

# Series:

**Dogs Dreaming Of Rabbits**  
**Rabbits Dreaming Of Dogs**

Produced

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## By Jason Macza

D.D.A.R.R.D.A.D. is an ongoing series interested in studying animal motion and movement, along with various metaphorical aspects and implications of animal play-fighting under the human gaze. Beginning with computer generated images of dogs and rabbits which then inform eventual sculptures and paintings, this series examines love, the complicated feelings of pain and fear that come with love, conflict, and self reflection. Upon deeper exploration, the process of creating these works has expanded these definitions for me, and has pushed me to delve into further examination of mental health and its relationship with the complicated and primordial love tangled within each of us.

The goal of this series is to visually represent the exchange of aggression and tenderness between animals as they play-fight. The example of play-fighting between predator and prey begs the question, "why would dogs and rabbits allow the risks associated with play-fighting? What are the benefits of taking these risks?" The play-fighting animal is relinquishing safety in exchange for a type of learning. There is an inherent danger during this act, along with the risk of possible escalation into real fighting. Perhaps the act of play-fighting untangles and refines a reward mechanism deep within each animal? Does this sparring fine tune the balance of interaction and prepare the animal for some real future conflict? In this exchange, both parties pantomime loss and gain of control, risking potential injury, but also diving head first into joy and excitement. A dance.

This work is a metaphor for the dance within human love and life. D.D.A.R.R.D.A.D. attempts to render the elements of vulnerability, risk, and reward, and transports this narrative into the realm of dreamscape. This balance is musical yet visual, emotional yet tactile; perhaps a type of synesthesia. The flow of this work is an escalation in tension and joy. I want to draw out slow and fast motion. I want the viewer to consider the anxiety and happiness that these play-fighting studies represent. This work examines and distills components into a dream ether of "Rabbityness" and "Doggyness." Creatures running, playing in conflict, in the stark white snow. Relevant in our times of pandemic, war, and strife, where isolation and existential fear are prevalent.

What do dogs dream of? Dogs chase rabbits in their sleep.

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