

# Bad WATER

## *Country Mouse City Mouse Hamster*

Tiziana La Melia

June 6-July 7, 2024

Late Summer 1999/2021 - 10 days in the country scurrying around to become a film crew while shooting fully saturated on tape. I slept on the floor beyond a minimally sound proofed door to steal my energy back from my 15 year old self at film camp not sleeping and making three films in one week. The embarrassments of youth are beautiful when you remember how devotional and desperate they needed to be before becoming embarrassing later on. Because the intricacy of our past desire was almost erased by magnets accidentally placed too near the tape and they are getting older and need to be baked back onto themselves. If those images were replicated in each of us feeding back exquisite tones the everyday magic of cooking and wearing clothes would become a spell to wake up an ancient feeling so potent it tunnels back through our belly buttons and overcomes all dread and complaint and lack of awe to play flutes for a pair of angels dancing in a bug's eye.

The bestial friends persisted beyond extermination. A mouscapade in 2003 where the cat/parasite hunts while wearing a clown collar and is forced to play instead of kill. Pigweedstemwildroot is brewed for a spell in the ditch, fallen, rotten, directed, she is tossing up interchangeable mice.

Time's pumping bellows reviewed a moon in a cow's eye. Solanaceae is a potency to soothe with the sun.

Trying our moments to live like episodic spirals inside a stale dated bless you tape with audible zooming jumpcut to:

"feels so good"

hair in the eyes

"so nice"

obscura edit

I like doing this <3

with friends of care somersaulting back into the earth :0

in fear - I detect changes in my environment

in anxiety - I prepare for the future

in confusion - I know there's too much going on around me

in panic - I protect when my life is in danger

in joy - I experience bliss and connection

in sadness - I let go of things that are no longer working

in disgust - I become a self

in envy - I access resources and attention

you will die and everyone you have ever known

will die

your toes

will die

the innocence of experience

converting hay to a beast

the experience of innocence

I know there's too much going on around me - let me look forward to the future

of being here

where are we going?

in the fry of everything that can be given voice to

adolescence

is like the dumb of a body getting ready to speak  
or the intelligence of the octopuses many limbs splitting open to reach  
for intimacies' bliss and connection  
our degenerate ancestors of bumbums waiting inside mother's loom tangled children for numnums  
ums  
devoted to consumption  
ums  
consumed by devotion

(we inspect each others folds for ticks)  
we spec each other  
awash  
in acid  
faded  
lines  
of borders unenforceable  
release  
from the drive to  
produce

– Kasper Freyer

**Tiziana La Melia** is a artist and writer born in Palermo (IT) and raised on Syilx territories and currently working on the unceded territories of the səililwətał, SƙwɁwú7mesh and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm. Tiziana's writing and art practice gleans the detritus of the everyday and transmutes it into material textures, and iterative shapes, sensation, symbols, which move through layers of diasporic time. Recent activities include teaching painting and writing at Emily Carr University and publishing a book of poetry that parallels activities in painting, collaboration, sonics, gardening, matter and grieving—titled lettuce lettuce please go bad (Talon Books April 2024). Recent exhibitions include confessions on sparkling hill at damien and the love guru (Zurich, 2023); C U at Dreams Comma Delta (Delta, 2023); Fly Robin Fly at Mecenes du Sud (Montpellier, 2021)

**Kasper Feyrer** was born in ləkʷəŋən Territory, and now lives and works on the unceded territories of the səililwətał, SƙwɁwú7mesh and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm. They root their practice in an embodied engagement with celluloid filmmaking and sculpture, with emphasis on the body's relationship to these media. They conceive of the camera as a bodily extension of the human sensorium — a device through which one can feel time and perception, and thereby aid or alter one's experience of the world. Feyrer graduated with a Meisterschülerin from the Städelschule in Frankfurt, Germany in 2010, and received a Bachelor of Media Arts, Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design in 2004.

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## 1. *Glint*

2024

rhinestoned poem on denim and ribbon, hamster wheel, birdcage, balloon weights, motor, resin, paper, jute, grommets, pinecones, rice, paper, collage, ink, grape stained parchment

## 2. *Knock Knock Poem*

2024

steel (salvaged door knobs), willow charcoal and leather paint on kitten heels (kitten healer), buttons, ribbon, watercolor on handmade buttons, confetti flowers, photographs, aluminum, tulle, paper, laminated magazine cut-out, polyester (dress)

## 3. *Country Mouse City Mouse Hamster*, 2023/2024

digital film shot on DVCAM

Length: 60 Min

Written and Directed by Tiziana La Melia

Cinematography Kasper Feyrer and Tiziana La Melia

Editing Ellis Sam and Tiziana La Melia

Soundtrack by Ellis Sam, featuring additional sounds by James Albers, Jonathan Scherk, Sam Dzierzawa and Tiziana La Melia

Costume: Tiziana La Melia and Natasha Katedralis

Project Manager: Natasha Katedralis

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Country shoot recordings with Amy Kazymierchyk, Rebecca Brewer and Hannah Rickards

Starring in order of appearance:

Martina La Melia, James Albers, Kiel Torres, Taro (hamster), Natasha Katedralis, Franca La Melia, Camilla Impronta, Franca La Melia, Rebecca Brewer, Suzy Chung-Smith, Reiko Inouye

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