

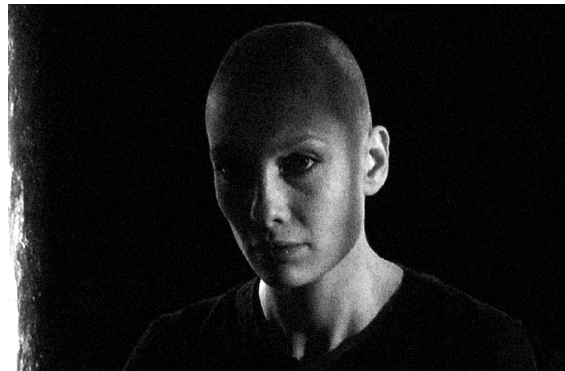
MiCamera_photography and lens-based arts
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open from Wednesday to Saturday 10_13 16_19 and with appointment

on exhibit from November 17th to December 5th , 2009

CESURA

video installation by
GAIA GIANI



A young woman runs along a hilltop road. She is seated in a chair. She runs a hand through her hair and grabs a clump of it. She takes a pair of scissors and begins to cut her hair decisively, without hesitation. Her hair is now only a few centimeters long. The woman sets the scissors on the table. Shortly after, she begins to shave herself with a razor. The movements are all slow and precise, moving from the nape of her neck to her forehead.

When the shaving is finished, the woman runs her hand over her totally shaved head. She feels her skull with her hands to feel its shape and the smooth surface, as if for the first time.

"The idea to create this video is borne of personal experience. At the age of twenty-two, I completely shaved my head. I only have a small photograph as a testament. The protagonist's cutting off her hair is a severing, a clean and drastic break from what came before that moment. Hair is our second skin and the female protagonist is in search of a "new form," a "new identity": she wants to see herself for the first time, discover herself, as if to become reacquainted with herself. Hair is a veil and the act of cutting it represents the courage to go beyond it to capture the essence of one's features. In a certain phase of their lives, regardless of trends, some women decide to cut off their hair, driven by a need for self-exploration. There is a strong cathartic element to the act of cutting your hair; you cannot go back from it."

Gaia Giani

Bruno Di Marino writes:

A triptych. With two lateral images that have no apparent connection to the third, central image. An interior and an exterior. A landscape and a portrait, we would say if we wanted to reduce this video installation by Gaia Giani to the genre of representation, whether pictorial and photographic. Also because *Cesura*, this work's allusive and enigmatic title, has as much to do with painting as it does with photography, even more than with its actual electronic medium.

Cesura is an agglomeration of country houses, clustered on the hillside of **Valtidone**
Cesura is a **video installation** of 11 minutes with 3 synchronized screens

Cesura is part of **FESTIVAL FILMMAKER DOC14** starting November 23, until December 6. www.filmfestival.org

The artist

Gaia Giani, 1971, lives and works in Milan. She is a filmmaker and author for documentary.

After completing her university degree in Philosophy, she moved to London where she worked as a researcher for a documentary film production company. She returned in Italy in 2001 and began collaborating with various production companies. In 2003 she began her collaboration with Alina Marazzi as producer and assistant director on *Per Sempre* (Forever) and *Vogliamo Anche le Rose* (We Want Roses Too).

CESURA

Director: Gaia Giani

Editing: Ilaria Fraioli

Sound Design: Taketo Gohara

Director of photography: Giuseppe Baresi

Sound: Maricetta Lombardo

Second Camera: Maresa Lippolis

Organization: Susanna Sguera

Digital elaboration of *Cesura* photography: Lorenza Orlando

Set up: Marcello Comoglio

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