

ELVIS SPADONI

SELFPORTRAITS
2013-2018

My interest for selfportrait, an omnipresent theme in my paintings since the beginning, is due to the fact that the painting process immediately revealed itself to me as the way to build and discover myself, who I am deeply and truly. A way for being *more*.
For many years, indeed, I've suffocate my more authentic passions and desires, until I finally started painting when I was already 27 years old.
A selfportrait is a dream of you that helps you to wake-up.
So, someday, what we call "art" has been -for me- the question and, at the same time, the answer.

Elvis Spadoni
September 1st, 2018

DIRECTIONS: ABOUT LOVE FOR HIMSELF

[...] the looking for himself and narcissism are strictly tied to Elvis Spadoni's work because his research is focused exclusively on self-portrait: a reflection that avoids every sociological implication in order to face the main question of self-awareness. If exterior doesn't become a superficial shell conceiving image as banal outward appearance, but is vehicle for "joining surface with the deep, the visible with the invisible", the work of Elvis Spadoni reveals itself as symbol of a research that combines biographical fact and existential tension, formal analysis and inner journey.

[...] A selfportrait, while we stare it, interrogates us directly, facing us with the gaze, a full contact for grasp a glimmer of a truth inscribed in a face or in a figure. This asking quality, clinging the Self and the Other in a continuous exchange and complicit links, is the titanic force of self-portrait that brings us towards unexpected and arduous directions where the truth is never one but the result of infinite glares of being.

Umberto Palestini
art curator and director of Academy of Fine Arts in Urbino



"Day of the tentacle"
2015 - charcoal on canvas - 51 x 80 in / 130 x 205 cm



"If I were"
2017 - oil on canvas - 59 x 47 in / 150 x 120 cm



"Fellini"
2014 - oil on canvas - 74 x 64 in / 188 x 163 cm



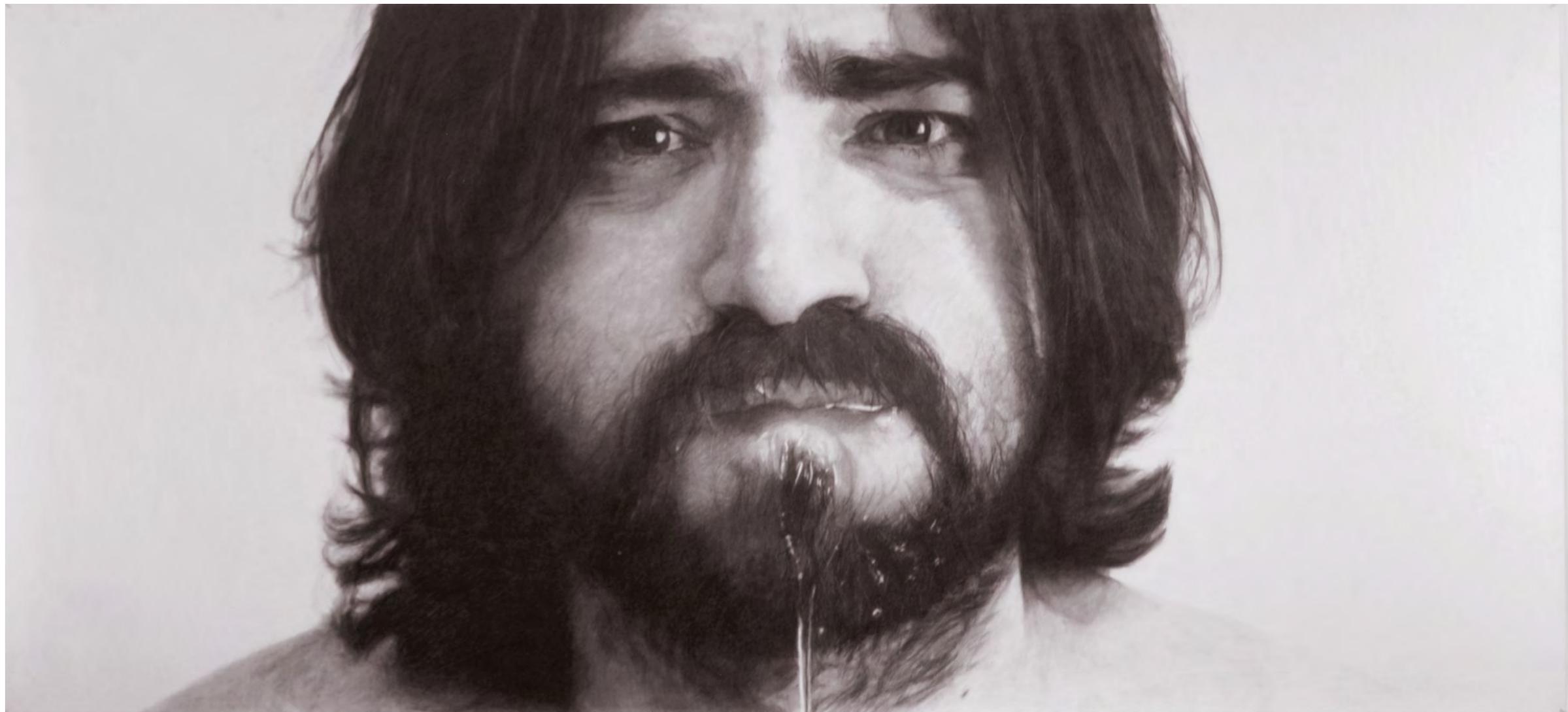
"Jedi"
2014 - oil on canvas - 83 x 60 in / 210 x 152 cm



