

PATRIZIO DI MASSIMO

Son of a Witch

ChertLüdde, Berlin

2 May – 26 July 2025

Chert
Lüdde



PRESS TEXT

For Gallery Weekend Berlin, ChertLüdde presents a solo exhibition titled *Son of a Witch* by Italian born, London-based, painter Patrizio di Massimo (1983, Jesi, Italy). Known for his exploration of personal and art historical narratives, this show blends di Massimo's sense of humor, introspection, and extravagant aesthetics to create compelling and theatrical compositions.

Unlike his previous exhibition at ChertLüdde, *Out Like a Light* (9 June – 26 August 2023), which depicted close family and friends in serene sleeping postures, his upcoming show features a series of oil paintings dominated by bold colors. Here, the artist takes on a dual role, serving as both the subject and the storyteller of his own portraiture. Di Massimo's highly stylized approach, infused with high and low influences, heightens the theatricality of the unconventional settings he inhabits.

One of the central paintings features a wild cast of surrealist characters, imbuing the composition with an unexpected sense of magic that transforms the otherwise familiar scene. The heraldic self-portrait *Automatic Writing (Self-Portrait with Red, Yellow, and Blue Creatures)* depicts the artist writing in his notebook while being surrounded by fantastical creatures. These figures appear to come to life around him, reflecting his practice of automatic writing—a technique used to summon creative ideas. On the desk before him, his young daughter sleeps, creating a contrast between reality and imagination. The result is a work that blurs the boundaries between the tangible and the surreal, showcasing the artist's ability to merge lived experience with the world of the unconscious.

Di Massimo critiques the very fantasy of how we present ourselves to the world, questioning the masks we wear and the identities we construct. Often framed by painting grand curtains, classical pillars, or evocative backdrops reminiscent of traditional portraiture—di Massimo playfully engages with themes of identity, self-mythology, and artistic legacy. The result is a compelling reflection on the performative nature of portraiture and the artist's role within both contemporary and historical discourse.

OPENING

2 May 2025
6 – 9 pm

PRESS PREVIEW

30 April - 2 May 2025
12 - 6 pm

Portrait of Patrizio di
Massimo by Eleonora
Agostini, 2024

Patrizio di Massimo (1983, Jesi, Italy) lives and works in London. He graduated from the Slade School of Fine Art, London and the Academy of Fine Arts of Brera, Milan.

Over the past decade, di Massimo has cultivated a distinct aesthetic that merges classical iconography with contemporary visual culture, for him painting is a tool for exploring emotional and psychological states of life.

Following his 2013 solo exhibition at Gasworks in London, which delved into orientalist and otherizing attitudes prevalent in Victorian society and their complex and seductive existence in the present, di Massimo has shifted his focus towards a more universal exploration of human nature. His works ambiguously engage with the concept of masculinity, serving as personal interpretations of a broader cosmology that incorporates friends, family, and fictional characters. Whether engaged in conflict or embraced in intimacy, whether depicted in private domestic spaces or on imaginary stages, his subjects confront the real world through their vulnerability and the performative display of emotions. Despite being bathed in theatrical light or adorned with velvet brocade, these characters remain intimately connected to our own desires and frustrations.

His work has been exhibited in venues such as: Castello di Rivoli Museum of Contemporary Art, Turin; ParaSite, Hong Kong; Dhaka Art Summit, Dhaka; Museion, Bolzano; Pirelli HangarBicocca, Milan; Triennale di Milano, Milan; Castello di Rivoli, Rivoli; Fiorucci Art Trust, London; M HKA, Antwerp; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; Museo do Arte do Rio, Rio de Janeiro; Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo, Torino; Villa Medici, Rome; EVA International, Ireland's Biennial of Contemporary Art, Limerick; Gaswork, London; Kunsthalle Lissabon, Lisbon.

In 2012 he was selected as a finalist in the Premio Italia 2012, held at MAXXI, Rome. In 2009 he had his first solo presentation within the program Zilkha Auditorium at Whitechapel Gallery, London. He attended prestigious residences at De Ateliers, Amsterdam; Stipendium Kunstzeitraum, Munich; and Sommerakademie, Centre Paul Klee, Bern.

PRESS MATERIAL

IMAGES

[Download Selected Photos](#)

*Available for distribution

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Books:

- [Antologia / Anthology \(2013–2023\)](#)
- [Patrizio Di Massimo](#)

INFORMATION

"Son of a Witch"
Patrizio di Massimo
02.05 – 26.07.2025
Admission free

Opening hours:
Tuesday – Saturday
12 – 6 pm

PRESS CONTACT

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