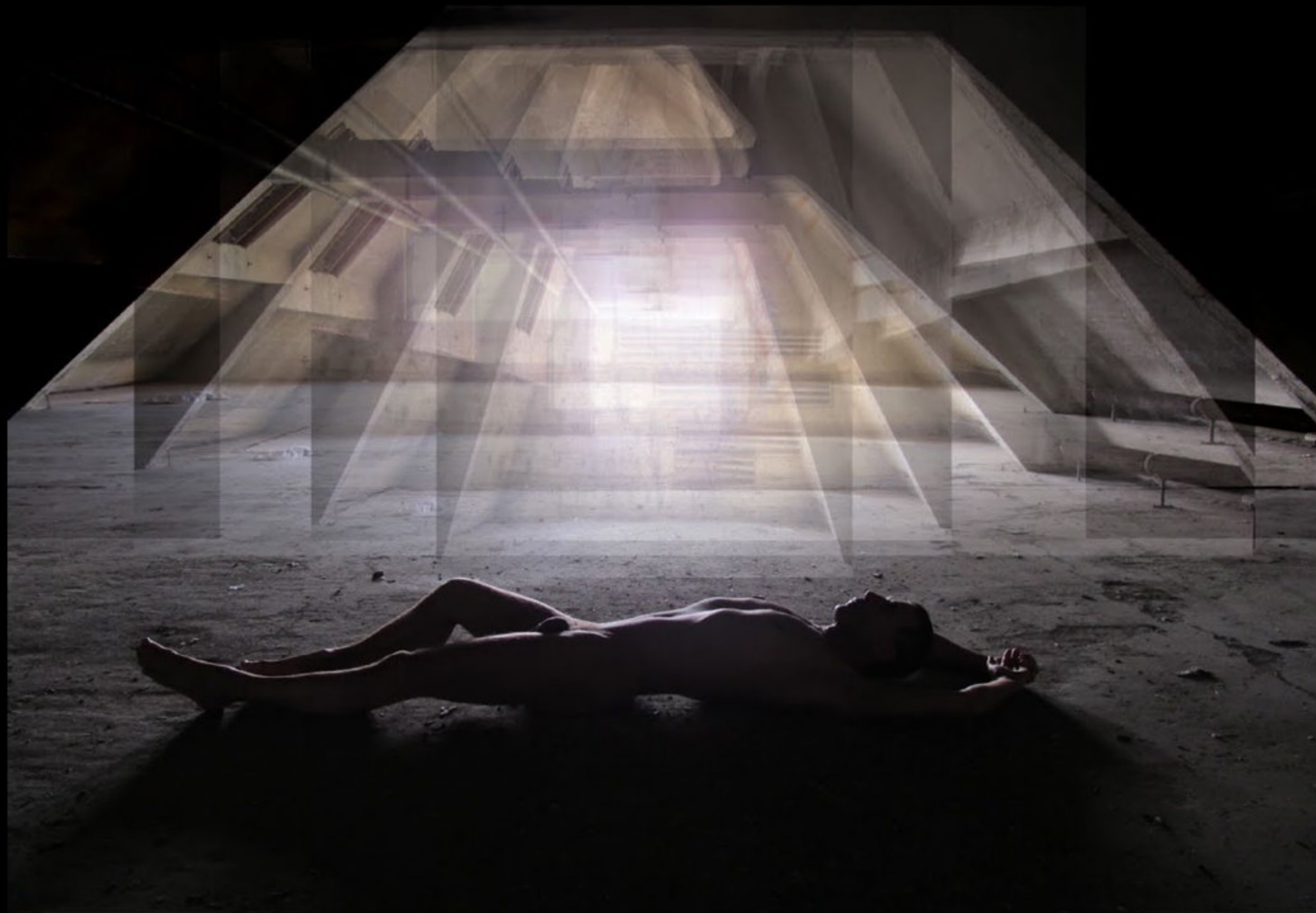
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