

FRANCESCA GABBIANI

Interview
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Ed RUSCHA gets fired up about the paper collages of Francesca GABBIANI.



"HERE COMES FRANCESCA and her elaborate collages into other media," you remember at first Ed Ruscha. Clearly the iconic L.A. painter has spent some time studying in front of Francesca Gabbiani's work. "Up close, the stuff one for you know that these are works made of cut-out paper, and all the shadows are in the right places." Ruscha is referring to the grayer-old Gabbiani's latest series, where meticulously cut paper forms are assembled like mosaics around photographically black black-and-white. "I love the focus of your images," Gabbiani explains. "My pieces are like black mirrors that absorb you, but not only when you frame them behind glass, you do that your reflection (like)." The imagery the artist uses to describe these reflective black-and-white is heavily poetic, like opening the group about from a Gabbiani's busy tale—mushrooms, flowers, up-close leaves, rain, making time, possessed dogs, and banded staircases swirl around each other. "I'm very inspired by the idea of the raised past," she says. "And, of course, Edgar Allan Poe. Alive in Wonderland, even like the Paris Labyrinth." That isn't the first time Gabbiani

has fallen for the complex side of cinema. A great series of paper works constructed on intricate scenes heavily taken from film and "The Italian Horror Film" like those of Charles Chaplin, and the forgotten hotel hallways from Stanley Kubrick's *The Shining* (right). "Interiors and interiors are very cinematic," Gabbiani says. "At first they are very easy pictures to look at. But the more you stare, the more an unconscious within in. It's fascinating—I'm very inspired by horror movies, but this really only entered my work when I moved to Los Angeles." There is Cinema in her Italian father and a French mother. Gabbiani grew up in Geneva, Switzerland, where she studied art. In fact, while a student, she once saw a Ruscha slide and was so impressed by his illustrations that she ran home to try to copy them (little did she know, Ruscha used to sketch with). Then, by other coincidence, a few years after she moved to L.A., she met, fell in love with, and married Ruscha's son (Edward "Eddie" Ruscha, Jr.). One of her most popular hand-drawn paper collages constructed into a giant fox. It's a subject that her father-in-law most painted just as meticulously. —CHRISTOPHER WALKER

Photography
HILARY
WALSH

FRANCESCA GABBIANI is an Italian-born, American artist. She is currently working on a series of collages. Her work is inspired by the work of the Italian artist, Giorgio de Chirico. She is currently working on a series of collages. Her work is inspired by the work of the Italian artist, Giorgio de Chirico. She is currently working on a series of collages. Her work is inspired by the work of the Italian artist, Giorgio de Chirico.

