



## ALESSANDRO DI GIAMPIETRO

### 13 APOSTLES

09.22.09 \_ 10.17.09

Alessandro Di Giampietro is constantly searching for other people, and for himself through those others. In other people he seeks proof of his own existence made up of fears, phobias, curiosity, the will to live and a desperate need to be accepted.

The apostles are characters from the streets. The images are holy icons with visible scars on the soul, reflected in the strips of light in the pictures and in the portraits themselves, which convey a kind of ever ambiguous, indecipherable interference. Naturally, what is fascinating here is that the search for himself and the other is genuine, real, and does not allow for judgments or preconceptions. Di Giampietro hangs suspended, maintaining a balance between himself and the others that is apparently precarious but also perfectly functional. He succeeds, almost magically, in revealing the other person to us even if the search was mainly about himself.

Ambiguity is the aspect that exemplifies all of Di Giampietro's artistic work, also reflected in the use of the clown's nose in each portrait. Far from being an ironic feature, the nose evokes *A Clockwork Orange*, and more generally a dark soul hidden behind the mask. It is the expression of fear, not only that of clowns which Di Giampietro has had since childhood, but also the fear that takes hold of us when we meet others.

The shots are taken very quickly. They are *snapshots* that do not leave the person portrayed the time to adapt to the situation and thus let their true personality come through. The element of 'surprise' is very important in Di Giampietro's work; it is the out-of-control element that is impossible to recreate in a constructed photo shoot. If at times this disturbs the image, at the same time it makes the picture more interesting and real.

September 22 - October 17, 2009

**opening Tuesday, September 22nd at 7pm  
the artist will be present for the opening reception  
exhibition catalogue with text by Marco Tagliaferro**

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