



StraightUp@ExtraDry Video art award - I edition 2017 / 2018

RUBEN SPINI

OCTOBER 2nd – DECEMBER 18th, 2017

Ruben Spini is the second artist selected for StraightUp@ExtraDry. His work seems to develop around ancestral concerns as much as contemporary speculation, mostly surrounding questions of theology and the grey areas between the natural and the human realms. Spini's expanded approach to art - encompassing fields he's actively involved into such as music and technology - naturally inform his works.

He was born in 1994 in Valtellina, Northern Italy, and he lives and works in Milan. His practice is an open research towards religious art and religious sentiment at large, scrutinised through the contemporary forms of human-nature interaction. Reading them as interfaces, they bring forward a complex system crossing different latitudes, communities and behaviours: an extended model of the human perceptual condition, within the wound between God and creation. Connections, objects and functions are analysed through the methods of second order cybernetics. By adopting unconventional video and audio sources, the documentary point of view - made of narratives, characters and symbols - is shattered. This process unhinges the *scala naturae*, pushing the human back to a encrypted, living matter.



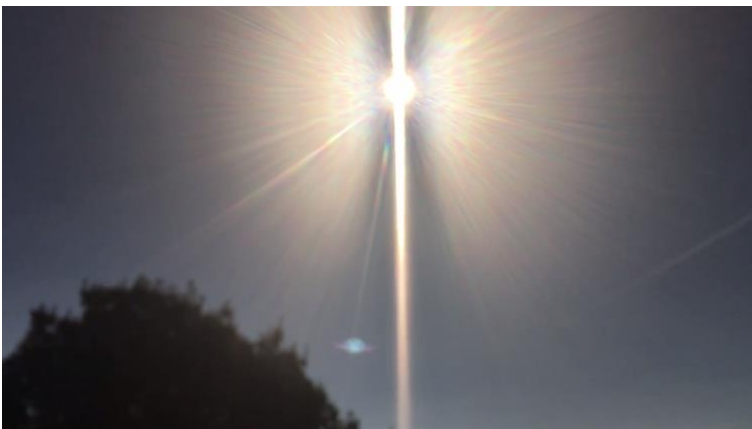
WHAT YOU LEFT BEHIND, 2017 DIGITAL VIDEO, HD, COLOR, SOUND, 1h

Deer hunting in the United States has reached the spectacular standard of contemporary entertainment. Concerned by the maximization of their trophies' score, professional hunters monitor the local fauna positioning multiple trap cameras in a chosen area. When the prey passes through, infrared or motion sensors automatically start a brief video recording, that often get shared online by the hunter as documentation of the pursuit. *What You Left Behind* is a found footage selection from the artist's personal archive, a visual rendition of a completely extraneous horizon of existence, in the pre-critical dimension of thought that the French philosopher Quentin Meillassoux calls "Great Outdoors". Short writings mark the clips sequence, pieces of a love letter towards a *Deus absconditus*. The audio of the footage has been processed through spectral manipulation software and assembled in a continuous environmental track.



INCUNABULA, 2017
DIGITAL VIDEO, 4 CHANNELS, HD, COLOR, SOUND, 8h

By mounting webcams near the nests, researchers and enthusiasts have the chance to monitor different bird species behaviour over several days, seasons and years. This cyclicity is recorded and broadcasted without geographical limitations, every stream a Creation's morphing cut-outs. The horizon line tilts every time the wind rises, since the camera swings with the tree it is bounded to: like the perspective of a new-born in his cradle.



THE NINTH HOUR, 2017
DIGITAL VIDEO, HD, COLOR, SILENT, 30'

A work in development concerning the overflow of images produced during the most recent total solar eclipses. From Ancient Greek *ἔκλειψις* (*ékleipsis*, "eclipse"), from *ἐλείπω* (*ekleípō*, "I abandon, got missing, vanish"), from *ἐκ* (*ek*, "out") and *λείπω* (*leípō*, "I leave behind").