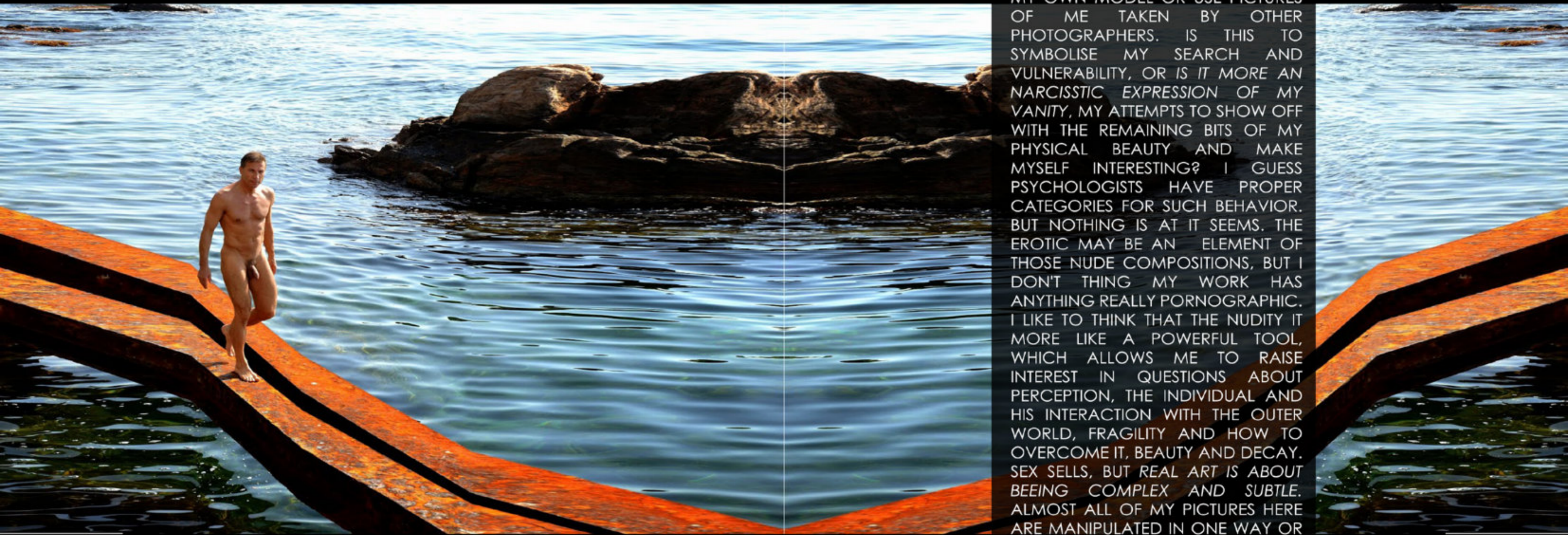


