DØM BARRA

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"Creativity is not the measure of your talent but of your freedom".

DOMENICO BARRA

ΔRTIST BIØ

Domenico Barra is an Italian multimedia artist whose pioneering practice interrogates the boundaries of beauty, identity, and the human body through glitch art, artificial intelligence, and mixed media painting. Born and raised in Napoli (Italy)—a city he describes as a source of wonder, drama, and imperfection—Barra's work is deeply informed by his embrace of the flawed and the atypical, both in life and in art.

Barra's current body of work, DISØRDINΔRY BÆUTY (also known as DIS/vərsə), is a radical exploration of the human body and its representation within contemporary digital culture. Through this ongoing project, Barra systematically deconstructs the programmed paradigms of beauty perpetuated by the beauty industry and social media, art and society. In DISØRDINΔRY BÆUTY | BÆUTY IS CHΔØS, by employing glitch art techniques—such as databending and generative scripts—he erases and reconfigures digital portraits of influencers, stripping away the veneer of perfection to reveal new, hauntingly beautiful forms that celebrate imperfection, diversity, and the rare. As Barra states, his glitch aesthetic is not merely a stylistic device but a conceptual tool, a mean of redemption, an act of freedom: *"Beauty as a formula, a programmed/coded paradigm, is defeated and erased."* The resulting works are *"lost souls in the machine with no identity,"* existing in the short circuits of society's toxic and exclusionary ideas of beauty.

ABRAHAM BARRA

Barra’s art thus advocates for inclusivity and a departure from the constraints of conventional aesthetics, proposing that true beauty emerges from chaos, error, disorder, the imperfect and the unexpected.

Barra’s practice is rooted in the creative misuse of both hardware and software, with a particular emphasis on databending—altering the data within digital files to produce glitch artifacts. Since 2017, he has integrated AI into his workflow, recognizing the parallels between the unpredictability of glitches and the generative, sometimes unstable, uncanny, processes of AI. This intersection allows him to probe the boundaries between control and randomness, human and machine, order and disorder. His mixed media approach encompasses digital images, animated works, video, painting, and physical installations.

Barra’s investigation of the human body is both personal and universal. Inspired in part by his own experience with rheumatoid arthritis and a lifelong immune system disorder, his art delves into the body’s imperfect nature, its mutations, and its evolution. He draws on themes of fragility, vulnerability, and resilience, using glitches as metaphors for the complexities and disordinary beauty of human existence.

BARMA

His work is also shaped by empathy and introspection, influenced by witnessing neurodegenerative diseases in close relatives. This personal dimension imbues his projects with a profound sense of humanity, challenging viewers to reconsider their perceptions of beauty, pain, normalcy, and the atypical.

Barra's art has been exhibited internationally, including a solo exhibition at Galleria Biffi Arte in Piacenza (Italy), and the Mapils Gallery in Napoli (Italy). The artist took part at numerous group exhibitions including the DAM Gallery in Berlin (Germany), the Galerie Charlot in Paris (France), Palazzo Pigorini in Parma (Italy), and the Media Center of New York (USA). Barra took part also in various online project including one with the State Hermitage Museum for their very first Metaverse show, with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Central Academy of Fine Art of Beijing, and The Wrong Biennale of Digital and Internet Art. His projects have been featured in leading art and technology publications such as Flash Art, Motherboard, Observer, Monopol Magazin, and Hyperallergic just to name some. He has also contributed to academic discourse, delivering talks at institutions like the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (USA) and the MACRO in Rome (Italy).

The artist lives and work between Sliema (Malta) and Napoli (Italy).

ARTIST CØNTACT





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