



OPENING 15 DECEMBER 6–8PM
16 DECEMBER 2022 – 28 JANUARY 2023

KARMA
INTERNATIONAL

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Press Release

Mélanie Matranga

Notes

16 December 2022 - 28 January 2023

Opening 15 December, 6 - 8 pm

Notes, Mélanie Matranga's solo show at Karma International, is summarizing the ongoing artistic research throughout her artworks. The title seems to go beyond the implication of personal documentation and addresses a quality of being casual and informal.

Topics such as solitude, intimacy and community unfold through various materials and media from installation and object to drawing, polaroid and film. Rather than individual entities, the art pieces occupying two floors emit mood and atmosphere that overlaps with each other, collectively summoning a spatiality throughout the exhibition.

Intimate, fragile objects are carved out from private life and transformed into witness of bodily memories. « To dwell means to leave traces » as Walter Benjamin wrote, the pieces of lingerie glows and illuminate the exhibition space, as if they are radiating messages left by their inhabitants. The drawings and polaroids seem like casual documentation of a life quotidian. They are easy-going, almost like traces of a funny solitary game probably at home.

The seemingly domestic interiority is shared among the artworks while presented in various ways: from the choice of the objects (they are almost entirely domestic objects) to the way the drawings, pictures and films are made. Unveiling these intimate interiors is key to understand the paradox of what the artist calls as « being alone with others », the paradox that the solitude both unveils indispensable emotions to the self and shields/isolates them from the others.

The emotions evoked by the artworks are not grounded in a singular subjectivity. On the contrary, they almost refuse to exemplify, for the sake of its potentiality. The artist insists on working with feelings that transcend vocabulary with prescribed meanings, be it the given visual-aesthetical or social-political. In the film *People* (2021) on the upper floor, we might pick up moments that hit our soft spot, but we cannot forge those situations into one lived experience while the camera flies through different worlds. Nevertheless, there are moments when the dialogue stops by the kid in the other room, when a hand reaches into the jeans, when the eye contact stops after one person opened up their mind. These seemingly unrelated moments resonate with each other when captured by the blown-up camera perspective. As Lauren Berlant stated: « where love and desire are concerned, there are no adequate examples ». Matranga works closely with her community, and assembles the plural lived experience into a fragmented whole. If a relation of desire creates a « space » in which its trajectories and complexities are repeatedly experienced and represented, Matranga's approach would be a kind of mapping of those affects, where self and others are no longer incommensurable.

To enter this realm, one must firstly lower their head and submit oneself to the self-respect.

Shen He



Mélanie Matranga
self / respect, 2022
 Metallic bar, acrylic paint
 Variable dimensions



Mélanie Matranga
My Shape, 2017
 Ink drawing on paper T-shirt, cigarette burns,
 framed
 111 x 106 x 5.5 cm
 43 3/4 x 41 3/4 x 2 1/8 in



Mélanie Matranga
tbt, 2017
 Ink drawing on paper T-shirt, framed
 111 x 106 x 5.5 cm
 43 3/4 x 41 3/4 x 2 1/8 in



Mélanie Matranga
My shape, 2022
 Paper, felt, light
 Variable dimension



Mélanie Matranga
NEED NEED NEED NEED NEED WANT WANT, 2022
 Ink on paper
 49 x 64 cm
 19 1/4 x 25 1/4 in



Mélanie Matranga
TRUTH TRUTH BLA BLA BLA BLA, 2022
 Ink on paper
 49 x 64 cm
 19 1/4 x 25 1/4 in



Mélanie Matranga
HELP HOPE NEED NEED NEED, 2022
 Ink on paper
 49 x 64 cm
 19 1/4 x 25 1/4 in



Mélanie Matranga
BAD LOVER NEED, 2022
 Ink on paper
 49 x 64 cm
 19 1/4 x 25 1/4 in



Mélanie Matranga
SAFE (HOPE) SAFE (HELP), 2022
 Ink on paper
 49 x 64 cm
 19 1/4 x 25 1/4 in



Mélanie Matranga
HOPE HOPE HELP HOPE, 2022
 Ink on paper
 49 x 64 cm
 19 1/4 x 25 1/4 in



