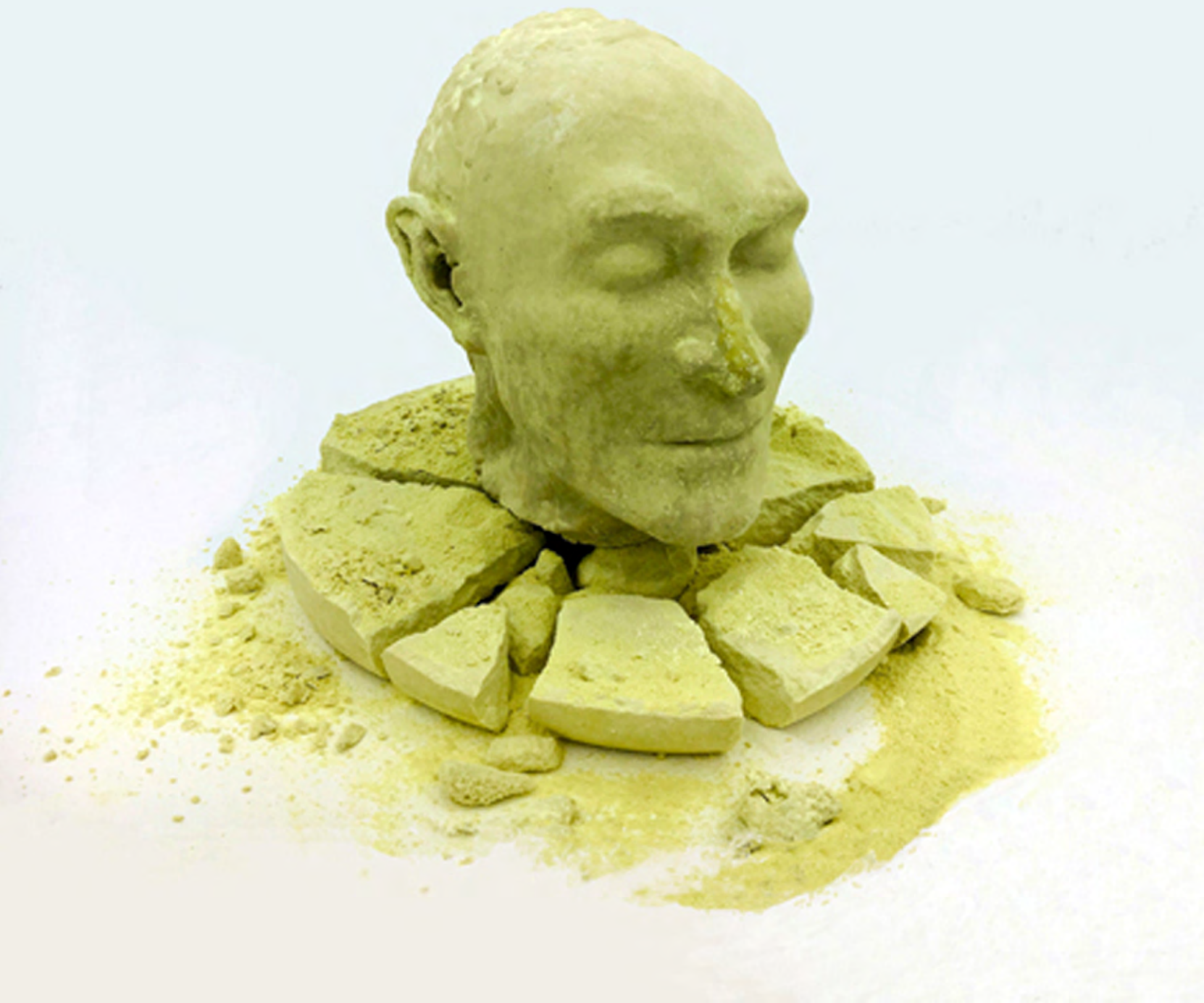


DOVE BRADSHAW

THE ELEMENTS ON THE EARTH

The Hubert Winter Gallery  
Vienna

2018



## DOVE BRADSHAW

### *ELEMENTS: THE DEVIL IS ON THE EARTH* *Sculptures made from Elements on the Periodic Chart* *relating to Myths, Fairy Tales, a Conundrum*

Dove Bradshaw presents objects that comprise an analysis of the consequences of freedom, contingency and automatism that investigate absolute simplicity without any kind of illusionism. The works presented in the exhibition explore at once the possibilities/impossibilities of representation, of both construction and destruction of images and narratives.

In an ongoing series the first of six elements on the Periodic Chart presented here—lead, silver, gold, arsenic, sulfur and mercury—are respectively connected to a particular conundrum, a fairy tale or a myth. They are represented in realistic forms as common objects, a feather, a bullet, an egg, an apple, a bust and a figure. Perhaps the viewer is then led through diverse pure elements and objects in a kind of mythological travel between heaven or the lost paradise through the *Eden Myth*, a cast of an apple covered by apple seeds that are arsenic—and hell via *Lucifer*, a life size bust of William Anastasi, her partner and husband that was formed in plasticine and then cast into sulfur. C. G. Jung defined sulfur to be not only the soul of “metals,” but also the one of all living things. When Anastasi was a child his mother called him Lucifer who is the artist says, “The most beautiful Archangel, the “light bearer,” who paradoxically strove for power out of jealousy and pride to fall as Satan.”

The idea of a journey between life in the golden egg *Nothing* (from Hans Christian Anderson’s fairy tale *The Goose that Laid the Golden Egg*) and death in *Spent Bullets* (“A myth that a silver bullet magically is the only weapon against a werewolf, a witch, a monster or metaphorically a solution to a difficult problem such with penicillin curing infections,” Bradshaw notes). Her *Spent Bullets* came out of a late 70s Utopian gesture to repurpose deadly weapons, in this case .38 caliber New York Police Department shot slugs “into earrings that “are better to wear on the outside.” Life, or the struggle to hold on to it is invoked by a small marble statue *Mercury Mercury*, the mythological god of travel, currency and thieves whose caduceus, the medical symbol he carries with the double snakes and winged finial wraps around a mercury thermometer fabricated in a laboratory in Vienna. *Conundrum*, the lead feather represents another paradox not unlike *Nothing*, the empty golden shell that she suggests evokes “The Zen monk’s counsel that success is dust.”

“Often I use unstable substances intended to change, however here they are meant to be immutable,” Bradshaw comments. The chosen elements have become subjects, words, materials that tautologically refer to themselves as they simply are. While at the same time they exist as part of an infinite game of cross-references that can create endless, mirrored and mirroring cosmos, ‘[...] there is not an all, given all at once: there is a finite number of elements whose combinations are multiplied to billions [...]’ Italo Calvino from *The Castle of Crossed Destinies*.

Melissa Destino



*Eden Myth, 2016/18*  
Arsenic / Apple seeds





*Lucifer*, 2017/2018  
Sulfur; life size



*Nothing III, Series 2, 1979/2019*  
18 carot gold cast of a goose eggshell



*Conundrum,*  
Lead cast of a goose feather



*Mercury Mercury, 2018*  
Marble, glass, coral, mercury; 14 inches height





*Spent Bullet Earrings, 1979/2019*  
Silver cast of a .38 caliber bullet





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VIENNA