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THE DIARY

## Francesco Vezzoli: Eternal Kiss, Almine Rech Gallery

*Roman busts are being given a nip and a tuck and incorporated into contemporary sculpture*

WEDNESDAY, SEP 09- SATURDAY, OCT 03

Artist Francesco Vezzoli is known for collaborating with film directors such as his trailer for the 2005 *Caligula* starring Gore Vidal, Helen Mirren, and Courtney Love and an advert directed by Roman Polanski for a fictitious perfume called Greed that starred Natalie Portman. He has also worked on site-specific performances inspired by Pier Paolo Pasolini, Luigi Pirandello, and Salvador Dalí, involving Catherine Deneuve, Cate Blanchett, and Lady Gaga.

[Eternal Kiss](#) showing ancient artifacts incorporated into contemporary sculpture, explores the role of classical sculpture as a vehicle of beauty. Roman imperial busts have been restored to their original form using Carrara marble. The artist describes the process as that of a cosmetic surgeon, "giving the heads back their beauty by mending broken elements, like noses. A sort of nip and tuck," he says. "It is as if I'm preparing them for a selfie."

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