

Mimesi [Mimesis], 1975

Plaster casts

Two casts h 36 cm each

Edition of 20 plus 3 artist's proofs in Arabic numerals

Multipli Edizioni, Turin

Two plaster heads of the Medici Venus (late 1st century BC) by Cleomenes, son of Apollodorus, are placed facing each other and slightly askew so that their gazes meet.

The subject chosen from ancient tradition represents a figure that symbolizes beauty for Paolini. The exchange of glances between the two figures questions the reasons for the very existence of the work and its coming into being by way of our gaze.

In the artist's words: "In *Mimesi* I was not so much interested in celebrating the aulic and historical effigy of specific sculptural masterpieces from the past, as I was in attributing to a figure the status of a sublime work of art, a unique and unrepeatable one, and at the same time placing it before its equal. A work of art does not wait for our gaze; rather, it contemplates itself while pondering its existence".¹



¹ G. Paolini in conversation with I. Bernardi, 21 January 2013.

Bibliographical references

Impressions graphiques. L'opera grafica 1967-1992 di Giulio Paolini (Turin: Marco Noire Editore, 1992), cat. no. 19.

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