

Zoe Williams —

Fondant

PRESS RELEASE



EXHIBITION

**From 06.23.23
to 09.24.2023**

**Opening on
thursday, June 22th
at 5pm**

**Panorama,
Friche la Belle de Mai**

Curated by Vincent Honoré

About

Fondant : existing within a suspended and transitory moment, the Panorama space becomes a kaleidoscopic boudoir for a past made after, the setting for a scene which is both anticipated and already over, for the pleasures obsessed by desirous objects.

Confectionary, icing, moistness, fluids, fusions, lavas... The title and its connotations set the tone for the frozen spectacle orchestrated by Zoe Williams. Caught in a glistening crust, a honeyed heart is just waiting to spread. The images carried by the title announce the recurrent themes of the artist: taste, excess, eroticism, flames, the margins and therefore sexual politics, symbolic stakes of power and domination, consumption, and the economy of goods.

Fondant is simultaneously an exhibition and a scene exploring notions of artifice, camp, and class through sometimes forced interactions between the set and the bodies that engage with it, who are cast as: witnesses, accomplices, voyeurs and victims.

The ceremony: the space becomes an atmosphere. Ceramic mirrors with blind reflections surround a bed, the immensity of the Panorama transforms into an intimate space plunged into the void: a troubled bedroom. A huge curtain envelops the glowing red window, glazed ceramics, highly suggestive objects, uneasy photographs, a heady perfume, and a haunting soundtrack by David Aird fill the space and set the scene. Zoe Williams re-enacts the theatricality inherent in her work to construct a cinematic installation in which one simultaneously becomes an actor in a crime scene, a fashion shoot, a peepshow or a fragmented drama.

Zoe Williams conceived this project specifically for the Panorama space invited by Fræme, contemporary art, Marseille. She produced works for the site, partly in residency at Villa Arson, Nice, Studio Ernan Design, Albisola (Italy) and in Marseille. *Fondant* is the first monograph of the artist in a French institution.

Vincent Honoré



Zoe Williams

(born in 1983) Lives and works between the UK and France

Website
Instagram

Her practice incorporates a range of mediums including moving image, ceramics, drawing and performance and is often collaborative in its process and outcome. These elements are combined to create immersive objects and environments, which conjure a playful and corrosive interchange between notions of the erotic, craft, magic, gender, hedonism and excess. Through the cross contamination of these concerns, she wishes to provoke conversations around the pressures of power, the politics of sex and the economics of production. Her work explores the shifting use values of objects and rituals through history and within contemporary society. Food also plays a prevalent role within her practice, as a tool for exchange, disgust, and sensuality.

She is represented by Ciaccia Levi Gallery, Paris-Milan, and has worked with a range of national and international institutions including; Tate St-Ives, The Roberts Institute of Art, London, DCA, Dundee, Spike Island, Bristol, Dortmunder Kunstverein, Dortmund and Mimosa House, London, Le Credac, Paris and Villa Arson, Nice.



→ *Fondant sip*, digital photograph, 2023,
courtesy of the Artist and Ciaccia Levi
Paris-Milan. Photo credit Amy Gwatkin

Selected works

↓ *Bottoms up ensemble (The moonshine's watery beams)*, 2022, glazed ceramic. Courtesy the Artist and Ciaccia Levi, Paris-Milan. Photo: Sebastiano Pellion di Persano

→ *Piss in Boots (Living Currency Parlour set)*, 2022, glazed ceramic & Madonna lilies. Courtesy the Artist and Ciaccia Levi Paris-Milan. Photo: Marc Damage, Le Crédac, 2022







← *Crown Jewels (Fragonard fetish)*, 2022, coral, zircon, emerald, ruby, amethyst, pencil and watercolor on paper, in artist's silver-leafed wooden frame. Courtesy the Artist and Ciaccia Levi Paris-Milan.

Photo Sebastiano Pellion di Persano

→ *Smears of the night*, 2022, glazed ceramic mirror.
Courtesy the Artist and Ciaccia Levi Paris-Milan

→ *Ruffles*, aftermath of performance commission for Art Monte-Carlo 2019, set in the RIVA Tunnel. Courtesy the Artist and Ciaccia Levi Paris-Milan. Photo Boyer Manon

↓ *Figure of Vice 1 (Scorpion heart-passion scar)* and *Figure of Vice 2 (Transformations of rage)*, 2022, glazed ceramic.
Courtesy the Artist and Ciaccia Levi Paris-Milan

↓ *Ruffles*, suite de la performance commandée par Art-Monte-Carlo 2019, dans le tunnel RIVA. Courtesy l'artiste et Ciaccia Levi Paris-Milan.
Photo Boyer Manon





Since 2001 as a resident of la Friche la Belle de Mai, Fræme creates, develops, and implements contemporary art production and distribution systems. By articulating its activities around two dynamics, the professional career of artists as well as the exploration of the different meeting points between artwork and audience, Fræme initiates several experiments led by artists and the public, so many projects in which creation is part of a vector of individual and collective expressions. The association deals with the production of exhibitions, events, and artwork, nationally and internationally while engaging with the regional scenes, it is also a major actor of the art market with the international contemporary art fair Art-o-rama. Fræme is supporting artists through a multi-partner residency program, the publication of monographic books, and has been undertaking an active approach in cultural rights for many years, deploying a wide range of arts outreach activities and cultural projects for all.

Fræme is a member of PAC-Provence Art Contemporain and Plein Sud

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