



clemente ciarocca

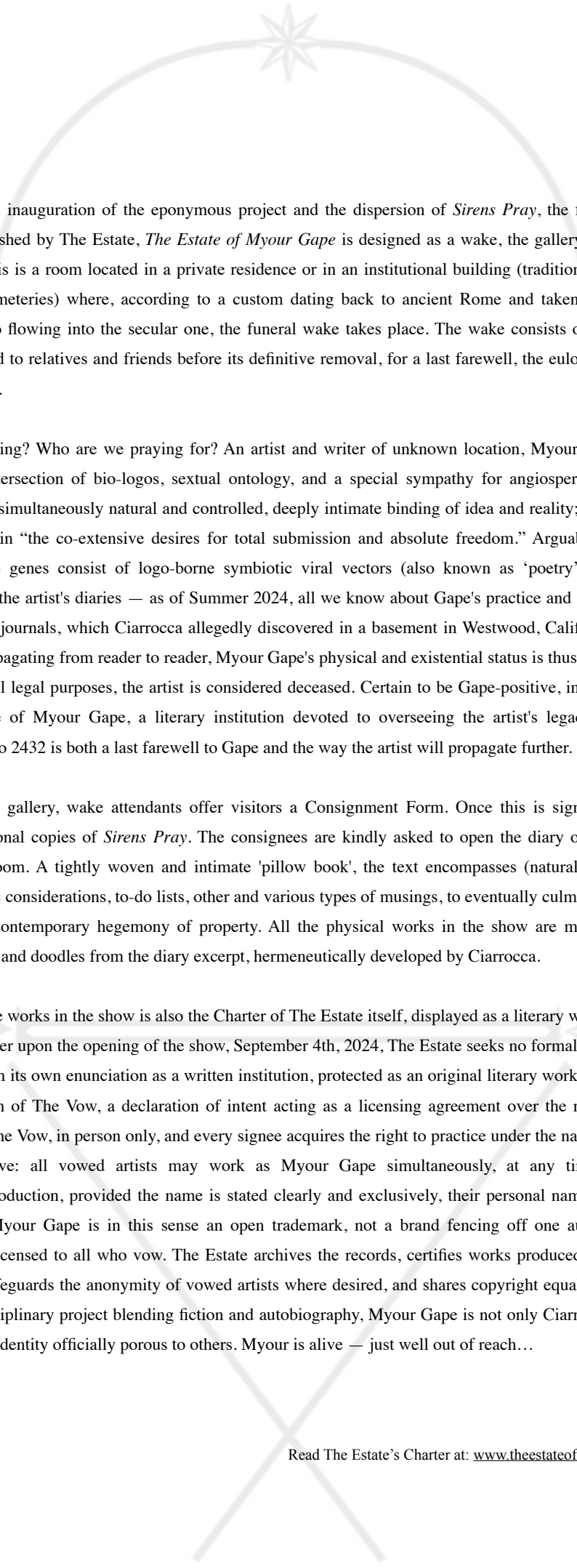
The Estate of Myour Gape

Castello 2432

Fondamenta dei Penini, Venezia

5th September — 24th November 2024

curated by Yasmine Helou



Coinciding with the inauguration of the eponymous project and the dispersion of *Sirens Pray*, the first of Gape's diary excerpts to be published by The Estate, *The Estate of Myour Gape* is designed as a wake, the gallery transformed into a *camera ardente*. This is a room located in a private residence or in an institutional building (traditionally churches, civic institutions, and cemeteries) where, according to a custom dating back to ancient Rome and taken up in the Catholic tradition before also flowing into the secular one, the funeral wake takes place. The wake consists of the display of the body of the departed to relatives and friends before its definitive removal, for a last farewell, the eulogy, and the possible recitation of prayers.

Who has gone missing? Who are we praying for? An artist and writer of unknown location, Myour Gape's work keeps unfolding at the intersection of bio-logos, sexual ontology, and a special sympathy for angiosperms. Gape's practice explores fetish as a simultaneously natural and controlled, deeply intimate binding of idea and reality; a particular kind of bondage nourished in "the co-extensive desires for total submission and absolute freedom." Arguably, simply a name, Myour Gape's core genes consist of logo-borne symbiotic viral vectors (also known as 'poetry') that disperse and reproduces through the artist's diaries — as of Summer 2024, all we know about Gape's practice and life comes from this extensive source of journals, which Ciarrocca allegedly discovered in a basement in Westwood, California, in July 2023. Unsupervisedly propagating from reader to reader, Myour Gape's physical and existential status is thus fully indeterminate. Consequently, for all legal purposes, the artist is considered deceased. Certain to be Gape-positive, in response Ciarrocca founded The Estate of Myour Gape, a literary institution devoted to overseeing the artist's legacy and spread. The exhibition at Castello 2432 is both a last farewell to Gape and the way the artist will propagate further.

