



Prometeo Gallery Ida Pisani  
presents

**Vladimir Kartashov**  
***Spellbound***

An exhibition to explore the inaccessible dimensions of human psyche by delving into artistic research between realism and symbolism

Curatorial statement by **Domenico de Chirico**

**17 September — 20 October 2024**

**OPENING: Tuesday 17 September 2024 at 6pm**

Via Privata G. Ventura 6, Milano  
[www.prometeogallery.com](http://www.prometeogallery.com)

*Milan, 7th August 2024.* On **Tuesday, 17 September 2024**, the artist **Vladimir Kartashov** (born in Novosibirsk in 1997) presents ***Spellbound***, his 8<sup>th</sup> personal exhibition, in the space of the **Prometeo Gallery Ida Pisani**.

Influenced by a variety of iconographic traditions, mythologies, and oneiric dimensions, the Russian artist sets out to explore the increasingly **challenging evolution** of the **human condition** in the **digital era**. His works, expressions of an incredibly poetic imagination and a vivid aesthetic sensitivity, position themselves at the junction of various visual traditions spanning from **realism** to **symbolism** and from **surrealism** to **existentialism**.

Kartashov's signature sophisticated style is nurtured by multiple material and symbolic layers, which he employs to explore the universal themes of **life and death**, **time** and **spirituality** while probing into individual emotional realms and their relation to the inaccessible areas of the human psyche. His paintings at the intersection of the **fantastic** and the **realistic** oscillate between **introspection** and **wonder**.

The show at the Prometeo Gallery features large-scale canvases depicting lavish scenes populated by **animals** and **fantastic creatures** with concealed faces; **vegetal elements** provide spectacular backdrops brimming with **symbols**, **emoticons**, peculiar **hyper realistic objects**, and **written codes**; the resulting image is abundant to the point of overflowing.

The young artist's paintings are lively and material, his brushstrokes alternating between gentle touches and thick layers—a technique that endows his canvases with **depth** and **tactility** at the same time, emphasising their **physical presence** and conferring a nearly sculptural dimension to the images.

According to the curator **Domenico de Chirico**, the resulting body of work is “a series of powerful and enigmatic visions engendering new **pictorial heterotopies** along the lines of the Foucauldian *counter*-sites, the non-spaces that provide societies with critical mirrors perceived as **deviation scenarios**, patterns of **contestation** or **inversion of social and cultural conventions**. There, the sacred and the profane, the beautiful and the grotesque, the heavenly and the infernal, the Apollonian and the Dionysian, or in essence the good and the evil coexist in perfect eurhythmy”.

In **Spellbound**, **Vladimir Kartashov** transports the viewer into alternative, highly symbolic imaginary worlds, taking us on a **visual and emotional journey** of discovery into the deepest abysses of human experience.

The exhibition is created in collaboration with **Tg residency** established in Pietrasanta in 2022 with the aim to promote contemporary artists and enable artistic production based on the unique resources of the local marble quarries, bronze foundries, ceramic kilns, and spacious studios. Tg residency organises solo and group shows across the world, working together with galleries and high-profile art institutions.

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**Prometeo Gallery** is an initiative of **Ida Pisani**. Since 2005, it has evolved from an experience cultural association into a gallery based in Milan and Lucca, instantly assuming the role of a catalyst for the social and political dreams and ambitions of a wide range of artists working in various mediums. The space launched in 2005 with *Perra*, a project by the Guatemalan Regina José Galindo, who went on to win the Golden Lion Award for young artists at the Venice Biennial of the same year. The same prize had been awarded in 2001 to Anibal López, another Guatemalan artist whose collaboration with the gallery was interrupted by his untimely death in 2014, at the age of 50. In 2007, Prometeo hosted *Trabajos italianos*, the first Italian exhibition by the Spanish performance and installation artist Santiago Serra which included *Los Anarquistas*, a show originally developed for the Fondazione Volume! in Rome. Over the years, several artists represented by the gallery featured in the Venice Biennial, notably Ivan Moudov, Giuseppe Stampone, Regina José Galindo, Mary Zygouri, Stefano Tsivopoulos, and Hiwa K. Some of the highlights of the gallery’s programme since 2017 include *Mea culpa*, a personal show by Santiago Serra in the Padiglione di Arte Contemporanea in Milan (the venue also hosted a show by Regina José Galindo in 2014 and a show by Zehra Doğan in 2021), and the participation of four Prometeo artists in the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of Documenta (Stefano Tsivopoulos, Regina José Galindo, Mary Zygouri, and Hiwa K). Since then, the Kurdish-Iraqi artist Hiwa K was invited to create a show at the New Museum in New York, and in 2021 Galindo’s video *Tierra* (2013) became part of the permanent collection of MoMA as the third work of the artist acquired by the museum. The same year, Galindo received the Robert Rauschenberg Award. Since 2019, Prometeo is representing Zehra Doğan a Kurdish artist from Turkey featured among *ArtReview*’s Power 100 in 2020 and 2021.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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