*P*HOTOGRAPHY SINCE CHILDHOOD DAYS HAS BEEN A WAY FOR ME OF PLAYFULLY INTERACTING WITH THE WORLD, IN SEARCH OF EXPRESSION AND A PERSONAL ARTISTIC VIEW. IT ALWAYS REMAINED AN ACTIVITY ON THE SIDELINES, SOMETHING TO BE DONE IN MY FREE TIME, BUT I DO TEND TO TAKE IT SERIOUS AND TO WORK CONSISTENTLY AND CONTINUOUSLY. EVERYONE CAN BE AN ARTIST. WHO CARES THAT 99 % OF ART IS BOUND TO END UP AS GARBAGE. THE JOURNEY IS THE REWARD, AND THIS ACTIVITY GIVES ME THE FEELING THAT I AM DOING SOMETHING MEANINGFUL. IT HELPS ME TO DEVELOP SPIRITUALLY AND TO HAVE AN INTERESTING AND COLORFUL LIFE. THE ATTENTION I AM GETTING FOR IT, ESPECIALLY ON MY FLICKR SITE, IS FILTERING AND A STIMULATION TO KEEP DIGGING.

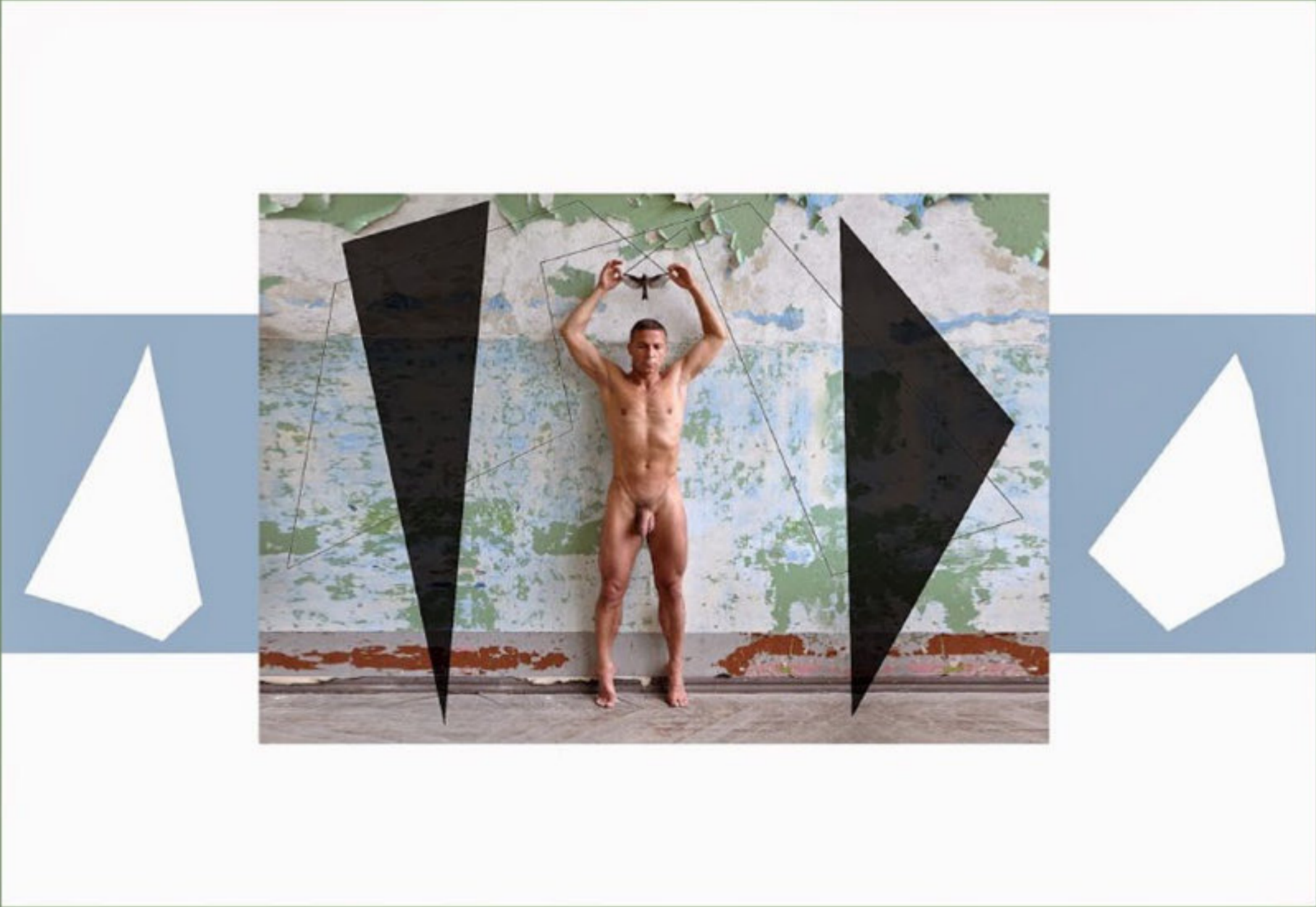




LANDSCAPES,
PORTRAITS AND
URBAN DETAILS
ARE FINE, BUT THE
MALE NUDE
OVER THE LAST
YEARS HAS
BECOME A MAIN
FOCUS OF MY
WORK, AND YES,
PARTLY BECAUSE
IT FINDS SO
MUCH MORE
ATTENTION THAN
MY REGULAR
PHOTOGRAPHY.




