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MYTHICAL DIARY

SCULPTURES FROM THE FARNESE COLLECTION

PREFACE BY PHILIPPE DAVERIO

TEXTS BY LUIGI SPINA, GIOVANNI FIORENTINO, AND CARMELA CAPALDI

PHOTOGRAPHS BY LUIGI SPINA

Mythical Diary is a visual journey through the classical sculpture of the Archaeological Museum of Naples. It is a physical engagement with the marble bodies of myth.

Through his black and white photography, Luigi Spina disassembles the limbs of the sculptures, emphasizing their curves and hidden eroticism, humanizing them to establish a dialogue with the observer.

A sculpture is the sign of eternal, unchanging beauty: the only real evidence of the many lives that have passed and come to an end leaving a profound mark in the story of many other existences. For Spina, with his own vision of sculpture, a statue of Aphrodite is not merely a stereotypical portrayal of myth. In it are gathered the anxieties, dreams, hopes and joys of all those who have set eyes on her and dreamed or studied her. In a way, classical sculpture is profoundly present in our veins, in our very breath.

The project takes the form of an imaginary diary covering fifteen days. But this is only an ephemeral period of time, a convention. The whole work developed over a period of days and months amounting to years, always in contact with the circumscribed space made of myriad lives and stories, which we call a museum.

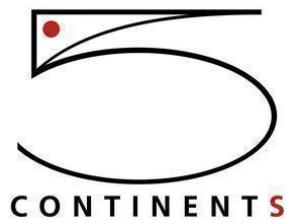
In *Mythical Diary*, Spina attempts to make classical sculpture interact with the viewer's desire to be a part of this ancient world that has always influenced our way of life, our culture and our society, proving itself to be contemporary with any period.

Carmela Capaldi is an associate professor at the Universitàdegli studi di Napoli Federico II.

Philippe Daverio, art historian and art dealer, has been Head of Culture for the City of Milan from 1993 to 1997. Commentator for Panorama, Liberal, Vogue, People, he is the author and anchorman of the television program *Passepartout* (since January 2012 II Capitale), a program of art and culture that has been very successful and has had considerable recognition from both critics and the public.

Giovanni Fiorentino teaches at Tuscia University and works as a journalist for *Il Messaggero* and *Il Mattino* as well as being an author. He runs the Centro Meridionale di Educazione Ambientale in Sorrento.

Luigi Spina (b. 1966) is a photographer from Naples. He participated at the ninth International Photography Festival in Rome and at MIAFAIR 2013 with his book-project *The Buchner Boxes*. With 5 Continents Editions he has published: *The Buchner Boxes*, *The Dancers from the Villa dei Papyri* and *Memorie del Vaso Blu*. He began his photographic portrayal of the Farnese collection



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of Classical sculptures for the Archaeological Museum of Naples in 2002. Luigi Spina is listed in the *Atlante di Arte Contemporanea a Napoli e Campania, 1966-2016*, edited by Vincenzo Trione (Electa/MADRE).