



Pedro Neves Marques
In Space It's Always Night

Opening: Saturday, 27 May 2023, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Duration: until July 28, 2023

Exhibition space: Casa Di Marino - Via Monte di Dio, 9, 80132 - Napoli

Opening hours: Monday - Friday from 10.30 am to 1.30 pm / 3.00 – 7.00 pm

A spaceship travels across the galaxy in search of a new planet Earth. Its tripulants are a “family” of vampires – after all, in space it’s always night, and having eternity at their disposal vampires are the perfect candidates to roam the stars.

Pedro Neves Marques’ new exhibition at the gallery Umberto Di Marino, titled In Space It’s Always Night, follows directly from the Portugal Pavilion at the 59th Venice Biennale, which combined film, poetry, and installation. Here, Neves Marques focuses on the series Vampire Poetry and the graphic and sculptural elements that compose this vampiric spaceship.

Painted on large-scale canvas, the patterns of the spaceship fill the gallery walls, collapsing the architecture of the gallery and the spaceship. Intuitively gothic and fanged, these patterns point towards an emotional, spiritual, and dynamic state of mind that disturbs commonplace ideas of neutral and hygienic spaceship interiors. These modules are accompanied with windows hosting a set of five poems, first presented at the Biennale. The poems voice the inner voyage of both these imagined vampires and the artist, and use the image of the vampire, historically prone to issues of the body, gender, and sexuality, to reflect on Neves Marques’ personal experience of gender transition. At times joyful, sometimes melancholic, these vampire poems confuse art and life, autobiography and speculation, pop cinema references and philosophy, body and mind, desire and gender.

This passion for poetry and the cinematic image, along with a faith in the visionary capacity of art – always two steps ahead of the artist, and smarter and wittier than the artist’s intentions – also a presence in Neves Marques’ photographs on show. In these images, the exercise of self-portraiture is projected into outer space and the cosmos, in a combination between science fiction and autofiction.



Pedro Neves Marques

The research conducted by the artist over the years has constantly questioned the premises underlying the relations between nature, technology, science, and colonial relations.

In all her projects Pedro Neves Marques highlights the transformation, in space and time, of cultural phenomena, from political and economic models to gender notions, expectations about the future, and even entire landscapes, as in Brazil, where they have worked for a decade now. As in her essays and literary oeuvre, the perspective adopted in her work emphasizes not only the contradictions within all of the above, but more recently also talk to intimate and personal stories that challenge preestablished political orders and images. To do so, her works encourage an ecological and anthropological approach to the definition of so-called natural processes, especially in relation to the technological and political sphere, through the use of art in a dialogue with other disciplines.

Pedro Neves Marques is a cinema director, artist, and writer, working across poetry and critical writings on art and theory. Storytelling, science fiction, and the political role of intimacy and emotions are defining elements of her work, through which she imagines possible futures and examines historical clashes between ecology, technology, gender, and sexuality.

In 2023, she presented, with Umberto Di Marino Gallery, a project in the Discoveries section at Art Basel Hong Kong. She was the Official Portuguese Representation – Portugal Pavilion at the 59th La Biennale di Venezia in 2022 and have been awarded a Special Prize at the Pinchuk Future Generation Art Prize in 2022 and the Present Future Art Prize at Artissima in 2018. Her work has been exhibited in major art institutions, including solo shows at High Line and e-flux (New York), CA2M (Madrid), CaixaForum (Barcelona), Castello di Rivoli (Turin), Pérez Art Museum of Miami (USA), Berardo Museum Collection (Lisbon) and Gasworks (London) and group exhibitions and film screenings at Madre (Napoli), Palais de Tokyo, Jeu de Paume and Kadist Foundation (Paris), Tate Modern Film and Serpentine Galleries Cinema (London), Sculpture Center, Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts and Anthology Film Archives (New York), Blackwood Gallery (Toronto), Beijing Inside-Out Art Museum and Guangdong Times Museum (China), VCCA Foundation (Hanoi), Fundación Botín and Matadero (Madrid), PAV Foundation (Turin), and MAAT (Lisbon), among others.

She has participated in art biennials such as Gwangju Biennale, Guangzhou Image Triennial, Liverpool Biennial, Contour 8 Biennial, and New Museum Triennial. Her films for cinema have premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival and the New York Film Festival, having been awarded the prestigious Ammodo Tiger Short Award at IFFR - International Film Festival Rotterdam in 2022, among other film festival prizes. She is co-founders of the poetry press Pântano Books and of the film production company Foi Bonita a Festa. Her critical writings are published regularly in e-flux journal and have been included in publications by museums and publishers such as MIT Press, Sternberg Press, and Verso. She was born in Lisbon, Portugal, and has lived in London, São Paulo, and New York for the past fifteen years.