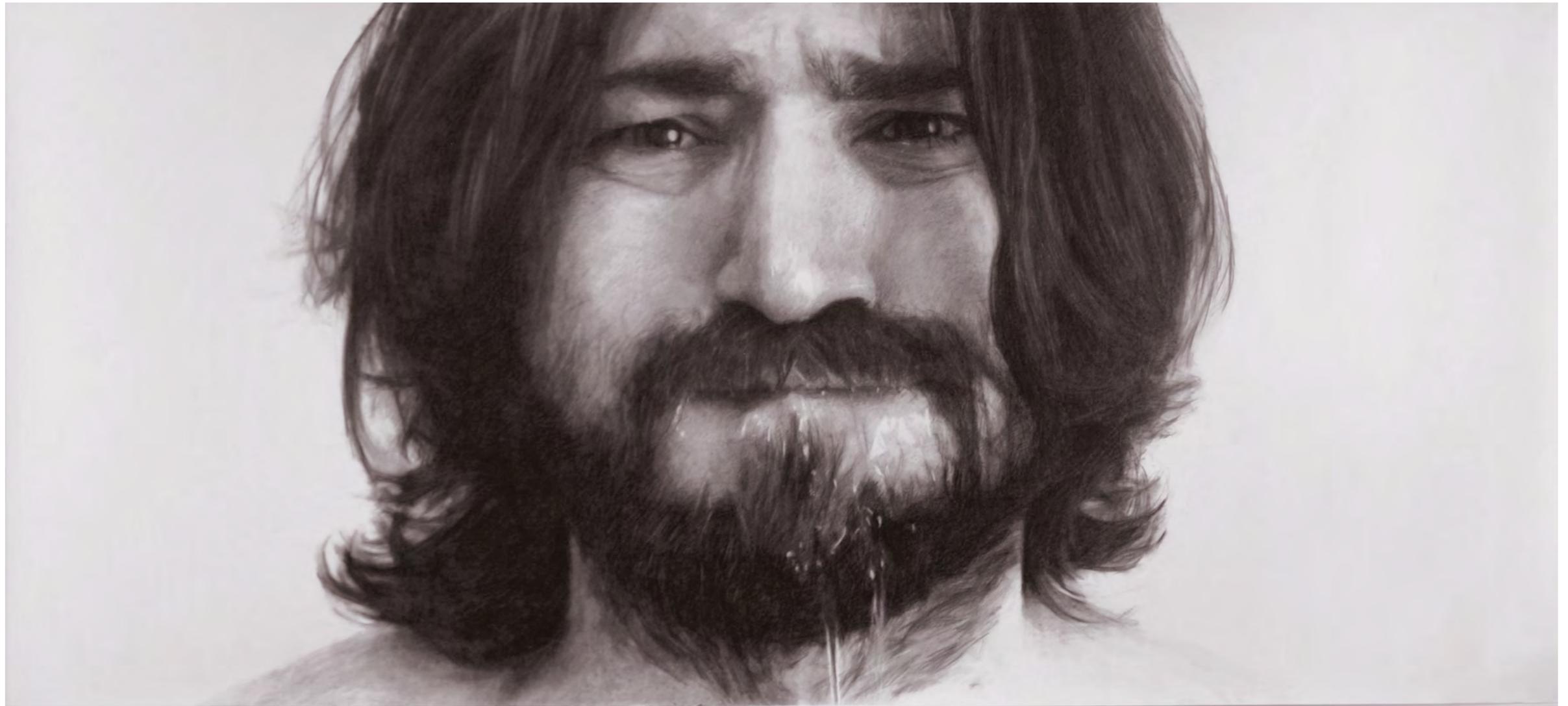
"Rendez-vous"
2016 - oil on canvas - 79 x 67 in / 200 x 170 cm



