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*You've said that making mistakes is the key to progress—could you give an example of a happy “accident” in your work?*

My fragrance *Blamage* in the collection of Nasomatto is a hymn to mistakes. We filmed a documentary around this creation, called *The Nose—Searching for Blamage*. Due to my approach to work and the way I operate, I continuously make mistakes. It's essential for me to create based on a feeling, to keep on searching and continually discovering.

*Which creation of yours is closest to your heart?*

*Megamare* in the collection of Orto Parisi. I put a lot of pain—mixed with excitement and joy—into my creations for the Orto Parisi concept. The project started after spending 10 days on the Irish coast looking for ambergris, then discovering the sea cucumbers from Canada, tasting Japanese seaweed. Not to mention odd physical challenges, like climbing the Norwegian cliffs and conducting unusual experiments under the water. All this inspired and led me to create *Megamare*.

*What should a really good fragrance do for the person who wears it?*

It should create questions. I want people to start asking questions after smelling my creations. I want them to start their own journey of discovery and create their own story.

*What is exciting you right now in perfumery, and beyond?*

I'm about to start a project around wine, and for a while now, I've been producing olfactive art pieces and performances.

*What's the attraction of animalic notes and human body smells for you?*

We deny our true nature, and often mislead ourselves. I'm attracted by a surprise moment and discovering the “truth” in it.

[1] Alessandro Gualtieri's cult fragrances range from the bliss-evoking, hashish-scented *Black Afgano*, to his heroin-reminiscent *China White*.  
[2] Eccentric perfumer Alessandro Gualtieri at work in his lab in Amsterdam.

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*You spent time working in big firms before launching Nasomatto. Did you approach your own business with a manifesto?*

I just put myself into my creations, and I put it all out there. I put myself out into the world through my work creations.

*Can you tell me a scent story from your childhood that has influenced your work?*

My father was a butcher. And my grandfather used to collect his needs in buckets and then fertilize the soil with them.

*When are you happiest?*

When my gut feeling starts telling me that new work is about to take a form. •



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