

Giona Bernardi Dossier 2009





Motocross, Tattoo, Koh Taru Tao, Thailand 2009

Strange Circus

In his latest production Giona Bernardi focuses on animation. The structure of his videos presents itself as a paranoiac mantra, inspired by the subliminal messages typically used in the advertising practice, inverted by the artist into an introverted form.

The images move with an epileptic rhythm triggering the public to a certain state of hypnosis, in opposition with the static nature of the single drawing. This contrast characterizes the work of Giona Bernardi on various levels: the technique used refers to traditional crafts as, at the same time to the street culture. In the same way mythologies, "Circus" is often understood as a naive mirror of a society lost, even when we recognize it as a form of representation of the human being, in relation with its natural instincts, myths and characters. The circus is also, in the end, a representation of the world itself: it always connotes the kingdom of strangeness, of exoticism, a kingdom inhabited by freaks, clowns, wildlife ... We are used to think of it as spectacle that belongs to a specific period of history, or at least to specific moment of memory. Whether we think that circus is out of fashion or not, we are no longer able to accept it's own mythologies as being capable to comprehend the reality of today's life.

There is no direct trace of the imaginary of the circus in Giona Bernardi's work but the idea of it is there, composing together an abstract image of the world, suspended between past and future, hope and fear.

In his work the underground, the street and hip hop culture become the uncanny golems of the standards that regulate life in contemporary times. Clowns, freaks and "the strongest man in the world" are invoked as invisible presences of a common face of disillusion; but they also appear as pure spirits living in a bizarre world. MC, Big Boy, street fighters, but also kids and young ravers inhabit this world.

Noah Stolz 2008



The Pussycatdolls, Wallpainting, courtesy WhiteProject, Pescara, Italy, 2008



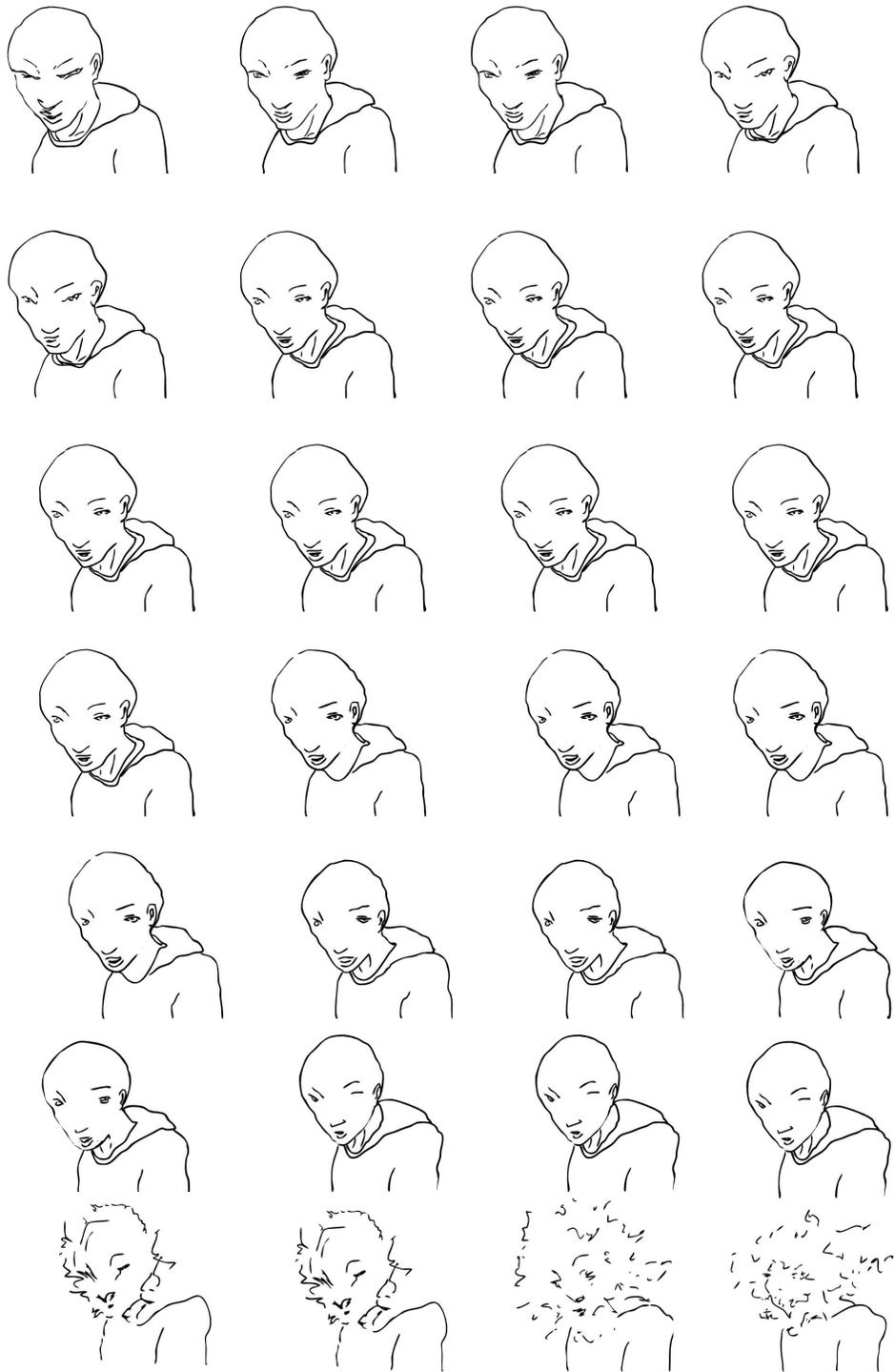
Occhi di gatto, Performance, courtesy White Project, Pescara, Italy 2008



