

O.Z

*A project by Otto Zoo in collaboration with the Hotel Locarno
and with curatorial contribution of Ilaria Gianni*

First episod:

SEBASTIANO MAURI - ELENA STANCANELLI

November - December 2013

OPENING: November 28 2013, 7 p.m.

Via della Penna 59 - 00186 ROMA

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Sebastiano Mauri, *God VS Alien*,
2013, 45x45 cm

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Rome, 24 October 2013 - OTTO ZOO presents O.Z., an exhibition project in collaboration with the Hotel Locarno and with the curatorial contribution of Ilaria Gianni, which will develop in eight months, within two windows in via Della Penna, Rome.

The programme will be orchestrated in four episodes, each one composed of a site-specific installation conceived by an artist in dialogue with an unreleased texts written by an author, giving life to a conversation, a breach, a discussion, in line with the great artistic and literary tradition of the street and neighbourhood that hosts the project.

The first episode of O.Z., on Monday October 28, will present Sebastiano Mauri (Milan, 1972) and Elena Stancanelli (Florence, 1965).

For the occasion Sebastiano Mauri has conceived two works from the series Gods Versus Aliens (2013). Two bell jars, host the encounter between divinities and aliens. The subjects, apparently dissimilar, together reveal a correspondance as entities supported by an act of faith rather than through certain evidence. The artist sees the relationship gods / aliens a pretext to deal with the idea of otherness, thus highlighting a space to

investigate the relational character of identity. If 'alien' in English means not only alien but stranger - the diverse from whom to keep safe - Sebastiano Mauri's new pantheon under glass, consisting of an unusual relationship between doctrine and legend, challenges absolutisms and dogmas. The spontaneous dialogues between universes have the strength to question the ethical and political order, the notions of confession and superstition, ideology and reality, and in general the principle of cultural hegemony. The words by Elena Stancanelli, that accompany Sebastiano Mauri's work, evoke the story that unites the characters of the installations to our own, making it necessary as it is difficult to listen to.

The reading of the site-specific installation, commissioned to the pen of some of the most interesting exponents of the Italian literary scene today, will establish not only a moment of encounter between voices of the contemporary, but develop an interwoven tale composed of words and images.

The next episodes of the cycle O.Z. will initiate a dialogue between Serena Vestrucci and Vincenzo Latronico, Maria Morganti and Matteo Nucci, T-yong Chung and Francesco Pacifico

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