I KEEP ADDING TO THE EXPERIENCE, BOTH AS A MODEL AND AS A PHOTOGRAPHER. IN MANY PICTURES, AS IN THOSE CHOSEN FOR THIS PUBLICATION, I AM ACTING AS MY OWN MODEL OR USE PICTURES OF ME TAKEN BY OTHER PHOTOGRAPHERS. IS THIS TO SYMBOLISE MY SEARCH AND VULNERABILITY, OR IS IT MORE AN NARCISSTIC EXPRESSION OF MY VANITY, MY ATTEMPTS TO SHOW OFF WITH THE REMAINING BITS OF MY PHYSICAL BEAUTY AND MAKE MYSELF INTERESTING? I GUESS PSYCHOLOGISTS HAVE PROPER CATEGORIES FOR SUCH BEHAVIOR. BUT NOTHING IS AT IT SEEMS. THE EROTIC MAY BE AN ELEMENT OF THOSE NUDE COMPOSITIONS, BUT I DON'T THINK MY WORK HAS ANYTHING REALLY PORNOGRAPHIC. I LIKE TO THINK THAT THE NUDITY IS MORE LIKE A POWERFUL TOOL, WHICH ALLOWS ME TO RAISE INTEREST IN QUESTIONS ABOUT PERCEPTION, THE INDIVIDUAL AND HIS INTERACTION WITH THE OUTER WORLD, FRAGILITY AND HOW TO OVERCOME IT, BEAUTY AND DECAY. SEX SELLS, BUT REAL ART IS ABOUT BEING COMPLEX AND SUBTLE. ALMOST ALL OF MY PICTURES HERE ARE MANIPULATED IN ONE WAY OR THE OTHER IN POST PRODUCTION WITH VIEW OF SUCH MORE OR LESS SUBTLE EXPRESSION AND IT IS SOMETIMES AMUSING FOR ME HOW OFTEN THIS SEEMS TO REMAIN UNNOTICED BY THE ABUNDANT FLICKR CLIENTELE OF PORN SEEKERS.





PLAYFULNESS IS AN ELEMENT OF MY CHARACTER. PLAYFULLY WE DISCOVER THINGS BEYOND OUR ORDINARY SPHERES. WHEN I FIRST STARTED PUBLISHING SOME OF MY NUDE PHOTOS IT GOT ME IN CONTACT WITH A WHOLE SCENE OF PHOTOGRAPHERS AND ARTISTS WHO SEEM TO BE FOCUSING ENTIRELY ON THIS SUBJECT. TO MEET AND TO WORK WITH SOME OF THEM ALLOWED ME TO EXTEND MY HORIZON, TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES OF EXPRESSION. IT ALSO ALLOWED ME TO MEET SOME REALLY INTERESTING PEOPLE AND TO DISCOVER THE WORLD OF "URBAN EXPLORERS".



A person with large, white, feathered wings stands on a dark rock in the foreground. The person's face is obscured by a black square. The background features a vast ocean with waves crashing against rocks, and a sky filled with dramatic, layered clouds. The overall mood is ethereal and contemplative.

THE PHOTOGRAPHERS I GOT TO
APPRECIATE MOST ARE THOSE WHO
HAVE A CLEAR VISION OF THE
PICTURES THEY WANT TO CREATE
BEFORE THE FIRST SHUTTER RELEASE IS
PUSHED, EVEN IF THEY ARE THE MOST
STRENUOUS ONES TO WORK WITH.
BUT THE PICTURES THEY ARE
CREATING ARE HARDLY SUITABLE
FOR DIGITAL ALTERATIONS AND MY
ADD-ON PLAYFULNESS, SO I AM
GRATEFUL FOR THE RESULT OF
ALMOST ANY SHOOTING.



NOTHING IS AS IT SEEMS. NO PICTURE IS JUST AN EFFIGY. THIS HOLDS TRUE FOR PHOTOS AS WELL. THE SUBJECTIVE ELEMENT PREVAILS. SO MOST PHOTOS I TAKE ARE NOT A RESULT BUT A POTENTIAL BEGINNING, THE START OF A FURTHER JOURNEY OF THINKING AND ALTERATIONS. I STARTED TO EXPLORE TECHNIQUES OF SUCCESSIVE ALTERATIONS MANY YEARS AGO, WHEN I KEPT WORKING ON NEGATIVES BY SCRATCHING, PAINTING OVER THEM, CUTTING INTO THEM. MY WEBSITE STILL HAS SOME THINGS FROM THAT PERIOD. IN THE DIGITAL WORLD I AM DOING SOMETHING SIMILAR NOW WITH PHOTOSHOP TOOLS, WHICH OFFER NEW POSSIBILITIES AND LACK SOME DEAR OLD ONES.





