

THE FLOWERING OF THE STRANGE ORCHID

Anna Higgins
Kira Freije
David Noonan

Peles

Weimarer Str.36, 10625 Berlin
pelesduo@gmail.com

photo credits: Trevor Good

08/03/24 - 12/04/24

THE FLOWERING OF THE STRANGE ORCHID

Anna Higgins
Kira Freije
David Noonan

09/03-12/04/24

The Flowering of the Strange Orchid' takes its title from the short story by H.G. Wells (1894) written during the Orchidelerium of Victorian era England. Upper classes feverishly collected rare exotic orchids renowned for their curious beauty and magic allure. In Well's gothic story, an orchidophile purchases a mysterious budding orchid that was collected from a remote island. When the orchid blooms after obsessive cultivation, it emits an intense overpowering perfume and its long tendrils begin feeding on the blood of its possessor.

Yukio Mishima, in his novel 'Forbidden Colours' (1951), claims "Beauty is something that burns the hand when you touch it." Similarly, Romanticism of the 19th century contended that when we come into contact with beauty, we may feel joy or love, but equally terror, melancholy, or leave the encounter overwhelmed. Orchidelirium caused multiple orchid varieties to become extinct and often orchids brought back to England putrefied before they could blossom. The pursuit of beauty can turn ugly, and often what is truly beautiful also contains within it something sickly.

The work in this exhibition touches on sensuous experience of both the human and nature. Its beauty and romance, as well as this dark shadow.

(text by Anna Higgins)

Anna Higgins

Anna Higgins (b. 1991, Melbourne) lives and works in London. Recent and forthcoming exhibitions include: *Photography: Real and Imagined*, National Gallery of Victoria, *Viewfinding*, Sapling, London, *New Paintings*, Sonya Gallery, New York, *Stargazing*, Museum of Australian Photography, *The Amber Room*, Matt's Gallery, London *Every Atom is a Mirror*, Royal Academy Schools, London, *A Place Beyond Heaven*, ReadingRoom, Melbourne. Anna Higgins is represented by ReadingRoom, Melbourne.

Kira Freije

Kira Freije (b. 1985, London) lives and works in London. Recent and forthcoming exhibitions include: *Leaps of Faith*, Z33, Belgium; *Phantom Sculpture*, Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre, UK; *Trickster Figures*, MK Gallery, Milton Keynes; *river by night*, Cample Line, Scotland; *The Throat is a Threaded Melody*, E-Werk Luckenwalde, Germany; *Meteorites*, The Approach, London, UK. Kira Freije is represented by The The Approach London.

David Noonan

David Noonan (b. 1969, Ballarat, Australia) lives and works in London. Recent and forthcoming exhibitions include: *Gwangju Biennale*, *South Korea*, *Malediction and Prayer*, Modern Art, London, *Masken*, Roslyn Oxley9, Sydney, *Only When It's Cloudless*, Tarrawarra Museum of Art, *Mnemosyne*, Modern Art, London, *Tapestries*, Anna Schwartz, Melbourne. David Noonan is represented by Modern Art, London; Roslyn Oxley 9 Gallery, Sydney and Anna Schwartz Gallery, Melbourne.

Titles:

David Noonan

Face, 2024
Liquid pigment on dyed fabric
Artist frame
57.5 x 42 x 4 cm

Eclipse, 2024
Liquid pigment on dyed fabric
Artist frame
57.5 x 42 x 4 cm

Mask, 2024
Liquid pigment on dyed fabric
Artist frame
57.5 x 42 x 4 cm

Anna Higgins

Pale Green Mist, 2024
Multiple exposure positive film on
Somerset Paper, archival varnish
129cm x 179cm

Kira Freije

rotation, 2023
Stainless steel, tin, candle
47 x 14 x 12 cm

double flight, 2023
Stainless steel, galvanised steel, candle
41 x 14 x 10 cm

tower, 2023
Stainless steel, brass, tin, candle
35 x 8 x 9 cm

search,
adrift,
the vast and violent field, 2023
Stainless steel, wool, linen, sheepskin
52 x 41 x 30 cm