"The tempest (fellowly drops)"
2017 - charcoal on paper - 59 x 59 in / 150 x 150 cm



"Trying to cry n.1"
2016 - charcoal on paper - 59 x 130 in / 150 x 330 cm



"Trying to cry n.2"
2016 - charcoal on paper - 59 x 130 in / 150 x 330 cm



"Soul-searching"
2017 - oil on canvas - 65 x 57 in / 165 x 145 cm



"Loss of a halo"
2016 - charcoal on paper - 59 x 98 in / 150 x 250 cm





"The reason for my painting large canvases is that I want to be intimate and human. To paint a small picture is to place yourself outside your experience, to look upon an experience as a stereopticon view or with a reducing glass. However you paint the larger picture, you are in it"

Mark Rothko



"The butterfly"
2015 - oil on canvas - 73 x 100 in / 185 x 255 cm



"Pride"
2016 - oil on canvas - 65 x 47 in / 65 x 120 cm



"Contemporary"
2014 - oil on canvas - 81 x 57 in / 205 x 145 cm



"Selfportrait"
2013 - oil on canvas - 72 x 54 in / 184 x 138 cm



"The spider"
2013 - oil on canvas - 67 x 79 in / 170 x 200 cm



"Superman"
2013 - oil on canvas - 53 x 77 in / 195 x 135 cm



"The cloud"
2013 - oil on canvas - 65 x 77 in / 165 x 196 cm



"A red flower"
2014 - oil on canvas - 84 x 63 in / 213 x 160 cm



*"Ora" ("Now")
2017 - oil on canvas - 35 x 43 in / 90 x 110 cm*



"Prison"

2017 - oil on mirror, wooden frame - 61 x 22 in / 155 x 55 cm



A close-up photograph of a painting. The central focus is a vertical crease or shadow, rendered in a dark, rich reddish-brown hue. This crease runs from the top to the bottom of the frame. The surrounding areas are filled with a lighter, warm, orange-brown color, which has a visible, slightly grainy texture, suggesting the use of oil or acrylic paint. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture and the depth of the colors. The overall composition is minimalist and emphasizes the play of light and shadow on the painted surface.

