

GOSWELL ROAD

22 Rue de l'Échiquier, 75010 Paris

(xxxxi) Ema Gaspar, PLEASE, SLEEP
30 November 2024 - 25 January 2025
open Thursday - Saturday 14H - 18H

“It all begins with becoming-girl. But becomings are layered, one nestled tightly into another all the way down, and to pull on a skirt is already to begin to become a flower.”

Amy Ireland & Maya B Kronic, *Cute Accelerationism*, p.24

For her first solo exhibition in France, Ema Gaspar (b.1993 Almada, Portugal) summons a menagerie embodying sleep as a refuge, a place where intimacy and vulnerability can exist safely—momentarily—shielded from the outside world, in the absence of waking consciousness.

“In my waking life, each moment presents an opportunity for exposure, for my innermost thoughts and creations to be judged, dissected, and exploited. Here, the final moment before sleep overtakes me, I manifest that threshold, the moment I retreat inward and find solace in my interior world. Here, I scatter myself across media, each piece a fragment of my endeavour to create a sanctuary amidst confusion and trauma, a space where I can rest and reject—if only briefly—a world that constantly demands my compliance.” Gaspar, November, 2024

The works presented at Goswell Road draw on the tensile, fragile trust negotiated between the natural world and humanity. Elements of flora, biomes, leaves, and other natural elements cannot communicate with us traditionally; they co-exist, and become exposed and reliant on us to comprehend them. Gaspar sees this as the ultimate form of vulnerability. Her works merge natural forms with feminine, doll-like features—figures that embody a quiet strength and innocence combined with the complex vulnerability imposed upon them by patriarchy’s judgement of feminine forms—giving them agency.

In “Please, Sleep,” you are invited to enter her protected environment and contemplate the tensions of vulnerability, trust, longing, and belonging. This is a moment of respite. This is a place of coexistence and relief suspended in a bead of quiet before we drift into the safe haven of delirious, delicious sleep.

“Please, Sleep” was made possible with the support of the ‘Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation - Delegation in France’, which co-financed it as part of the EXPOSITIONS GULBENKIAN (edition #5) programme to support Portuguese art in French art institutions and spaces.

Bio: Ema Gaspar (b.1993) is a visual artist from Almada, Portugal, who lives and works between Tokyo (JP) and Lisbon (PT). Taking from her lived experiences she conjures an ‘atmosphere of memory’, beginning with a shape or object, assigning it a personality and inventing its body.

 FONDATION
CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN
DÉLÉGATION EN FRANCE

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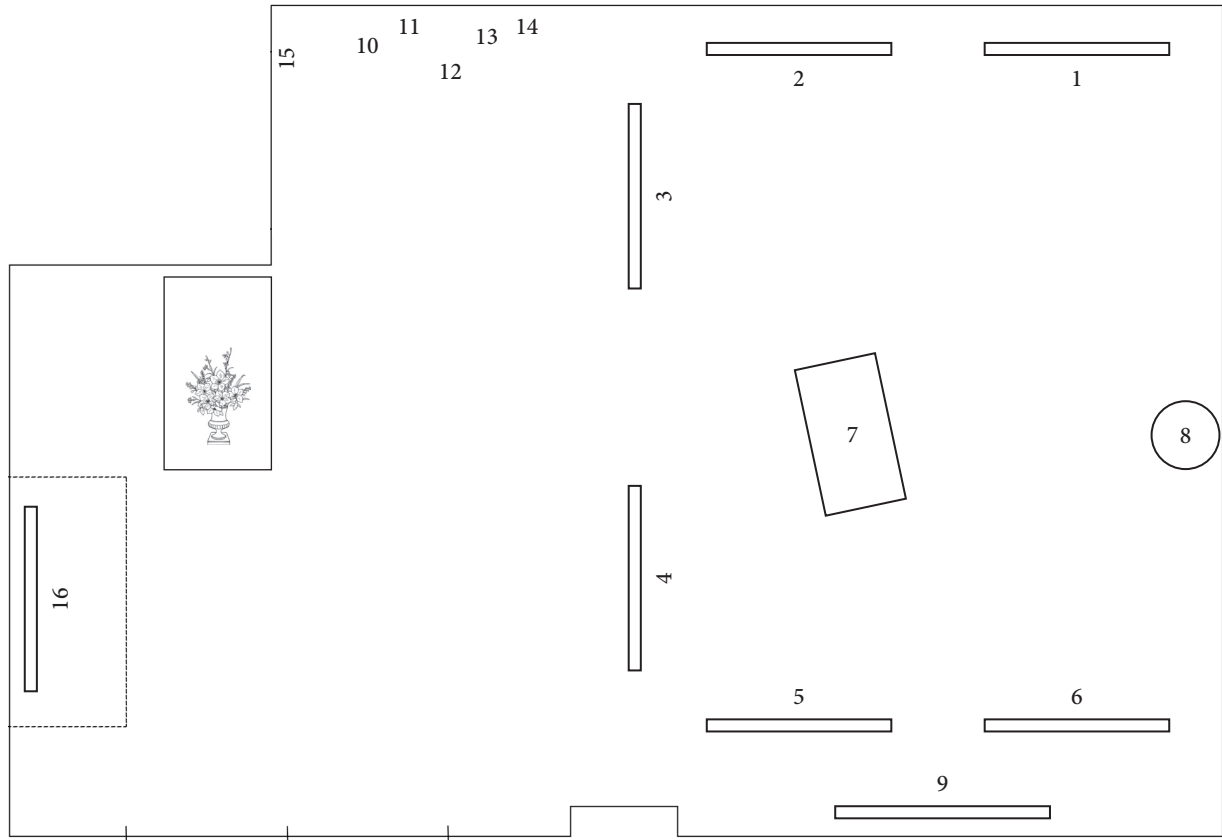
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- 1 *Support*, 2024
(Coloured pencil on Japanese Mulberry Washi paper)
- 2 *Structure*, 2024
(Coloured pencil on Japanese Mulberry Washi paper)
- 3 *Moving*, 2024
(Coloured pencil on Japanese Mulberry Washi paper)
- 4 *Thinking*, 2024
(Coloured pencil on Japanese Mulberry Washi paper)
- 5 *Knowing*, 2024
(Coloured pencil on Japanese Mulberry Washi paper)
- 6 *Stopping*, 2024
(Coloured pencil on Japanese Mulberry Washi paper)
- 7 *Conversation (1)*, 2024
(Glazed stoneware ceramic, Japanese doll hair, pins, accessories, Grandmother's crochet & cushions)
- 8 *Conversation (2)*, 2024
(Glazed stoneware ceramic, Japanese doll hair, pins, hair accessories, Grandmother's crochet)
- 9 *Good Doll*, 2024
(Coloured pencil and Acrylic on canvas, with books, sketch books, Grandmother's cross stitch, accessories)
- 10 *Untilted Flora 5*, 2024
(Coloured pencil on Japanese paper)
- 11 *Untilted Flora 1*, 2024
(Coloured pencil on Japanese paper)
- 12 *Untilted Flora 4*, 2024
(Coloured pencil on Japanese paper)
- 13 *Untilted Flora 2*, 2024
(Coloured pencil on Japanese paper)
- 14 *Untilted Flora 3*, 2024
(Coloured pencil on Japanese paper)
- 15 *Untilted Flora 6*, 2024
(Coloured pencil on Japanese paper)
- 16 *Mother*, 2024
(Coloured pencil on Japanese Mulberry Washi paper)

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