

Vanessa LONGO

Your every breath is mine, your every dream you owe it to me. so why do I desire to have your future?

Acrylic, graphite and copper foil on panel – 2020 – 63 x 29 in. (160 x 73.7 cm)



It's Livia's turn to meet Daria, her emotional clone residing on FlorencebytheMoon. Livia lived for forty-two years without ever wanting to know Daria. It's a choice. It always was. Since the FlorencebytheMoon artificial satellite was made operational twenty-seven years ago, Livia adhered without too much enthusiasm or expectations to the idea of lending herself to the creation of her clone. She was fit, and her friends did, she needed that money. The ambitious project also foresaw the possibility to meet its close on FbtM at the company's expense. Its name was Daria, she didn't want to know anything else, but she reliably assumed that her synthetic twin was leading a life, not unlike hers but like the other FlorencebytheMoon inhabitants, they followed in the footsteps of their donors, driven by the genuine impulse of their intrinsic nature. The clones on FbtM was the first of a series of experiments; the outcome had been absolutely extraordinary but had to be perfected. The duplicates looked the same, only slightly lower. They were also less intelligent, less loyal, and less sensitive in a nutshell a little less human. The clones were monitored h24, and only donors, surveillance personnel, and project doctors had

access to the recordings. If Livia had felt an interest in Daria's life, she could always have seen the videos about her. Livia led a serene life, had a daughter, Bea, and a companion, Mattia. The work of collecting credits sometimes bore her a little. Sometimes she woke up in the middle of the night with questions that choked her throat: life is all here? What if I followed my instincts, where would I be right now? When she and Mattia met, Livia traveled Italy thanks to her work as a decorator dreaming of being a full-time artist. Livia and Mattia were in love, traveling a lot, having fun, and enthusiastically looking to the future. It was precisely what Livia wanted from life.

That year everything changed.

The thought of her biological clock ticking loudly made her smile a little bit. It wasn't her but her companion who paid constant attention to that situation. Mattia, her in-laws, her parents, all exhorted her to the significant step that would make her a fulfilled and complete woman. Livia began to feel wrong, against nature. She did not feel that desire to have a child. But friends and family all told her that when he was born, her life would become full of joy and that she would love her creature more than herself.

Life changed a lot. But for the worse.

Livia was forced to find a more stable job and to give up the dream of being an artist. She felt screwed; she felt like her future had been stolen. She even began to feel a grudge against Mattia that made her choose the life she didn't want. Mattia was crazy about Bea, and he didn't seem to notice that little girl showing more of a twisted, edgy temper every day. Livia immediately realized that something was wrong with her and confided it to Mattia, who tirelessly justified the

actions of her daughter, attributing them to the young age. Livia surprised her daughter several times, deliberately harming small animals and perished in all ways to correct such attitudes. She felt lonely and desperate. Mattia did not want to see. One day Bea seriously wounded a companion. It was an accident she said in tears in front of the teacher. But once home, she approached her mother and whispered to her with a crooked smile: "I did it on purpose." Then she ran into her father's arms. Livia spent the night sleepless, decided to confess it to her husband. As was to be expected, Mattia refused to hear. Mattia refused to believe. But his attitude changed. He spent only a few words a day. His gaze was empty. A week later, Mattia disappeared with Bea. His car was found at the bottom of the cliff, an accident. But something inside Livia screamed that it wasn't true. Livia was distressed by guilt, she had to know, and the only way was to go to FlorencebytheMoon. After explaining what happened to the doctor in charge of the project, Livia claimed to see the video surveillance. The woman was confused, and in shock, the doctor thought it wiser for her to meet first Daria, her synthetic twin sister. Having no choice, Livia accepted.

Livia lost no time, and asked Daria about her daughter, wanted to know how she had died, wanted to know what had happened. Daria remained silent for a long time, eyes in the eyes of those who had given her life. Then she simply said: "it is not possible."

Daria lived with Francesco, as a painter. She had not had a daughter; she simply did not want to have children. Daria had listened to her soul. Daria had the courage to follow her own path.

Daria lived HER life.

The clone Daria was less intelligent, the clone Daria was less sensitive, it was predictable, but it was the one who returned to earth instead of his owner Livia, giving the woman the life she had so much wanted