

*Exhibition score for  
Femme Desires*

Rasmus Raphaëlle Östebro  
2018

*Femme Desires* is an invitation into a realm where the ultra-feminine reigns. Ruthless but deliberate, earnest but playful, the exhibition presents a femme sphere with acerbic wit.

Drawing from ASMR-culture, the featured works delves into issues of affections, desires, and power relations in connection to identity construction and gender performativity. The exhibition focuses on the utopian in exploration of power and embodiment; It presents a world built on a feminine vocabulary, where femininity is destined to exist for and be revelled by itself. *Femme Desires* is an alternative place where drag is used as a strategy for liberation - an interplay between protection and vulnerability, between room for manoeuvre and marginalisation. The exhibition creates a space where the potential lies in the imagination and its discursive possibilities.

# *Video installation*

Before the spectators enter the exhibition space, they are asked to put on wireless headphones that feature the audio of the video work *Femme Desires*.

The video itself should be installed on a flat-screen or alternatively be projected onto an object, but should always be placed in front of or above the draped backdrop that appears in the video work.

Captions:

*Femme Desires*  
2018  
HD-video  
07,02

*Backdrop*  
2017  
Acetate  
Dimensions Variable

# *Performance*

The performer is present in the exhibition space as the spectators enter the room. Sie is wearing a pinkish beige body, a beige ballet suspensory, beige fishnet stockings, 5-inch pinkish beige stiletto heels, long pinkish beige stiletto shaped nails, and a beige wig-cap.

At first, the performer is not confrontative towards the spectators but makes sure they feel noticed. Hir gaze is mostly following hir own hands while moving them in a graceful way between different poses and gestures. After a while, the performer starts to move hir hips slowly from side to side. The gaze wanders from hirself out into the room and towards a full-length mirror that is placed in the exhibition space. The performer discovers hirself and walks towards hir own reflection while gently swinging hir hips. When facing hir own reflection sie begins to touch hir face and a smile that communicates self-acceptance appears. While gazing into the mirror the hands leave the face and are directed towards hir body. The hands begin to examine and accept hir appearance. The smile is still present but fades naturally. After a while, the performer takes a few steps back in reverse and turns around towards the spectators while making eye contact. The gaze is earnest but friendly. Hir hands are placed on hir chest and slowly they begin to wander towards the shoulders and continues to move when the shoulders end. When the time is right, the performer drops hir hands while changing hir gaze and facial expression into something that communicates "this is me - this is who I am - please respect and accept me with love and kindness". The performers' breath is calm and sie stays in this position while maintaining the same expression towards the spectators until they decide to leave the exhibition space.

Caption:

*Femme Desires*

2018

Performance

Approximately 15 minutes

# *Sculptural objects*

There are several feminine encoded objects that are featured in the video work *Femme Desires*. A selection of these objects appear in the exhibition space as sculptural objects. The placement of these objects are not fixed and should therefore be placed and installed by the curator and/or the artist.

Captions:

*Wig*

2016

Acrylic, nylon, plastic

7 x 63 x 31 x cm

*Faux Fur*

2017

Acrylic, modacrylic, viscose

111 x 68 x 26 cm

*Jewelry*

2017

Plastic, glass, tin, brass

2 x 22 x 15 cm

*Stiletto*s

2017

PVC-patent, PU-leather, rubber

20 x 22 x 31 cm

# *Fragrance*

The exhibition space should be intensely scented with a combination of two different fragrance mists chosen and combined by the artist. The fragrance is a mixture of floral scent and bubblegum.

Caption:

*Fragrance*  
2017

Victoria's Secret fragrance mist: Blush & Passion Struck

# *Lighting*

All the lights in the exhibition space use a dark magenta-coloured light filter which creates intense pink lighting that runs through the whole exhibition.

If the exhibition features spotlights on tripods, they should be considered as sculptural objects in the exhibition space and needs to be specified with a caption.

Caption:

*Lights*

Specify year

Specify materials

Specify dimensions