Mélanie Matranga
WANT, 2022
 Ink on paper
 23 x 44 cm
 9 x 17 3/8 in



Mélanie Matranga
My shape, 2018
 Paper, light
 Variable dimensions



Mélanie Matranga
GOOD GOD DOG, 2022
 Ink on paper
 49 x 64 cm
 19 1/4 x 25 1/4 in



Mélanie Matranga
HOPE HELP FAITH LOVE, 2022
 Ink on paper
 49 x 64 cm
 19 1/4 x 25 1/4 in



Mélanie Matranga
NEED NEED NEED (ME), 2022
 Ink on paper
 64 x 49 cm
 25 1/4 x 19 1/4 in



Mélanie Matranga
NEED WANT / GOOD BAD LOVER, 2022
 Ink on paper
 49 x 64 cm
 19 1/4 x 25 1/4 in



Mélanie Matranga
WANT WANT YOU YOU YOU, 2022
 Ink on paper
 49 x 64 cm
 19 1/4 x 25 1/4 in



Mélanie Matranga
GOOD LOVER YOU NEED, 2022
Ink on paper
49 x 64 cm
19 1/4 x 25 1/4 in



Mélanie Matranga
Untitled, 2022
Polaroid photograph
9 x 11 cm
3 1/2 x 4 3/8 in



Mélanie Matranga
Untitled, 2022
Polaroid photograph
9 x 11 cm
3 1/2 x 4 3/8 in



Mélanie Matranga
Untitled, 2022
Polaroid photograph
9 x 11 cm
3 1/2 x 4 3/8 in



Mélanie Matranga
Untitled, 2022
Polaroid photograph
9 x 11 cm
3 1/2 x 4 3/8 in



Mélanie Matranga
Untitled, 2022
Polaroid photograph
9 x 11 cm
3 1/2 x 4 3/8 in



Mélanie Matranga
My shape, 2022
Paper, felt, light
Variable dimensions



Mélanie Matranga
No Drinking on the Floor, 2022
Ink on paper
29 x 41.5 cm
11 3/8 x 16 3/8 in



Mélanie Matranga
HELP, 2022
Ink on paper
29.5 x 41.5 cm
11 5/8 x 16 3/8 in



Mélanie Matranga
(HELP) PLEASE, 2022
Ink on paper
29 x 41.5 cm
11 3/8 x 16 3/8 in



Mélanie Matranga
YES NO, 2022
Ink on paper
29 x 41.5 cm
11 3/8 x 16 3/8 in



Mélanie Matranga
Truth, 2022
Ink on paper
29 x 41.5 cm
11 3/8 x 16 3/8 in



Mélanie Matranga
Chicken Families, 2022
Ink on paper
29 x 41.5 cm
11 3/8 x 16 3/8 in



Mélanie Matranga
My shape, 2022
Paper, felt, light
Variable dimensions



Mélanie Matranga
My shape, 2022
Paper, felt, light
Variable dimensions



Mélanie Matranga
HAHAHA, 2022
Ink on paper
29 x 41.5 cm
11 3/8 x 16 3/8 in



Mélanie Matranga
HOPE FAITH, 2022
Ink on paper
29 x 41.5 cm
11 3/8 x 16 3/8 in



Mélanie Matranga
Truth, Help, Need / Want Good Lover, Bad, 2022
Ink on paper
29 x 41.5 cm
11 3/8 x 16 3/8 in



Mélanie Matranga
ME ME, 2022
 Ink on paper
 29 x 41.5 cm
 11 3/8 x 16 3/8 in



Mélanie Matranga
My shape, 2018
 Paper, light
 Variable dimensions

Upstairs



Mélanie Matranga
My shape, 2018
 Paper, plastic
 Dimensions variable



Mélanie Matranga
My shape, 2018
 Plastic, paper, light
 Variable dimensions



Mélanie Matranga
Pharmakon, 2022
 Color video
 33' 18"
 Edition of 3 plus 2 artist's proofs



Mélanie Matranga
People, 2021
 Black-and-white video
 25' 21"
 Edition of 3 plus 2 artist's proofs