

# Parent Company

## **Kat Chamberlin | *Tulip Mania***

Opening Reception on Friday, April 19, 2024, from 6–8pm

On view April 19 - June 8, 2024

Parent Company is pleased to announce an upcoming solo exhibition by Kat Chamberlin. *Tulip Mania* is a reflection on intrinsic value, power dynamics, and the complexities of human relationships.

Kat Chamberlin is known, especially online, for her contrarian perspective that challenges conventional narratives surrounding patriarchy and progressive utopias. Through her work, she delves into the metaphorical landscape of motherhood as an allegory for authoritarian governance. Here boundaries between individuals must be negotiated amidst inherent dependence and economic realities that commodify the value of human interaction. The exhibition explores the labor and economic value of love.

The centerpiece of the exhibition, *VICEROY* (2024), a fifteen-minute-long film shot in a single take, draws inspiration from John Everett Millais' iconic painting of Ophelia. The film is named after the Viceroy, a type of tulip that became extraordinarily valuable in the speculative tulip market during the Dutch Golden Age. These references intertwine with Chamberlin's personal experience depicted in a game played by the artist and her daughter. The game started during the pandemic lockdown and consisted of Chamberlin mopping the floor with her daughter's hair. This act, a gesture of play and perhaps madness, becomes laden with symbolic significance as the film escalates.

Chamberlin's materials articulate inherent contradictions. Ephemeral tulips are cast in heavy metal and then coated with velvety flocks. The flowers are distorted and take on the menacing form of a club implying a threat of violence. A crown, a symbol of hereditary power, is rendered in fragile glass. The objects confront the tension between power and powerlessness, love and brutality. The work articulates the delicate balance between connection and autonomy, selfishness and selflessness, ultimately asking, *what is love worth?*

An essay written by Christopher Scott LCSW-R, CGP, a clinical psychoanalyst, was commissioned as part of the exhibition.

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**Kat Chamberlin** (b. 1981) was born in the Netherlands and raised in Turkey. She currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. Her work has been exhibited across the U.S. and internationally in exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, The Chicago Cultural Center, Barbara and Steven Grossman Gallery in Boston, TSA, and BRIC in New York City. Kat completed her Masters in Fine Art at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and is the recipient of a Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, the Toby Devan Lewis Award, and the William Dole Award.

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*Parent Company is a nonprofit artist-run exhibition space founded in 2023 by Ada Potter. Located in a 250-foot shipping container in downtown Brooklyn, the project seeks to support artists through exhibition opportunities, public programs, and events.*