Dom Barra

DISORDINARY BEAUTY / THE THORN SENSE OF BEAUTY

The glitch is not an accident. It is a position.

I work with images that were built to perform — to perform beauty, to perform the body, to perform an idea of what existence should look like when it has been optimised, filtered, and approved for consumption. I take those images and I corrupt them. At the level of the data. At the level of the pixel. DNA and skin — what the image hides beneath its surface and what it insists on showing. The visceral and the superficial. The structure and the wound.

I run them through wrong software, wrong formats, wrong processes until what they were built to hide becomes the only thing visible.

This is the territory of DISORDINARY BEAUTY — DIS/verse. A research that spans glitch art, artificial intelligence, mixed media painting, printing, and video. Eleven projects, one wound: the relationship between beauty, the body, and the systems that decide what both are allowed to be.

This is a counternarrative. Against the tide. Against the aesthetics of compliance and the tyranny of the standard. The atypical, the anomalous, the excluded — these are not failures to be corrected. They are the material. The redemption of the weird, the reclaiming of what the algorithm deletes, the insistence that imperfection is not a problem to be solved but a truth to be inhabited.

The body is the subject that keeps returning. My own body — living with rheumatoid arthritis, existing in permanent negotiation with its own limits — taught me that the body is never the clean, optimised surface that images insist on. It carries damage, accumulates history, breaks down and continues. Pain is not a malfunction. It is information. The work takes that information seriously.

The aesthetic comes from the same place as the argument. The rave, the warehouse, the underground. The energy of spaces that refused comfort and produced something more alive for the refusal. Clean surfaces are a lie. The anomaly is where things actually happen.

Counterculture as method. The thorn sense of beauty as result.