Upon arrival to the gallery, wake attendants offer visitors a Consignment Form. Once this is signed, the visitors are entrusted with personal copies of *Sirens Pray*. The consignees are kindly asked to open the diary only once physically alone in their bedroom. A tightly woven and intimate 'pillow book', the text encompasses (naturally) poetry, personal reflections, romantic considerations, to-do lists, other and various types of musings, to eventually culminate in a theoretical meditation on the contemporary hegemony of property. All the physical works in the show are materic renderings of passages, fragments and doodles from the diary excerpt, hermeneutically developed by Ciarrocca.

Exhibited among the works in the show is also the Charter of The Estate itself, displayed as a literary work in its own right. Established by charter upon the opening of the show, September 4th, 2024, The Estate seeks no formal legal recognition: it exists purely through its own enunciation as a written institution, protected as an original literary work. Its central function is the administration of The Vow, a declaration of intent acting as a licensing agreement over the name 'Myour Gape'. Anyone may sign The Vow, in person only, and every signee acquires the right to practice under the name. These rights are strictly non-exclusive: all vowed artists may work as Myour Gape simultaneously, at any time and under any circumstances of production, provided the name is stated clearly and exclusively, their personal names omitted from all related materials. Myour Gape is in this sense an open trademark, not a brand fencing off one author's output but a collective identity licensed to all who vow. The Estate archives the records, certifies works produced under the name as authentic Gapes, safeguards the anonymity of vowed artists where desired, and shares copyright equally with each work's creator. An interdisciplinary project blending fiction and autobiography, Myour Gape is not only Ciarrocca's alter-ego, but a shifting notion of identity officially porous to others. Myour is alive — just well out of reach...

clemente ciarrocca

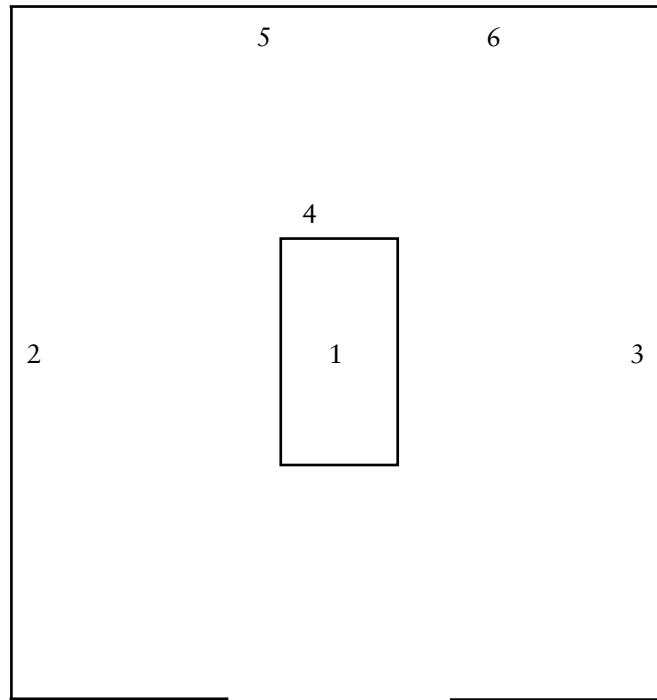
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Myour's Coffin

2024 / Silk velvet, lilies, sound

160 x 85 cm

courtesy of the artist and The Estate of Myour Gape
sound recorded and produced by Giangiacomo Gallo

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Friday 21/05

2024 / silver relating print, acetate, Danae frame

27 x 18 cm

courtesy of the artist and The Estate of Myour Gape

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Tuesday 25/05

2024 / archival laser prints on vellum

50 x 70 cm (framed)

courtesy of the artist and The Estate of Myour Gape

)((5 (((

Sunday 9/05

2024 / TPE, white bathroom door

200 x 58 cm

courtesy of the artist and The Estate of Myour Gape

)((3 (((

Sunday 23/05

2024 / archival laser print on pvc, dried rain, cardboard

50 x 70 cm (framed)

courtesy of the artist and The Estate of Myour Gape

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Charter of The Estate of Myour Gape

2024 / archival laser prints on recycled paper, ink

47 x 68 cm (framed)

courtesy of The Estate of Myour Gape

wake attendants: Sabrina Coco, Gaia Camilli, Alessandro Orazi, Elena Orlunghi, Elisa Guadagnini, Lara Lazzaris

very special thanks to Angie Power, CMCD

dedicated to my(our) Prince of Paradox

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