Selfportraits
in mythological paradigms



"Narcissus"
2013 - oil on canvas - 64 x 84 in / 165 x 215 cm



"Ulysses"
2013 - oil on canvas - 67 x 87 in / 170 x 220 cm



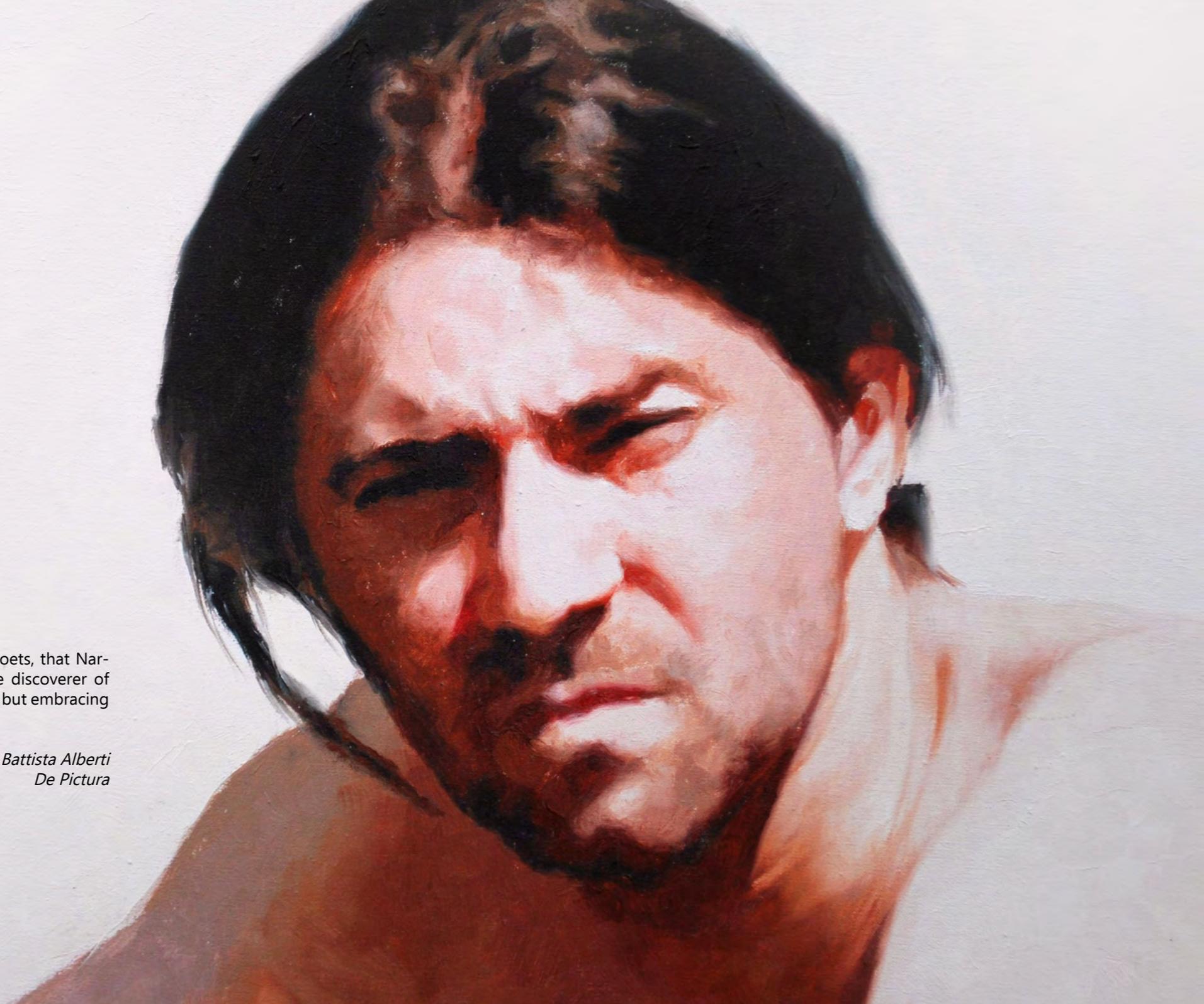
"Orpheus"
2013 - oil on canvas - 69 x 50 in / 175 x 125 cm



"Achilles"
2014 - oil on canvas - 75 x 69 in / 190 x 175 cm

"I used to say to my friends, according to the sense of poets, that Narcissus, the young man converted into a flower, was the discoverer of painting. [...] What else would you say the painting is nothing but embracing with art that surface of the pool?"

*Leon Battista Alberti
De Pictura*





Selfportrait
and religious and biblical themes



*"Ecce Homo!" ("Here the man!") (Jesus disguised as roman emperor)
2017 - oil on canvas - 85 x 130 in / 215 x 330 cm*



"Following the nude Christ" (S. Francis undresses himself)
2015 - oil on canvas - 85 x 130 in / 215 x 330 cm



*"Nihil videbat" ("Nothing he saw") (St. Paul's conversion)
2017 - oil on canvas - 91 x 157 in / 230 x 400 cm*



"Our Lady of Splendor"
2012 - oil on canvas - 91 x 59 in / 230 x 150 cm



"I, Alberto" (The blessed Alberto Marvelli)
2014 - oil on canvas - 53 x 75 in / 190 x 135 cm



"Blessed be the Lord, my rock" (King David chooses stones)
2018 (reprise) - oil on canvas - 75 x 71 in / 190 x 180 cm



"Biblia Pauperum: the last supper"
2013 - oil on canvas - 73 x 134 in / 185 x 340 cm



"I have not come to bring peace, but a sword" (Three angels appear to Abraham)
2012 - oil on canvas - 110 x 197 in / 280 x 500 cm



*"Lazarus" (central painting of "God's tears")
2016 - oil on canvas - 83 x 106 in / 210 x 270 cm*





ELVIS SPADONI

Born in Urbino, Italy, 1979
After theological studies (1999-2008), in 2016 he graduates at Academy
of Fine Arts in Urbino, with a thesis about W. Benjamin and S. Mallarmè.
Elvis lives and works in Santarcangelo di Romagna (Italy)

