

GALLERIAPIÙ

Débora Delmar

LIBERTY

Opening 23.09.22 h.15-21

24.09.22 > 26.11.22

Débora Delmar presents her second solo exhibition at GALLERIAPIU, a new body of work alongside site-specific interventions within the gallery.

In *LIBERTY*, the artist continues her investigation on the circulation of goods, property ownership, and the boundary between private and public space, highlighting the current cost of living crisis. The title provides several stimuli and refers not only to Liberty of London (one of the longest running luxury department stores in English history) an "artistic shopping paradise" as defined by Oscar Wilde, but also to the value of goods, analysing their origin, production, distribution and consumption.

The interventions and artworks in the exhibition follow the typical *modus operandi* of the Mexican born, London based artist. The production is carried out mostly through online purchases, as well as including objects and images obtained and encountered by the artists throughout her travels and day to day experiences. The result of this juxtaposition of personal and global references generates works that appear familiar, yet are simultaneously alien.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a publication of an editorial project containing two newly commissioned texts: an essay by **Gianluca Didino**, a contemporary thinker-writer; whose text brings together a series of personal cues and historical-theoretical notions in order to narrate the different facets of the themes introduced by Debora Delmar. The second text by **Joshua Leon**, a poet, writer and visual artist, takes the form of a travel diary coupled together with a diagram developed following discussions with the artist about the exhibition, which illustrates the conceptual processes she carried out.

Accompanying the press release is an installation and instruction manual for the exhibition created by the artist.



Débora Delmar (b.1986 Mexico City, Mexico) investigates the effects of globalisation on everyday life focusing on issues of class, gender, cultural hegemony and gentrification. This is borne from the omnipresent influence of the United States in Mexico, and in the wider world. Within her practice she examines the contextual value of goods, analysing their systems of production, distribution and consumption. In her installations Delmar frequently references the sanitised aesthetic utilised in non-spaces, a neologism coined by sociologist Marc Augé to describe places such as banks, airports as well as corporate and government buildings, which are commonly under surveillance. She's particularly interested in the psychological and behavioural influence of this kind of architecture. Physical barriers working as metaphors for political and societal restrictions have been a recurrent subject matter in recent projects.

Delmar often works with appropriated images and objects, local production processes as well as direct architectural interventions. She frequently incorporates immaterial components within her exhibitions such as video, text, sound, scent, and situations.

Selected exhibitions include *Body Blend Trade Culture*, Museo Universitario del Chopo, MX, 2014, *Upward Mobility*, Modern Art Oxford, UK, 2015; 9th Berlin Biennial, DE, 2016; Biennial of the Americas, US, 2016; and more recently Femsa Biennial, Michoacán, MX, 2020-2021. She has received numerous grants such as the Jumex Museum Scholarship, MX, 2016-2018; Red Mansion Art Prize, UK/CN, 2018; and the Wolfson College Cambridge RA Graduate Prize, UK, 2019. She has recently been appointed as one of the Stanley Picker Fellows in Art & Design.

Liberty (brief)

Reflective one way silver mirror film* to be installed on all gallery windows.

*'Two way mirror film (also known as one way mirror film) is a window privacy film that blocks 95% of light and delivers the highest level of privacy. During the day, sunlight creates glare on the surface of the mirror, preventing people from seeing inside. At night, the film still provides privacy due to the extremely high level of reflection and opacity, which reflects ambient glow from street lights, security lights, and city glow.' [1]

A photograph taken by the artist of *Liberty's** *Carline Rose Tana Lawn™ Cotton* fabric to be printed into classic wallpaper covering all corridor walls. The same photograph to be printed 3 x to Dibond (Butler Brushed).

*Liberty London's floral pattern fabrics have been one of their staple and best-selling products since its opening.

