

~~A PICK GALLERY~~

CARESSING WALLS *to K.* **Esmeralda Kosmatopoulos**

Opening Tuesday September 14th 2021, 6pm

A PICK GALLERY presents *Caressing walls (to K.)*, a solo exhibition of the artist Esmeralda Kosmatopoulos, opening on Tuesday September 14th, in Via Galliani 15/c.

Esmeralda Kosmatopoulos (Thessaloniki, 1982) is a conceptual artist that explores two great topics - language and identity - through the use of different techniques.

Born in Greece and raised in Paris, she currently lives and works between Cairo, Paris and New York. Her work examines the definition and construction of memory, both personal and collective, which lies at the base of history and culture.

Personal experiences enter her work preponderantly and build connections between the past and the present, in search of the smallest common denominators that connect time and space within the human experience.

Through her installations and a series of photographic works on display, the artist rereads some verses of the "Cantico dei Cantici" (Song of Solomon), a text from the Hebrew Bible, composed of eight love poems written in colloquial form between a man (Solomon) and a woman (Sulammita).

The poem begins with the woman's expression of desire for her lover and continues with a dialogue between the two. The artist's works spring from the verses, an example is "My beloved is to me a cluster of henna blossoms in the vineyards of En-gedi" that becomes the triptych *My beloved is to me a grape from the vineyards of Engedi*, in which food is a metaphor and expresses love and sensual attention.

In *Caressing walls* the artist studies relationships through touch, our most instinctive and used sense; the sense that eliminates the distance between us and the other. In the digital age the feeling of losing touch is often present; having to relate behind a screen, to observe and interact through virtual spaces.

Esmeralda Kosmatopoulos rereads the common gesture of stroking something or someone, exploring the various nuances of touch and its limits. Every discovery takes place through the skin, seen both as a means of communication and as the boundary of our body. From pleasure to pain, the works on display process human vulnerability.

The exhibition opens within *Exhibi.to*, an event that sees the participation of different art entities in Turin distributed throughout the city, including galleries and cultural spaces, from September 14th to 18th 2021, and will be visible until October 30th 2021.

Her works have been exhibited in international galleries and institutions including the Times Art Museum (Beijing, China), La Panacée (Montpellier, France), Prison Galleries - Luciano Collections Benetton (Treviso, Italy), Somerset House (London, UK), Musée Zadkine (Paris, France), Kunsthal Charlottenborg (Copenhagen, Denmark), Künstlerhaus Wien (Vienna, Austria), Kunsthal Aarhus (Aarhus, Denmark), Palazzo delle Arti Napoli (Naples, Italy), AMA | Art Museum of the Americas (DC, USA), French Institute of Athens (Athens, Greece), CICA Museum (Gimpo-si, Korea) among others. Upcoming exhibitions include the Powerlong Museum (Shanghai, China) and the 5th Istanbul Biennial (Istanbul, Turkey).

Kosmatopoulos has also worked in partnership with socially engaged institutions such as the Organization of American States (Washington DC, United States), the Foundation Kayani (Beirut, Lebanon), Unicef Blue Dot (Athens, Greece), One Happy Family (Lesbos, Greece) and the Museum Louis Braille (France) in creating large-scale installations that increase awareness on social issues.