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SOLO SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2018 / LO SPAZIO DEL SACRO_curated by K. Reisova and G. Bena_ex chiesa Ss. Trinità_ Cuornè (TO) Italy / **2017** / IL MANTELLO, LO SCANDALO DEL DONO_curated by Luigi Codemo_GASC, Milan / RITRATTO|AUTORITRATTO_curated by F. M. Acquabona_Museo San Francesco, San Marino (catalogue) / IL MANTELLO E LA GLORIA_curated by Giovanni Gardini_Monastery of Camaldoli (AR) / **2016** / ALLO SPECCHIO_curated by Studio Mjras_Studio Mjras, Urbino / **2015** / PRIMI PAESAGGI_a cura di ass. Ar-szenith_Montecalvo (PU) / **2011** / DIREZIONI_curated by Umberto Palestini_casa natale di Raffaello Sanzio, Urbino (catalogo) / **2010** / OMAGGIO A CARAVAGGIO_sede ArteM, Pesaro

AWARDS

2017 / PREMIO COMBAT_selected artist, in the catalogue / **2016** / L'UCAI PER il GIUBILEO, special mention / **2011** / FRANCO ZEFFIRELLI SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS FOR THE ARTS_New York / PREMIO NAZIONALE DELLE ARTI_winner of painting section_Brera, Milan / **2010** / INOPERA 2010_purchase prize_curated by Antonio Paolucci, Paola Ballesi, Elisa Mori_Buonaccorsi Palace, Macerata Marche / VERBUM CARO FACTUM EST_winner_curated by Guido Curto_Reggia della Venaria, Torino / SCOLPIRE IN PIAZZA_first prize_S.Ippolito (PU) / BENELLI ARTE II edition, third prize / **2008** / PREMIO MONTECALVO ARTE_first prize_Montecalvo (PU)

GROUP SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2018 / traMA, curated by Alessandro Zechini, Osvaldo Licini gallery, Ascoli Piceno / **2017** / LE LACRIME DI DIO_curated by Francesco Acquabona_Jewish museum, Bologna / **2016** / LE LACRIME DI DIO_curated by Francesco Acquabona_San Francesco gallery, San Marino (RSM) / NARCISO, CONTEMPORANEITA' DEL MITO TRA ARTE E VITA_curated by Elisabetta Chiono & Karin Reisova_Torino Castello agenzia Reale Mutua, Torino / GENERATIVO_curated by Umberto Palestini_Sale del Castellare, Urbino / WILLIAM'S PASSION_curated by Matteo De Simone, Cagli (PU) / **2015** / CAMERE IN CHIARO_curated by Dario Picariello_Academy of Fine Arts Underground, Urbino / LEVATI, O ANIMA, E GUARDA_curated by Leonardo Maggioli and Romolo Ricci_Museum of the city, Rimini / **2013** REMARCHEBLEDAY_Urbisaglia (MC) / IN PROFONDITA'_curated by Marta Michelacci_Mu.ma, Galata Museo del Mare, Genova / OPERA 2013 (CGIL)_Ravenna / REMARCHEBLEDAY#1_La Data, Urbino / **2012** / EXPOARTE 2012_Bari / CREDERE LA LUCE/2_curated by Marialuisa De Santis_Giulianova (TE) / **2011** / RANDOM_curated by Sebastiano Guerrera e Ada Lombardi_Urbino, Sale del castellare / CALEIODOSCOPIO_curated by Umberto Palestini e Fabiola Naldi_Urbino, Sale del Castellare / I SEGNI DELLA SCULTURA, curated by Academy of Fine Arts Urbino, Frontone (PU) / IL MAESTRO PRESENTA L'ALLIEVO, curated by Enrica Freidani, Montignoso (MC) / RESHAPE_curated by ass. Modo_Galleria G_Olomouc, Rep. Ceca / ARTE A PALAZZO_curated by Marcello Cartoceto_Saludecio (RN) / **2010** / PREMIO NAZIONALE DELLE ARTI_“PAINTING” section_Academy of Fine arts, Naples

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

GASC, galleria d'arte sacra dei contemporanei, Villa Clerici, Milan
MIUR, Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca, Rome
Museo di arte contemporanea, Castel of Rende, Rende (CO)

STUDIES

2016 / first level Academy degree (Painting), Academy of Fine Arts, Urbino
2007 / STL - Licentiate of Sacred Theology (specialitation History of theology), Facoltà Teologica Emilia Romagna, Bologna
2004 / STB - Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree. (Sacrae Theologiae Baccalaureus), Facoltà Teologica Emilia Romagna. Bologna
1998 / High school diploma, Liceo "Giulio Cesare", Rimini