



Summer Exhibition 2022

Sofie Ramos: *DEEP END*

June 23 – September 5, 2022

Union Works Gallery

Sofie Ramos: *DEEP END*

Sofie Ramos animates the inanimate and creates alternate existences for cast-off objects. She paints found home decor and furniture pieces, representing them as characters in her wildly imaginative installations and stop-motion animations. Ramos transforms each object by “cleaning” it in house paint in order to cover up memories and histories as she renders the object anew. In her installations, she piles these painted objects into small spaces that are bursting at the seams. The objects sprawl, stretch, and stack on top of one another in truly immersive, one-of-a-kind experiences.

DEEP END continues Ramos’ exploration of the fraught relationship between collecting objects of desire and hoarding junk. Disguised as a childlike funhouse of whimsical color and cheer, the artist’s site-specific installation explores a deeper understanding of the fragile imbalances between comfort and anxiety and between safety and confinement. Ramos activates objects in ways that feel simultaneously strange and likable. She builds trust with viewers as they connect with the space and really look and listen to what the objects are doing and saying.

Ramos’ installation also features her latest stop-motion animation, *Year of the Flood*. The video opens in a darkened room with cinematic music dramatically playing. Disney’s *Fantasia* runs on a small television with an overlaid monologue clip by psychologist Louize Carroll. She says, “We distort our thinking, we distort how we feel, we change reality so it makes it more palatable in the moment[...].” Ramos immediately transitions the audio back to Disney, with a distraught Alice from *Alice in Wonderland* who seesaws between tragedy and exuberance. The soundscape animates and punctuates the brightly colored objects as they move, break, pile up, and fall.

The juxtaposition of audio sources in *Year of the Flood* speaks to Ramos’ process of reexamining childhood favorite films through a critical, post-colonial lens. Films like *Pocahontas* are shown to children at an impressionable age and portray fairytale versions of history, denying and re-writing the reality and cultural significance of that history for entertainment purposes. Objects are made in the characters’ likenesses, such as the Pocahontas pillowcase seen throughout *Year of the Flood*. We collect these commodities and steep them in nostalgia and memory. As adults, we reflect on these objects and consider their unconscious messages about power, gender, and history and the toxic nostalgia attached to them.

The film concludes as Ramos makes a cotton ball cloud rain down onto the pile of junk in a metaphorical purge or cleansing. Gradually the objects are covered in blue paint, and a flood overtakes the mound in a metaphorical cleansing of the memories and histories associated with the objects.



Above: Sofie Ramos; *DEEP END* (detail); latex and acrylic paint on found objects, wood, fabric, foam, paper, cardboard & walls/floor + sound; 2022. Image courtesy of the artist.

Exhibited Works:

***DEEP END*, 2022**

Latex and acrylic paint on found objects, wood, fabric, foam, paper, cardboard & walls/floor + sound.

***Year of the Flood*, 2021-2022**

Digital video + sound, duration 6:30 loop

Courtesy of the Artist.

About the Artist

Sofie Ramos is a Los Angeles and San Francisco-based artist known for her large-scale sculptural installations of vibrantly painted and precariously placed household forms and textures. Her works bring other worlds to life and offer alternative existences for abandoned objects. Ramos investigates political and psychological issues by obscuring and parodying the relationship between fine art and everyday objects. Her stop-motion video animations reveal the evolution of a space and whimsical, sometimes unsettling narratives.

Born in Cincinnati, OH, Ramos received a BA from Brown University and MFA from University of California, Berkeley. She has had solo exhibitions at Fort Mason and Guerrero Gallery, San Francisco; FISK Gallery, Los Angeles; Mixed Greens, New York; and the Institute of Contemporary Art San Jose. Ramos' work has been reviewed by *Architectural Digest* and *Juxtapoz Magazine*, and she has completed residencies at LightSource, San Francisco and Facebook HQ, Menlo Park. Several of her murals appear throughout the Bay Area.

Exhibition-related Programs

Opening Reception

Thursday, June 23

5pm member preview

6-8pm free public reception

Artist Talks

July 14

6-7:30pm

\$12 / \$8 members

Exhibiting Artists Kate Casanova, Sam Grabowska, Mr. Hanimal, Jennifer Pettus & Estevan Ruiz discuss Body/Form in-person at BMOCA.

July 28

6-7pm

Exhibiting Artists Cristóbal Cea and Daisy May Collingridge discuss Body/Form via Zoom

August 25

6-7pm

Exhibiting Artist Sofie Ramos via Zoom

Create Your Own Handcrafted and Colorful No-Sew Soft Sculpture!

August 13

11-1pm

Price \$40 / \$35 members

Join embroidery artist Steffie Notion in-person at BMOCA to explore your own idea of the body in all of its forms.

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

Grossly Affectionate

June 23 - September 5, 2022

Kate Casanova

Cristóbal Cea

Daisy May Collingridge

Sam Grabowska

Mr. Hanimal

Jennifer Pettus

Estevan Ruiz

BMOCA at Frasier

Belgin Yucelen: Shifts Over Time

May 30, 2022 - October 9, 2022

Fall 2022

Kristopher Wright: Just As I Am

September 29, 2022 - January 22, 2023

Erin Kang: A Home Between

September 29, 2022 - January 22, 2023

Plane of Action

September 29, 2022 - January 22, 2023

George Perez, Kevin Hoth, Margo Wolowiec

InsideOut

El movimiento sigue

(The movement continues)

March 23, 2021 - October 23, 2022

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Please Do Not Touch Works of Art

Flash Photography Not Permitted

Boulder Museum of

Contemporary Art

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