

# Martina Simeti

Presents

RM

Trojan Horse

With a text by Barbara Casavecchia

16 September – 9 November 2022

Opening 15 September 18.30-20.30

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Press preview 15 September from 12.30 to 14.00

Mandatory registration by emailing to: [contact@martinasimeti.com](mailto:contact@martinasimeti.com)

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Martina Simeti is delighted to present Trojan Horse, RM's first solo exhibition in Italy. The exhibition will be visitable from 16 September to 9 November 2022.

Set up in the gallery spaces, Trojan Horse continues the investigation begun by the artistic duo RM with the exhibition Bloodsuckers, held at the Swiss Institute in New York in winter 2022. For their first solo exhibition in Italy, the duo – founded in 2015 and based between Geneva and Berlin – proposes a new set of works evoking bedbugs as “carriers of invisible Others”: a pair of double sheets and their pillowcases with crocheted embroidered inserts and a wooden sculpture that faithfully reproduces a prototype of the vacuum cleaner.

Making ample use of irony and dark humour, RM explores the mechanics of transmission, the secrecy of nocturnal intimacy, the “fictitious and sacred space of privacy.” Linguistic detours, stigma and shame are transformed into tools for claiming our history, bringing to the surface the inequalities that pervade contemporary society.

“Bedbugs (*cimex lectularius*) use vacuum cleaners to travel, propagating from one office or apartment to another as they are swept up by domestic pieceworkers. Industrial vacuum cleaners, which promise the aseptic gift of cleanliness, are their Trojan horses: they become carriers of invisible Others, whose hosts we become. Even the bugs and viruses that infest our computers use Trojans to enter, grow and multiply, invading the fictitious and sacred space of privacy. Many compartmentalisations between inside and outside are illusions, and it is salubrious for them to flake, like our skin, inhabited by the dermal microbiota (mites, mycetes, bacteria and viruses), the commensal that helps us get rid of dead cells: the higher the biodiversity, the fewer the potential pathogens” (From the text by Barbara Casavecchia).



2022: RM: Trojan Horse

Sticky night leaving sweat prints on sheets. Your body is impressing.  
Two in this bed, but too hot for any touching. Roll aside (*squish squish* popping bugs from a past show),  
a truce now. I need to restore my energy, to breath, refresh. A warning sprayed on a mattress in the  
street says:

*Xchange what  
is chased*

in favour of a cleaner environment for me and my guests. I show through the tidiness of a parlour that I am not an infectious carrier, a trojan horse, I have my shit together.  
My bedroom in the meanwhile, that's another story - *are you open minded behind closed doors?*<sup>1</sup>  
Parasites draw the line between what's the inside and the outside: a sieve hinders their siege.  
And we saved enough to buy an ergonomic tool, a prototype. Make ourselves a present that is so new that can't be a trickster. It's Clavileño, a flying wooden horse (lacking any detail, but we see a horse, a pin on its forehead). Close your eyes Sancho we are taking off.  
It's full and thick and carries no secret. Welcome to a show of the 60s, a second wave and the so interesting so appealing domesticity. However, here's the Hoover, smash yourself.  
Wooooooooooooooooooooooooosh. And you are either sucked gone into hyperspace Sancho or else stuck in a HEPA filter. There's your truce, celebrated by a gift too big to fit the doorway. Mistrusted warnings (Cassandra, Laocoon). Then be the doorway removed, then the ceiling, and wall by wall the house is gone. The house that's the past and the future has finally left room for this present.  
Beware of hollow things Chacho. Trust the full and not what's holey.

# Martina Simeti

RM

The artist duo, founded in Geneva in 2015 and formerly known as Real Madrid, recently changed their name in the wake of a legal dispute. De-christened, they now proceed under the name RM.

Their work has been exhibited in private and public institutions such as the Swiss Institute New York, Aye-Aye Copenhagen, CCS Paris, Macro Rome, CAC Geneva, the Rome Quadriennale, Migros Museum Zurich, ICA Milan, Plymouth Rock Zurich. In 2018 they were artists-in-residence at FAAP Sao Paulo and ProHelvetia Johannesburg; and in 2017 at the Goethe Institute São Paulo. They received a Swiss Art Award in 2018 and were finalists for the BNP Paribas Prize in 2017. In 2019–20 they were fellows at the Swiss Institute in Rome.

In 2023 they will exhibit at the CEC in Geneva and at Auto Italia South East in London.