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You are what you eat: Artist uses body paint to disguise naked models as food and drink

- · Artist Filippo loco merges body painted models with still life shots of food and drinks
- The Italian-born artist paints and shoots his model before blending the photos with a still life on a computer
- The 47-year-old's creations include a range of desserts, vegetables, a hamburger and cocktails

By SARA MALM FOR MAILONLINE

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A Swiss artist has been devoting his time to turning the human body into something that, quite literally, looks good enough to eat.

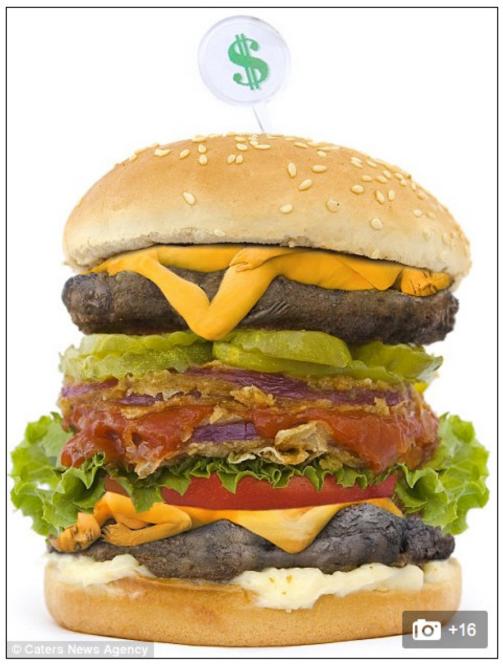
Filippo loco, 47, uses body paint to blend real life models into images of tasty dishes, deserts and drinks, including hamburgers, ice cream cones and carrots.

The artist, now based in Germany, spends up to a week on each image, in order to hide his nude models on plates and in martini glasses.

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Clever technique: Filippo loco creates his images by using computer overlay and blending methods as well as painting his models

The artist has previously used body paint to camouflage models and hide them in stunning landscapes around the globe, including South America and the U.S.

Mr loco uses a similar technique with his food and beverage project, merging the painted model with a still life photo of a dish or drink.

The 47-year-old paints the model and photographs them with or without props before preparing a separate food or drink shoot and completing the picture by with the help of a composite artist and a computer.

Mr loco, born in Leuggern, Switzerland, and currently based in Berlin, Germany, spends on average seven days on one picture.

He said: 'The Fun Foods and Cocktail Series really ignites the imagination and takes bodypainting and image making to a higher level.





Anyone for dessert? The female model has been slathered in paint in order to be turned into the ice cream atop these chocolate treats



Spicy serve: Another nude female model has become the celery stick in a Bloody Mary cocktail





Sweet tooth: The 47-year-old paints the model and photographs them with or without props before doing aseparate food or drink shoot

^{&#}x27;I have painted the human body into every imaginable environment or concept. Like all my work, this series is simply about pushing the boundaries of the imagination and challenging myself as an artist to grow and explore.

^{&#}x27;Foods and beverages seemed like the perfect avenue to explore. As long as I am alive I will always keep pushing and exploring the imagination.

^{&#}x27;For this series I use a combination of image elements put together to create the final image. Such elements include the human body, food or drink preparation and props such as the celery headpiece of the Bloody Mary cocktail or the cherries in the ice cream pictures.

^{&#}x27;It usually takes up to one week to complete an image. Luckily in front of the computer every shoot and element just seems to magically fall right into place. I don't know how that happens!



Bubbles all around: One model appears to be popping out of a Champagne bottle, while an embracing couple adorns a beer glass



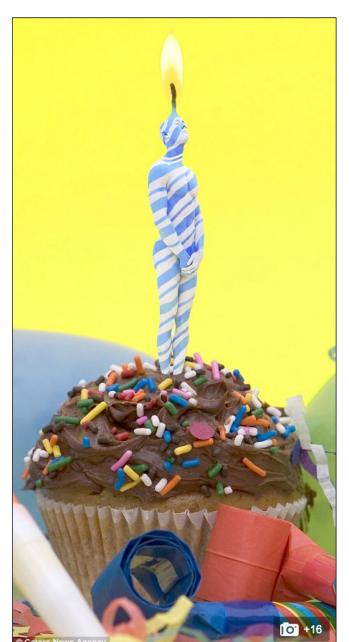
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Take a sip: Two nude models have been painted to create a blue cocktail and an Irish cream concoction



Banana split: Mr loco has painted the same model in three different shades in order to 'serve' this dessert





Happy birthday: Rather than hide his models in the frosting, the artist has painted them as the candles on top in these shots

'The excitement of seeing the image come to life trumps any patience required. Although it is extremely important to have an imagination and an eye for detail.

'My goal here is to create an image that appears natural if that makes any sense.

'These images can have many layers to them, therefore, everything must be clean and put together to perfection, that's where the detailed eye comes in handy and I tend to see things that most people don't see or take for granted.

'After the shoots I usually sit together with my composite artist, overseeing and directing him each step of the way.

'I enjoy working with the human body. As for models and people in general that I have painted, I enjoy watching how body painting has changed the way they see themselves and view their bodies. Most have walked away with a greater appreciation of how they are.

'People have always reacted to my work with enthusiasm, excitement and wanting to know how I did it.

'I just want to create powerful images that excite and open ones imagination to a world of wonder.'