'When our adventurous founder Arthur Lasenby Liberty laid plans for a London emporium laden with luxuries and fabrics from distant lands, his dream was to metaphorically dock a ship in the city streets. To this day, a voyage of discovery awaits on the good ship Liberty, with history hidden amongst six floors of cutting-edge design, unexpected edits and beautiful wares from the world's greatest craftspeople. In 1875, Arthur borrowed £2,000 from his future father-in-law and took a building on Regent Street, London with just three dedicated staff and plenty of ambition. Liberty's collection of ornaments, fabric and objets d'art from around the world proved irresistible to a society intoxicated at the time by Japan and the East and Liberty effected social change in interior design and dress, so much so that the Art Nouveau period in Italy is called 'Liberty Style'. Within eighteen months the loan was repaid.' [2]

Four house number lights* displaying the numbers 5, 43, 36c and 38b** to be mounted in/on plexiglass cases.

* 1 x *Thesi - timeless LED house number lamp, black*

1 x *Lucande Kosman LED house number lamp*

1 x *Light and house number at the same time -Loena outdoor LED wall lamp*

1 x *Beautiful lamp for house number Modena 7655 black*

**5, 43, 36c and 38b are the house numbers that the artist has resided in during the past five years in London. The artist was required to submit her tenancy agreements throughout this period for her UK permanent residency application (also known as Indefinite Leave to Remain). 'Documentary evidence of continuous residence in the UK. As set out in section 5, we expect that many people will have their residence confirmed by automated checks of HMRC and DWP data. However, where those checks indicate that an applicant who does not hold a permanent residence document has been continuously resident in the UK for a period of less than five years - or do not indicate that the applicant has been and remains continuously resident here - the applicant will be able to upload documentary evidence to satisfy the Home Office caseworker that they are continuously resident here and, where appropriate, that they have been so for five years.' [3]

4 x *Ancient Metal Fence* (sets of 4 metal garden fences) to be arranged in square formations, each surrounding a series* of *Sylvanian Families™** Homes*.

- * 1 x *Sylvanian Families 5393 Sweet Raspberry Home*
- 1 x *Sylvanian Families 5303 Red Roof Cosy Cottage*
- 1 x *Sylvanian Families 5493 Red Roof Tower Home Doll House*
- 1 x *Sylvanian Families 2745 House with 3 Stories*
- 1 x *Sylvanian Families 5302 Red Roof Country Home*

***Sylvanian Families* originated in Japan and made the journey to the UK in 1987. It became an iconic toy of the '80s and received the UK Toy of the Year award for three years running. Sold in over 50 countries, *Sylvanian Families* is a global brand, with themed restaurants and a dedicated theme park in Japan. [4]

1x *MEMOEURO Bill** which was purchased for €2 by the artist from a souvenir vending machine in Lübeck, Germany to be framed within an aluminum frame.

**MEMOEURO* are limited edition €0 banknotes that depict a variety of landmarks, which tourists can purchase as memorabilia. Despite closely resembling the design of other Euro notes, these bills hold no value as currency.

This note in particular depicts the Holsten Gate which was built in 1464 by architect Hinrich Helmstede and is regarded today as the symbol of the city of Lübeck, Germany.

As stated in *MEMOEURO*'s website about this edition:

'The Holstentor, the most famous landmark of the Hanseatic** city of Lübeck, already adorned the 50-mark note in the days of the DM. It recently adorned the front of *EUROSCOPE*'s souvenir banknote and is once again a popular collector's item. Back: default. Edition: 5,000 pieces' [5]

***Hanseatic League*, also called *Hansa*, German *Hanse*, organization founded by north German towns and German merchant communities abroad to protect their mutual trading interests. The league dominated commercial activity in northern Europe from the 13th to the 15th century. (*Hanse* was a medieval German word for "guild," or "association," derived from a Gothic word for "troop," or "company.") [6]

Débora Delmar, 2022

[1] <https://www.twowaymirrors.com/two-way-mirror-film/>

[2] <https://www.libertylondon.com/uk/information/our-heritage.html>

[3] <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/eu-settlement-scheme-statement-of-intent/annex-a-documentary-evidence-of-continuous-residence-in-the-uk>

[4] <https://sylvanianfamilies.co.uk/about>

[5] <https://memoeuro.eu/tag/holstentor/> (translated by the artist)

[6] <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hanseatic-League>