

**CASCINA I.D.E.A.
presents**

**Vanessa Safavi
Dolls and Goddesses
curated by Marco Tagliaferro**

15 May - September 2021

opening: 15 and 16 May by appointment only

**CASCINA I.D.E.A.
Via Guglielmo Marconi 26, Agrate Conturbia (NO)
visit by appointment**

Agrate Conturbia, 28 April 2021. Immersed in the countryside of Novara, CASCINA I.D.E.A., the rural complex transformed by Nicoletta Rusconi Art Projects into a place dedicated to art and experimentation, from 15 May 2021 presents *Dolls and Goddesses*, the solo exhibition by Vanessa Safavi (Lausanne, 1980) curated by Marco Tagliaferro.

Created during the artist's residency in the spaces of the farmhouse, the exhibition explores, with humour and a sense of provocation, gender stereotypes, analysing the sculptural possibilities of the representation of the body and questioning the relationship with illness, sexuality and identity.

The works presented in *Dolls and Goddesses* are the result of Safavi's theoretical and formal research into the role of women in Western society, with a particular focus on the figure of the woman artist.

In her work, Safavi analyses different aspects of the human condition, comparing them to particular unexpressed qualities of matter: her aim is to bring out the perpetuation of vital energy, of that primordial force typical of female nature, which in pre-Hellenic matriarchal society was venerated as the generator of life.

The exhibition starts on the upper floor of the farmhouse, where a series of enamelled ceramics depicting women's breasts are on display: works inspired by the ex-voto, anatomical votive offerings which, in different cultures and religions, represent fragments of the body that are asked to be healed. On the lower floor there is a series of new works: enamelled ceramics reproducing details of hands (nails, fingers), and large silicone paintings. Between the two floors there is a clear division between aesthetic registers that belong to very different cultural and social contexts: if the works on the upper floor echo a historical and "bourgeois" taste, the lower floor is home to a domestic and homely world.

With *Dolls and Goddesses* the artist operates an ideal reunification of the female self, starting from the existential role of women and looking backwards at women's work through the centuries.

"I deal with the question of legitimacy and how the very definition of an object can be hijacked and become a subversive force against its original meaning." - Says Vanessa Safavi - "It is interesting to witness that today a new generation of young women, extremely aware of gender inequalities in society today and yesterday, are using these codes and aesthetics as a tool to proudly embody their new identity as women of the future."

CASCINA I.D.E.A.'s programming will continue in June 2021 with the residency of Thomas De Falco (1982) and his solo exhibition in October 2021.

Throughout the year some collaborations with artists and galleries will bring new works and installations to the spaces of the farmhouse, such as the works of Paul Gees and Marco Andrea Magni with Loom Gallery.

Expression of the soul of its creator Nicoletta Rusconi, collector and patron whose path in the art system is in continuous evolution, Cascina I.D.E.A. is supported by an association of critics, collectors, scholars, who support her in the management of new projects such as the Apulian edition of Cascina I.D.E.A., which thanks to the collaboration with Davide Meretti - collector and associate of Cascina I.D.E.A. - will see the light in June 2021 with the residency of the artistic duo Genuardi/Ruta. The personal exhibition of the artistic duo will take shape in the spaces of Masseria Canali after a period of residency in which the artists will have the opportunity to work on new productions.

INFORMATION

Nicoletta Rusconi Art Projects
www.nicolettarusconi.com

I.D.E.A. FARMHOUSE
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