

Athena Papadopoulos

ARTISSIMA

→ NEW ENTRIES

Fuxia, Stand 06

Corso Vittorio Emanuele II, 12,
10123 Torino TO, Italy

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ENG: Emalin is pleased to present a solo presentation of new works by the Canadian London-based artist Athena Papadopoulos (b. 1988). Using a list of cosmetic, medicinal and edible substances, Athena Papadopoulos saturates layers of garments and gauze with red wine, lipstick, hair dyes, Pepto Bismol and self-tanner. Referencing the practice of self-augmentation – of dolling oneself up – these concoctions represent materials that are targeted at distinctly gendered consumer archetypes. As such, they are imbricated and bound up in the construction of a particular imaging of hyper-femininity.

For Artissima, the central sculpture Sick Love is flanked by a series of wall-based works that reference cheerleading culture, debauchorous social settings and missing women's reports. All works were produced in conjunction with the artist's novel *A Tittle-Tattle-Tell-A-Tale-Heart* (2018) and continue Papadopoulos' ongoing interest in dismantling that which underpins the constructions of womanhood through extreme performativity and complex materiality, allowing the artist to push and pull at the edges of sculptural embodiment.

IT: La pratica artistica di Athena Papadopoulos (nata nel 1988) si estende in una molteplicità di media diversi, che vanno dalla creazione di tele e performance alla produzione di oggetti che appaiono volutamente sensazionalistici e spesso istigatori di un umorismo per-verso. Nelle sue sculture sovraccariche di immagini, Papadopoulos incorpora elementi diversi senza alcuna gerarchia di significato, combinando materiali tradizionali, come trame di lana e tessuto, con ingredienti alimentari, medicinali e cosmetici: tinture per capelli, smalti per unghie, vino, ossa di pollo, test di gravidanza, pillole contraccettive, shaker per cocktail, strumenti ginecologici, mozziconi di sigarette, vermi liofilizzati e forme di vita acquatica sono soltanto alcuni degli elementi utilizzati nei suoi lavori. Nell'opera di Papadopoulos, l'azione di campionatura e ricombinazione è il punto di partenza per una riflessione che attraversa le strutture di potere patriarcale soggiacenti alle esperienze visive e alle relazioni sociali per smantellare i concetti di "femminilità" e "esteriorità", intesi come mere costruzioni culturali.

Athena Papadopoulos was born in Toronto, CA in 1988 and lives and works in London. Following her BFA at the University of British Columbia (Vancouver, CA), she completed her MFA at Goldsmiths (London, UK) in 2013. Current and forthcoming solo exhibitions include *The Apple Nun*, Liebaert Projects (Kortrijk, BE, November 2019), *The Condition of Being Addressable*, ICA LA (Los Angeles, CA, USA, 2020), and *Athena Papadopoulos*, MOSTYN Museum (Llandudno, Wales, 2020). Recent exhibitions include *Holy Toledo, Takotsubo!*, curated by Ilaria Marotta and Andrea Baccin, Kunsthalle Lissabon (Lisbon, PT, 2019); *A Tittle-Tattle-Tell-A-Tale Heart*, Humber Street Gallery (Hull, UK, 2019); *World Receivers*, Zabludowicz Collection (London, UK, 2019); *The Marvelous Cacophony*, curated by Gunnar B. and Danielle Kvaran, 57th October Salon (Belgrade, RS, 2018); *The Smurfette*, Emalin (London, UK, 2017); *Belladonna's Muse*, curated by Samuel Leuenberger, CURA Basement Roma (Rome, IT, 2017); *Wolf Whistles*, Shoot the Lobster NY (NYC, USA, 2016); *Streams of Warm Impermanence*, David Roberts Art Foundation (London, UK, 2016); *Wild Style*, Peres Projects (Berlin, DE, 2016); and *Bloody Life*, Herald St., London, UK, 2016).