La piccola Amel, Cutting, courtesy Substitut, Berlin, Germany, 2007



Strange Circus on Paper, courtesy Play Gallery, Berlin, Germany, 2007



Skizootoons, Video Stills, courtesy LaRada, Locarno, Switzerland, 2007



Angkor, Hammer on Wall, courtesy La Fabbrica Borroni, Bollate, Italy, 2007



Angkor, Hammer on Wall, courtesy La Fabbrica Borroni, Bollate, Italy, 2007



Old Boy, Installation view, courtesy La Rada, Locarno, Switzerland 2006



Old Boy, Ink on Paper, La Rada, Locarno, Switzerland 2006



Key, Video Installation, courtesy Via Farini, Milan, Italy, 2005



SuperFluminaBabylonis, Video Installation, courtesy Via Farini, Milan, Italy, 2005



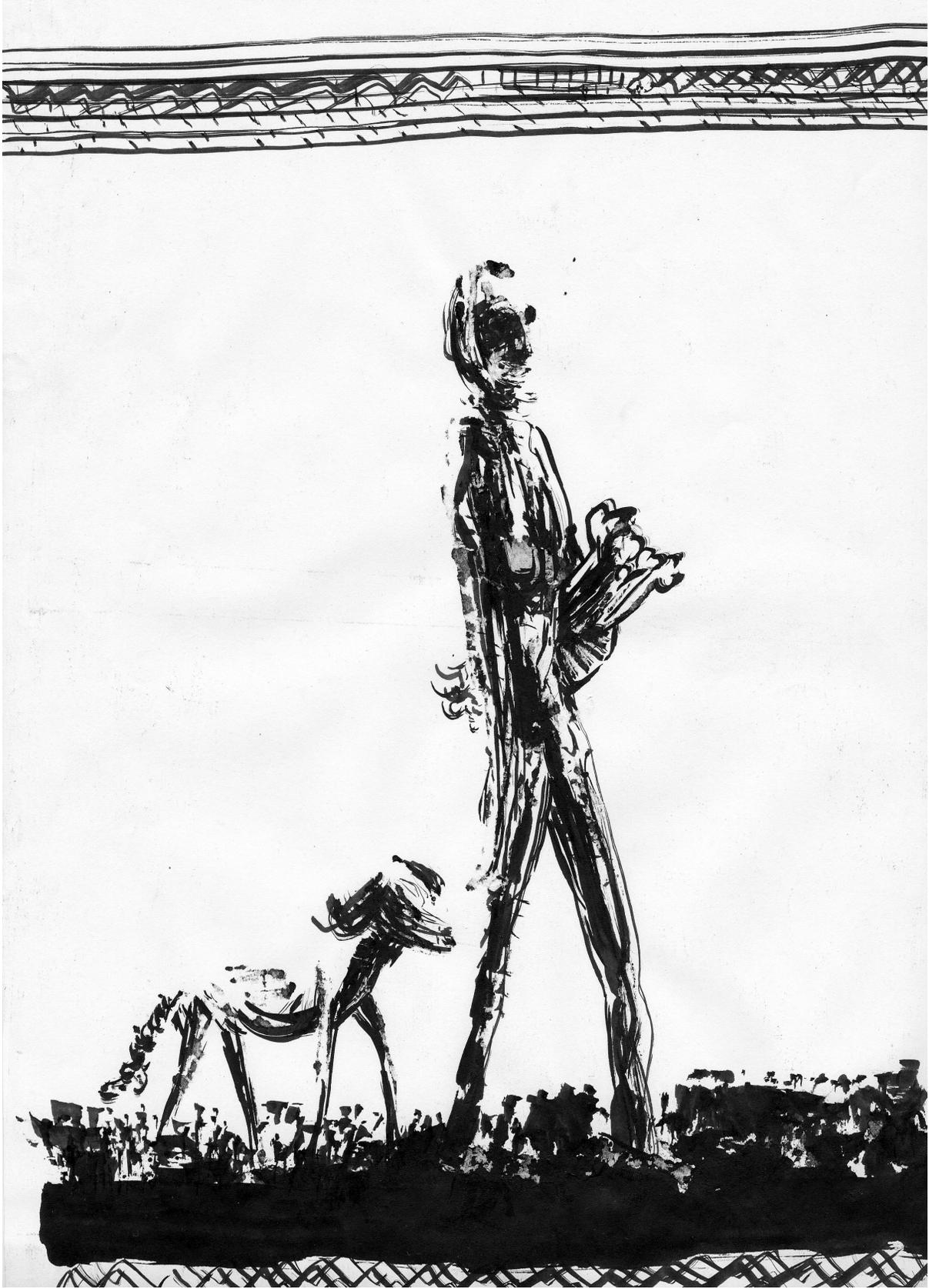
Bacio, Hammer on Wall, courtesy La Rada, Locarno, Switzerland 2004