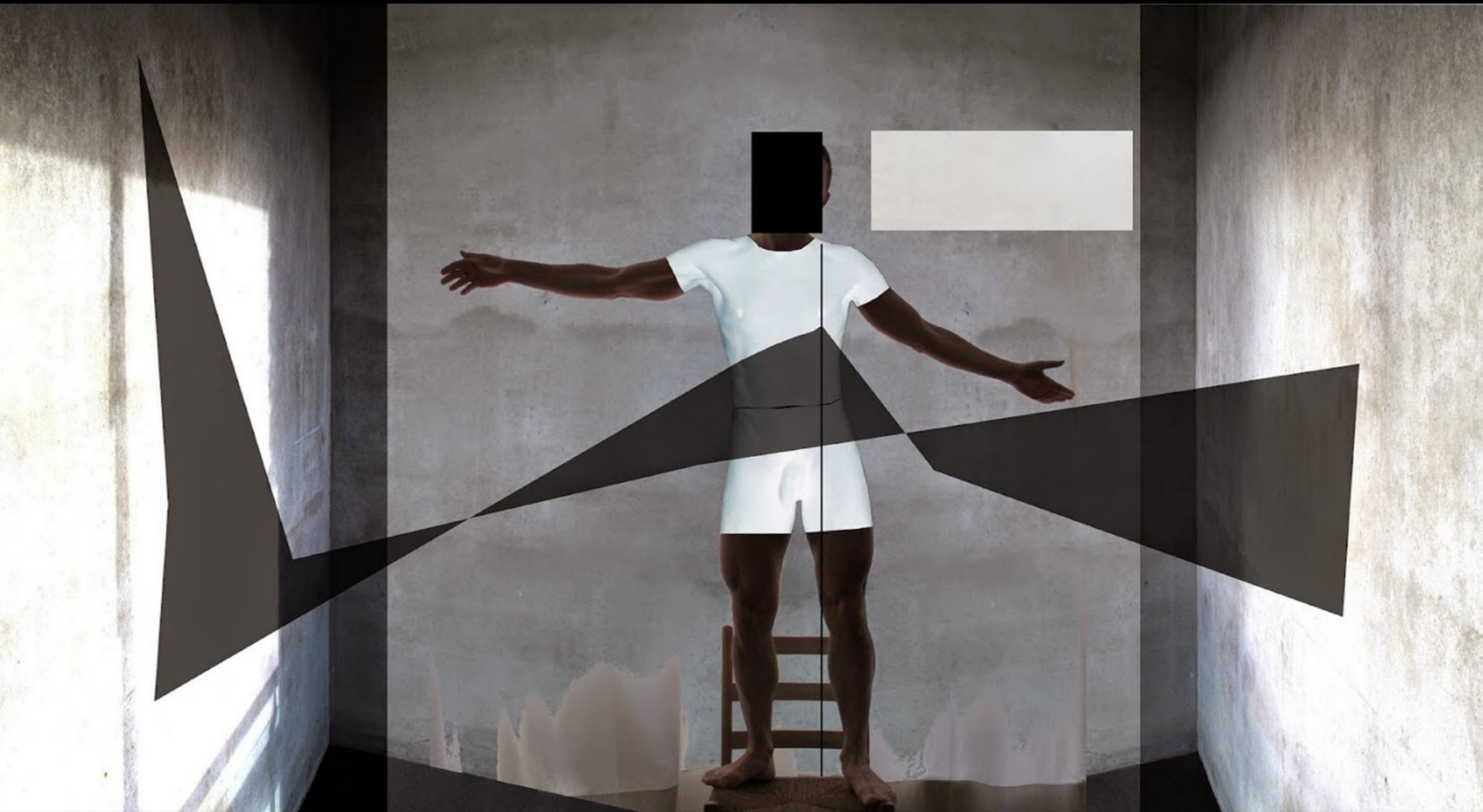
TO SOME PICTURES I COME BACK AGAIN AND AGAIN AND KEEP ADDING LAYER ON LAYER OF ALTERATIONS UNTIL THEY ARE ALL BUT DESTROYED. FUCKING THINGS UP IS ALSO PART OF LIFE. MORTALITY AND DECAY ARE FASCINATING SUBJECTS AND IT SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM TO GET MORE OF THAT, NOW THAT I AM GETTING OLDER. THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE FIGURE IN SPACE AND TIME RECENTLY HAS BECOME A SPECIAL FOCAL POINT OF MY WORK. I INTEND TO KEEP WORKING IN THIS DIRECTION AS IT IS BOUND TO BECOME AN INCREASINGLY FITTING SUBJECT.



