

# Augustas Serapinas

## ARTISSIMA

### → PRESENT FUTURES

#### Stand 01

Corso Vittorio Emanuele II, 12,  
10123 Torino TO, Italy  
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Emalin (London) and Apalazzo Gallery (Brescia) are pleased to present Blue Pen, a sculptural installation by Lithuanian artist Augustas Serapinas (b.1990, Vilnius, LT).

Augustas Serapinas' practice flips our understanding of the built landscape, exposing architectural elements, hidden histories and social relationships otherwise concealed from sight. The artist's work, always site-specific, begins from an empathetic consideration of the people who create and constitute the organisations and structures within which we operate. Through engaging with the innocuous and overlooked details that build to define a life, Serapinas studies personal, anecdotal and situational narratives and relationships as an insight into broader institutional workings. By reimagining and restaging in between spaces – private areas of public buildings, unused enclosures or unknown and hidden spaces - Serapinas complicates and problematises the assumptions that are attached to them. In revealing previously undisclosed spaces as curious intermediaries that, in their revelation, assume new functions and meaning, the viewer is pushed to renegotiate those who inhabit these areas and our relationship to them.

At Artissima, the sculptural installation Blue Pen restages a project initially conceived at David Dale Gallery for Glasgow International. Interested in spatiality as a means of exploring the notion of encounter, Serapinas' research led him to learn of the relationship of the gallery space with its neighbour Clow Group Ltd. By conducting interviews with staff at the century-old family-run business Clow Group and David Dale Gallery, Serapinas collated a collection of memories about these spaces, revealing parts of their historical function and the experiences they have housed. The exhibition also presents the first occasion on which Clow Group have been commissioned to fabricate work for its neighbour and tenant, David Dale Gallery. The exchange, based on necessity brings together the separate logics, approaches and practices of two neighbours and joins them together, developing a relationship through production and exchange.

One of the anecdotes told during Serapinas' interviews with Clow Group's staff was of a gantry and access system that Clow Group produced for a Glaswegian commercial bakery 40 years earlier. As part of this commission, inspection platforms were installed over large industrial mixing bowls, used for combining the bakery's doughs. Upon completion, an engineer from Clow visited the factory to inspect the platforms. Intrigued by the process occurring below, the engineer leaned over the handrail to look into the mixing bowls. As he leant over the handrail, a blue pen tucked into his breast pocket fell out and into the bowl. Clow had to pay for the equivalent ten thousand blue loaves, and were not invited to produce more work for the bakery. Clow's company colour is Traffic Blue - RAL5017.

Augustas Serapinas (b. 1990 in Vilnius, Lithuania) lives and works in Vilnius. He completed his BFA at the Vilnius Academy of Arts. Current and upcoming exhibitions include *May You Live in Interesting Times*, Curated by Ralph Rugoff, 58th Venice Biennale of Art (Venice, IT, 2019); *The Dreamers*, 58th October Salon, Belgrade Biennial (Belgrade, RS, 2020); and *RIBOCA2*, Riga International Biennial of Contemporary Art (Riga, LV, 2020). Recent Exhibitions include *Various Others*, Sperling hosting Emalin (Munich, DE, 2019); *February 13th*, Emalin (London, UK, 2019); *Waiting For Another Time*, Apalazzo Gallery (Brescia, IT, 2018); *Where is Luna?*, CURA Basement (Roma, IT, 2018); *Blue Pen*, David Dale Gallery (Glasgow, UK, 2018); *Give Up the Ghost*, curated by Vincent honoré, Baltic triennial 13 (Vilnius, LT, 2018); *Everything Was Forever, Until it Was No More*, RIBOCA1 Riga Biennial of Contemporary Art (Riga, LV, 2018); *How to Live Together*, Kunsthalle Wien (Vienna, AU, 2017); *Four Sheds*, Fogo Island Arts (New- Foundland, CA, 2016); and *Phillip, Lukas & Isidora*, SALTS (Basel, Ch, 2015).