Cuban Family, Cutting on Wood, La Rada, Locarno, Switzerland, 2004



Quadri Bianchi, Installation View, La Rada, Locarno, Switzerland, 2004



Quetzalcoatl, Ink on Paper, 300 Drawings Series, Milan, Italy, 2003

Curriculum Vitae

Giona Bernardi

6527 Lodrino

<http://yunus23.blogspot.com/>

1995-1997 CSIA (Centro Studi Industrie Artistiche), Lugano, Svizzera

1998-2002 Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera Milano, Italia

Laurea in pittura nel corso di arte contemporanea del prof. Alberto Garutti

SELECTED SOLO SHOW

2007 Giona Bernardi, Agané Gallery, Bellinzona

2007 Strange Circus, Play, Berlin

2007 Old Boy, La Rada, Locarno

2005 CaniSolaCaniCola, Spazio Niska, Locarno

2003 La Rada, Locarno

GROUP SHOW

2008 Jam Session, White Project, Pescara

2007 Torno Subito! (Atto secondo), Substitut, Berlin

2007 Mulhouse 007, menzione al primo premio, Mulhouse, Francia

2007 Il grande disegno, La fabbrica Borroni, a cura di E. Gusella, Bollate

2007 Festival internazionale del film Locarno, Programma off, La Rada

2006 Migre, centre culturel francais de Milan, Milano

2006 Video Invitational 3, curated by Alessandra Poggianti, Viafarini, Milano

2005 Apart, insurgent space, curated by Alessandra Poggianti & Stefano Romano

2005 Archivio aperto, Viafarini, Milano

2005 Crack, Forte Prenestino, Roma

2005 ThinLine, ViaFarini, curated by Milovan Farronato, Milano

2004 Juan, PergolaTribe, Milano

2004 E il mare intorno, Associazione Sardi Toscana, Firenze

2004 Arrivederci e grazie, a cura di A.Garutti, Viafarini, Milano

2003 Festival internazionale del film Locarno, Programma off, La Rada

2001 Letti, CSOA Sniaviscosa, Roma, Italia

1999 fumetto contemporaneo, CAC Ticino Bellinzona, Svizzera

1998 Brain Party Cox18 Milano Italia

REVIEWS

2008 Recensione su Flash Art Italia

2007 Intervista di Noah Stolz su Kunst-Bulletin

2005 Recensione di Thin Line su Tema Celeste

2003 Recensione di Progress in (f)art su Flash Art Italia

PUBLICATIONS

2008 Di soglia in soglia, Biblioteca cantonale di Lugano, Edizioni le ricerche, Losone

2003 Antologia della durata, Edizioni Chiarafonte, Lugano, Svizzera

2001-3 Editore di "Lolabrigida" (4 numeri), Italia-Messico

2001 illustrazioni a fumetti per il catalogo della mostra "In Fumo"

curata da Giacinto Di Pietrantonio presso il museo d'arte moderna e contemporanea di Bergamo, Italia. Coordinazione delle illustrazioni

2001 Centrifuga N.5, Roma, Italia

PERFORMANCES

2008 Jam Session, White Project, Pescara

2007 Mutamenti, Bellinzona

1998 Programma di performances a cura di Guido Venturini, Bologna-Fiera, Bologna

1998 S.Q.U.O.T.T., Milano

1997 Performance "Poesia dietro le sbarre", Mulino, Lugano

GRANTS

2002 Recompensas, American Express, Messico