HISTORY IS FASCINATING TO ME AND I AM PASSIONATE ABOUT IT, IN PARTICULAR THE HISTORY OF ART. ONE OF THE BIGGEST SOURCES OF INSPIRATION FOR ME IS THE SCULPTURE OF THE GREEK AND ROMAN ERA, BETWEEN 600 BC AND 300 AD. HOW WAS IT POSSIBLE FOR THE GREEK ARTISTS BETWEEN 550 BC AND 400 BC TO DEVELOP A LIVELINESS AND INTENSITY OF EXPRESSION OF THE HUMAN FORM WHICH WAS NEVER EXCEEDED AT ANY LATER MOMENT AND WHICH STILL INFLUENCES OUR PERCEPTION TODAY

OF WHAT IS BEAUTIFUL AND JUST. THE REPERCUSSIONS OF THIS IN THE THE SCULPTURE OF AND PAINTING OF THE RENAISSANCE, BAROQUE AND NEO-CLASSICAL ERA ARE FASCINATING TOO AND KEEP INFLUENCING ME AS SO MANY OTHERS. FROM MICHELANGELO TO CANOVA TO IGOR MITORAJ - TRIAL AND ERROR EVERYWHERE. YET PERFECTION IS POSSIBLE. NOONE HAS EXCEEDED YET WHAT POLYKLEITOS OF ARGOS MANAGED ACHIEVE. I AM HAPPY TO ADD A LITTLE TO THE COLLECTION OF ERRORS.





SS TEE



PPH

ANN

IF YOU WANT TO WORK WITH ME AS
A PHOTOGRAPHER OR AS A MODEL
OR IN AN ARTISTIC CO-OPERATION,
GAY THEMED OR NOT, FEEL FREE TO
CONTACT ME WITH A PROPOSAL.

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©STEPHAN TOBIAS

TOBIAS



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LAUFE





ADREAM



ONLY
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I.D.





LAUF LEFT THE NETHERLANDS IN 2002 TO PURSUE HIS ARTISTIC DESIRES IN NEW YORK AT A TIME WHEN HIS EXPERIENCE AS AN ARTIST STARTED TO STIFLE HIM. "MY ART IS THE EXPRESSION OF MY VOICE AND I REACHED A POINT IN THE NETHERLANDS WHERE MY VOICE WAS BEGINNING TO WANE", SAYS LAUF "SO I DECIDE TO TAKE A LEAP OF FAITH, LEAVE AMSTERDAM AND FULFILL A DREAM I ALWAYS HAD OF BEING ABLE TO DO WHAT I LOVE IN THE BEST CITY IN THE WORLD, NEW YORK."

"WHAT MOTIVATES ME IS SIMILAR TO WHAT MOTIVATES OTHER ARTISTS, WHETHER THEY ARE MUSICIANS, PAINTERS, OR ARCHITECTS. IT MAY SOUND CLICHED, BUT PASSION DRIVES ME. THE LOVE I HAVE FOR MY WORK IS SO INTENSE AT TIMES THAT IT BECOMES MORE IMPORTANT TO ME THAN BREATHING. BUT OTHER TIMES I FEEL IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO MOTIVATE ME, AND THAT'S WHERE MY CURIOSITY KICKS IN."

LAUF BELIEVES PEOPLE WILL EITHER LOVE OR HATE HIS WORK, BUT EITHER WAY, THERE WILL BE SOMETHING IN HIS IMAGERY THAT WILL PROVOKE SOME SORT OF REACTION OR DIALOGUE. "THE ULTIMATE RESPONSE WILL BE IF PEOPLE ACTUALLY LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT THEMSELVES BY SEEING MY WORK."



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SPIN



PRAGMA

POETRY







MATTHEW II




SANCTUARY







COMUS I



MY NAME IS SIA HYRULA, AND I'M A VISUAL ARTIST WITH MOST OF MY WORK FOCUSING ON PHOTOS. I WAS BORN IN MISSOURI, BUT SPENT MY TIME SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE STATES AS MY FATHER WAS A MARINE. AT HOME THOUGH, HE WAS MORE OF A MUSICIAN. MY MOTHER A DANCE TEACHER AND WRITER, WITH A GREAT EYE FOR COLOURS, INTERIOR DESIGN AND CLASSIC PAINTINGS. MY ART HAS A FOCUS ON FORM, INTIMACY, ROMANCE, AND REGALITY. I LIKE TO FEEL AS THOUGH I'M NOT TIED TO ANY ONE STYLE, COLOUR SCHEME OR EVEN MEDIUM. I CREATE WITH CONCEPT FIRST, AND THEN TRANSLATE THAT INTO WHICHEVER MEDIUM I FEEL WILL BEST SUIT AND COMMUNICATE MY IDEA.

