

PRESS RELEASE

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Kawita Vatanajyankur LOOPING PARADOXES

Exhibition: 18.09.2019 - 05.01.2020

[dip] new address: Via Dufour 1-3, 6900 Lugano

To inaugurate its new location, **[dip] contemporary art** is delighted to present Thai artist Kawita Vatanajyankur for her first solo show in Switzerland.

Protagonist of the contemporary Asian, Australian and American art scene, Kawita investigates the vulnerable female condition, provoking questions surrounding the place of cultural identity, feminism, women's work, consumerism and lived experiences - classified through a lens of hyper-coloured realism and the intensity of physical versus material composition and abandonment.

In her works, Kawita Vatanajyankur transforms her body into a site upon which issues of labour, feminism, oppression and consumerism are thoroughly interrogated and challenged. Vatanajyankur undertakes various repetitive and strenuous tasks, turning herself into mechanical tools and domestic objects as she pushes her body to its limits as a testament to human capabilities and female resilience.

Drawing from a globalized and digitally networked visual language of consumption and instant gratification, her videos bears semblance to bold and colourful commercial advertisements, only breaking away from their similarities within her constantly recurring moments of physical and emotional discomfort; the result is a bodywork that is as strikingly compelling as it is uncomfortable to witness. Vatanajyankur performs a series of physical experiments that playfully, and sometimes painfully, test the limits of her own body, and challenge the viewer to keep looking well beyond their comfort zone, while wilfully exploiting the global visual language of instant gratification in acid pop colours.

LOOPING PARADOXES features works from three different series, developed since 2015 and ongoing: *Performing Textiles*, *Work* and *Splash*. *Performing Textiles* is the title of a suite of video works in which the artist powerfully critiques the many challenges faced by Thai women (and more broadly Asian migrant women) in relation to the backbreaking physical manual labour processes of contemporary manufacturing industries.

The *Work* serie, is an exploration of everyday and domestic work, particularly telling of her Thai homeland. A place where, for many, daily chores aren't always assisted by electronic contraptions or white goods but are time-consuming, physically exhausting, and often the task of women. The videos' happy, day-glow colours, dark humour and undercurrents of violence, however, bring a universality and contemporary currency to the historical trajectory of feminist art. It is telling, for instance, that she describes her performances as "meditation postures", when such gruelling tests of resilience and fear are quite the opposite of what we might think of now as zen.

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But, for Vatanajyankur, extreme physical endurance offers a way to free herself from her mind: a mechanism to lose her sense of being. This deliberate objectification, she says, turns her body into sculpture.

Splash is a new approach towards a different artistic practice as it rather focuses on commenting the modified lies, modification and manipulations behind consumerism. Packages of food are printed and painted with surrealistic happy characters and graphics, bright and colorful logos, as well as idealistic and perfect shapes and colors of meat covering the truth behind the untold, unreachable, unseen stories of exploitations, violence and disturbance.

Withing the use of different media, this exhibition offers a vignette into the physicality and vulnerability of the feminine body, and the activities in which female bodies are engaged in almost impossible balancing acts, while captivating and luminous colors characterize an aesthetic research that draws on the visual language of the network, a sarcastic allusion to consumerism that claims to give instant gratification.

Kawita Vatanajyankur

Kawita has achieved significant recognition since graduating from RMIT University (BA, Fine Art) in 2011. In 2015 she was a Finalist in the Jaguar Asia Pacific Tech Art Prize and curated into the prestigious Thailand Eye exhibition at Saatchi Gallery, London. In 2017, her work has been curated into 'Islands in the Stream' exhibition by Alamak!project in collaboration with Concilio Europeo dell'Arte alongside the 57th Biennale di Venezia; into Asia Triennale of Performing Arts at the Melbourne Arts Centre, as well as 'Negotiating the Future' curated exhibition of the Asian Art Biennial Taiwan. In 2018, she showed her works as part of the Bangkok Art Biennale 2018. Vatanajyankur has exhibited widely across Australia, as well as Asia, USA and Europe. Vatanajyankur's work is held the National Collection of Thailand and in Museum collections including Singapore Art Museum, Dunedin Public Art Gallery (Dunedin Art Museum), Maaik Contemporary Art Museum, as well as university collections and private collections in Australia, New Zealand, Asia, Europe and America.

[dip] contemporary art

[dip] contemporary art is a contemporary art gallery located in Lugano, opened in October 2016 by Michela Negrini. Representing a range of international artists, **[dip]** aims at being a stimulating platform for exploring new developments in international contemporary art, across a range of practices and media, building a bridge between art and society, raising public attention on the issues that inspire and challenge our society.

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Dye, 2018-2019
C-print
40 x 60 cm
Edition of 4 + 2 AP



The scale of Justice, 2016-2019
C-print
40 x 60 cm
Edition of 4 + 2 AP



The spinning wheel, 2018-2019
C-print
40 x 60 cm
Edition of 4 + 2 AP



Carrier II, 2017-2019
C-print
40 x 60 cm
Edition of 4 + 2 AP



The scale 2, 2016
Video still

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Print, 2018 - 2019
fine art print
cm 150 x 100
Edition of 4 + 2 AP

Info:

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Visits:

From 18.09.2019 - 05.01.2020

Opening hours:

Monday: closed (or by appointment)
Tuesday/Friday: 14.00 - 18.30
Saturday/Sunday and mornings:
appointment only