PELES

Weimarer Str. 36 / 10625 Berlin /open by appointment

www.pelesduo.com
pelesduo@gmail.com



Installation view





Installation view

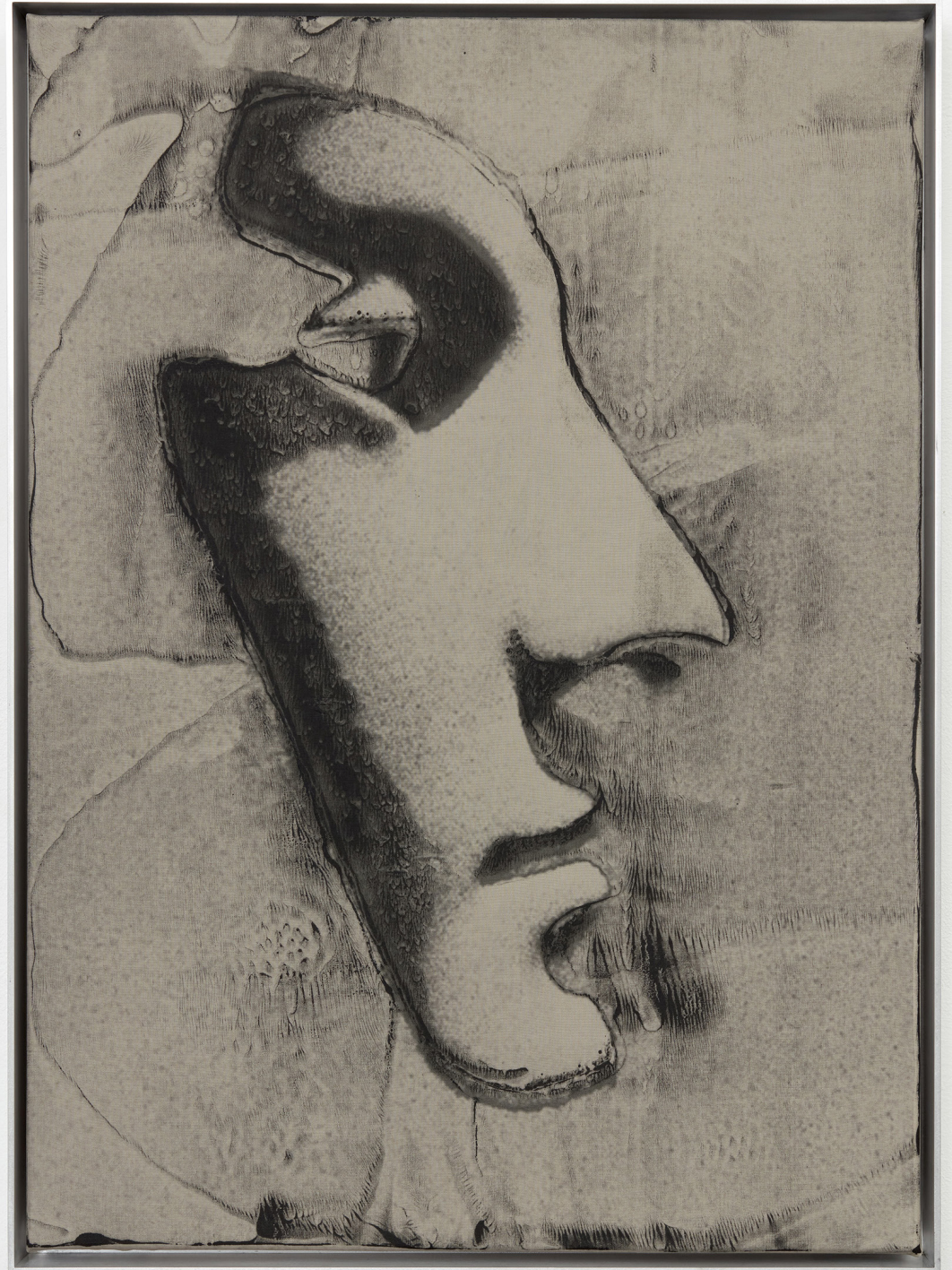
Installation view



Installation view



**David Noonan,
Face
2024
Liquid pigment on dyed fabric, Artist frame
57.5 x 42 x 4cm**



**David Noonan,
Eclipse
2024
Liquid pigment on dyed fabric, Artist frame
57.5 x 42 x 4cm**



Kira Freije
search,
adrift,
the vast and violent field
Stainless steel, wool, linen, sheepskin
52 x 41 x 30 cm



Kira Freije
rotation
2023
Stainless steel, tin, candle
47 x 14 x 12 cm



**David Noonan,
Mask
2024
Liquid pigment on dyed fabric, Artist frame
57.5 x 42 x 4cm**



Anna Higgins
Pale Green Mist
2024
Multiple exposure positive film on Somerset Paper,
archival varnish
129cm x 179cm



Kira Freije
double flight
2023
Stainless steel, galvanised steel, candle
41 x 14 x 10 cm



Kira Freije
tower
2023
Stainless steel, brass, tin
35 x 8 x 9 cm