TO ME, ART IS A HOME, A PLACE TO LIVE OUT DREAMS ALONG WITH NIGHTMARES.



MPOAL
CHAPTER II





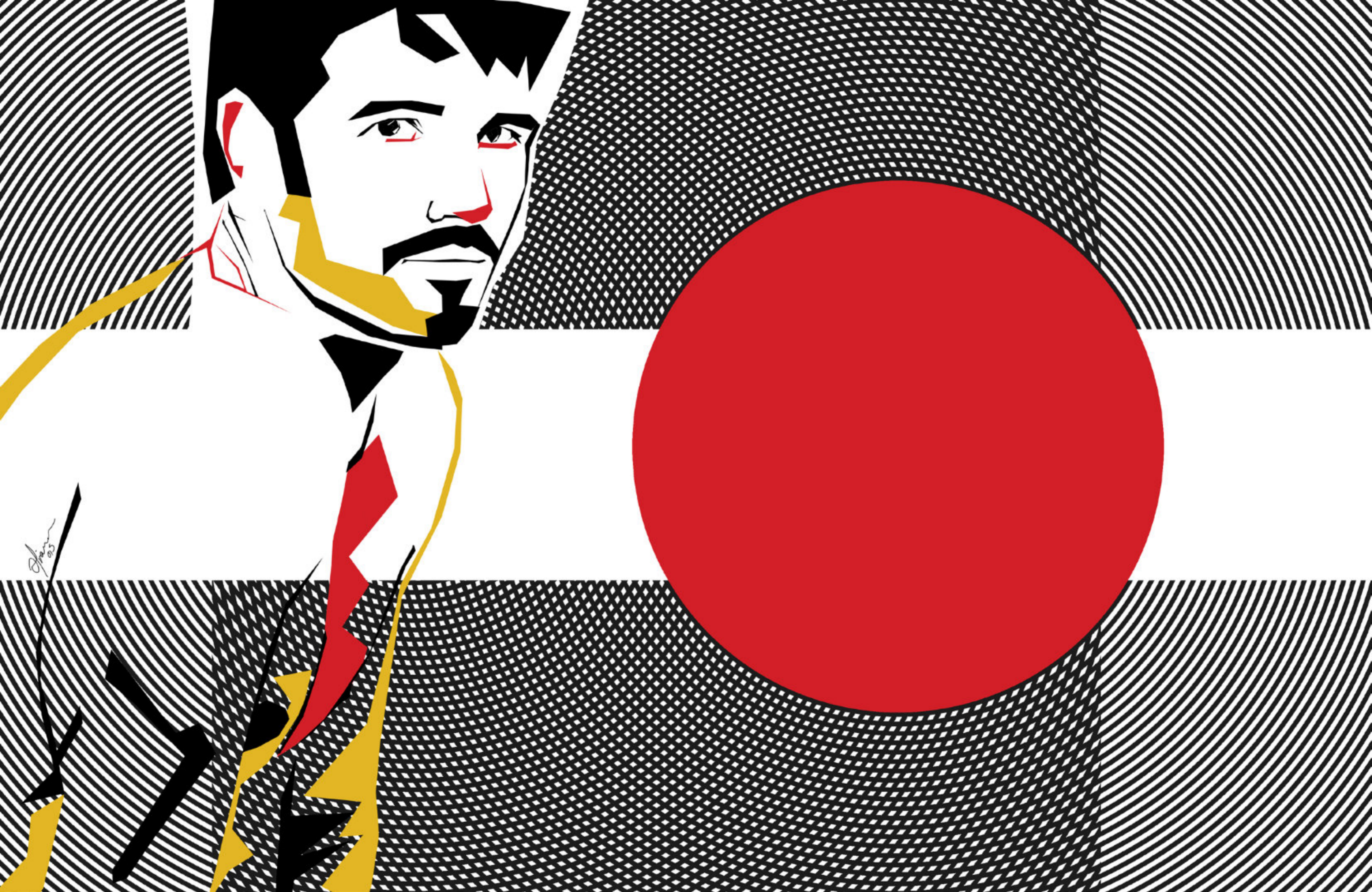
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