

Statement

"Spaniel" is a symbolic diagram, both imagined and depicted. Taking the subject of a pet spaniel, a passive sleeping animal, and processing the footage through a standard iMovie effect, the wish is to create an unexpected and primal film. The unwitting animal becomes a conspirator in this transformation from portrait to symbol, fur and eye become mandala.

It is a pattern of existence and a system on which meditational visualization can be based. The Psychoanalyst Carl Jung saw the mandala as "*a representation of the unconscious self,*" and believed his paintings of mandalas enabled him to identify emotional disorders and work towards wholeness in personality.

It is also an *imago mundi*: the enclosure of sacred space and penetration to the sacred centre of the subject, in this case the spaniel or the cat.

The whole can be the re-enactment of the drama and pilgrimage of the soul. It is symbolic of the ritual, diagrammatic centre of power, a circumscribed area safe from hostile influences.

Qualitatively the mandala represents the spirit.
Quantitatively it is existence.

My work focuses on the slippage between human and non-human animal culture and our perception and iconography of both – from ape to opera, from dog to dogma. The intention is to look deep into the ordinary and reveal an often subversive image that is hypnotic and magnetic.

Austin McQuinn.
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