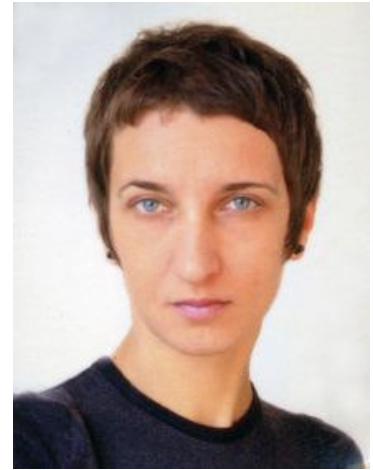




## MARIANA FANTICH ON ANATOMY AS ART

### Using Primal Pictures to explore the human body through art



Mariana Fantich is an artist who focuses her work on the anatomical exploration of the human body. “My specific interest is of the inner structure of the body in relation to the muscles, organs, tissues, veins, arteries and skeleton structure,” she explains. “The medium and aesthetics of my work deliberately relates to autopsy and postmortem practices of the skinned, dissected and sewn body.”

Mariana uses the three dimensional images created by Primal Pictures to recreate anatomical imagery in hand silk embroidery. “Every stitch precisely follows the sculptural form and muscular tissue of under-skin structures,” she explains. “The embroidery technique enhances the spectacular beauty of the skinned body and its deconstructed form. It is the ‘portrait of a skinned man. The work juxtaposes the process of piercing fabric with needle and thread and that of the reconstruction of the skin at the conclusion of an autopsy.’”



Mariana views the internal components of the human body as ‘ready-made’ objects that work and malfunction. She is fascinated by the inner structural properties of the human body: “The execution of the skinned body in hand embroidery endorses its dialogue with the constructive and dissected beauty of the human form and its placement and current situation.”

Mariana’s ‘Spectacular Bodies’ is aimed at the general public and her first piece, an embroidered head, has been selected to appear in an international open exhibition called ‘Art of the stitch’. “My work has been selected to represent the role of stitch in contemporary artistic practice,” she comments. “It has had good reviews so far. I think that for non medical professionals, Spectacular Bodies is like a cabinet of curiosities.”

Mariana first came across Primal Pictures when she was searching for medical imagery and three-dimensional medical scans. It was the high-quality, technical images that attracted her to the software and she has used it to create her straightforward, realistic interpretations of the anatomical imagery: “Ideally, I would like to have direct access to a 3d medical scan to which I can apply my knowledge of 3d modelling to give me the freedom to create the imagery for my work,” she explains.

“However, at present I do not possess an actual 3d anatomical model and so I use the next best thing – the Primal Pictures software. In fact, without the support of Primal Pictures, this project may not have come to fruition. I had a great deal of help from the team at Primal and have learnt a great deal. They were very fast to respond to my requests and I am very grateful to them for helping me to achieve my objectives.”+