

# DISPLAY

Johan F. Karlsson  
Dimitris Tampakis

Careful What You Wish For

curated by Dinos Chatzirafailidis  
08.02.2025 - 15.03.2025

The exhibition *Careful What You Wish For* builds on an intricate interplay between vulnerability and identity, highlighting how fear and the fragility of human experience shape our understanding of self. By examining psychological dimensions of existence, the exhibited works invite viewers to confront unseen forces influencing perception and interaction. This exploration prompts reflection on the nature of bodily autonomy and the complexities inherent in navigating the boundaries between self and other.

In *Abysmal* (2021), Johan F. Karlsson constructs a submerged tomb shielded from sunlight. The contrast between light and darkness, with black sand absorbing and sunfilm reflecting, draws viewers into a state of self-perception as they gaze into their reflections, grappling with elements that challenge existential stability. In *Transition Piece* (2021), the artist recreates a spatial condition where a temperature shift evokes a sense of presence. Signs indicating the recent passage of a fleeting “other” suggest a lurking danger. When the two infrared heaters are activated, they subtly generate warmth, functioning as lifelike surrogates for familiar objects, recontextualized within their original state.

In *Your CEO Is Probably A Psychopath* (2021), Dimitris Tampakis employs a central mechanism built around the fear of losing control over one’s body. By crafting a fictional sinister persona shaped by an elegant yet treacherous object, the artist challenges humans’ innate need to remain alert to bodily harm in their immediate environment. With its monumental size and sharp edges, the work is predicated on threats to the body: its dissolution, fragmentation, or usurpation.

*N.E.T.* (2023) features a graphic image of a cannibalized ancient Greek sculpture that recalls deep-seated, instinctual fears. Tampakis emphasizes the cracks on the sculpture’s surfaces, caused by religious disputes, urging a confrontation with the historical continuum of violent tendencies. Capturing a haunting, upward gaze, *D.A.* (2025) evokes bodily associations, while testing the limits of scale and proximity. Meanwhile, *SILPHIO* (2023) teases the viewer with fleeting glimpses of their reflection through the allusive form of an aluminium dissolved mirror that transcends mere physicality.

The two artists’ shared attention to the uncontrollable and the irrational fosters a psychologically charged encounter grounded in a profound exploration of collision. This is achieved through formal or stylistic variants and affective patterns, such as utilizing minimal perceptual cues or mediating heightened immediacy. Throughout the exhibition, affect arises in the midst of in-betweenness, in the capacities to act and be acted upon. By simultaneously playing off different modes of engagement, while addressing the spectator directly, all elements merge to support a constructed narrative, inducing an air of unease and probing primal aspects of the ego.



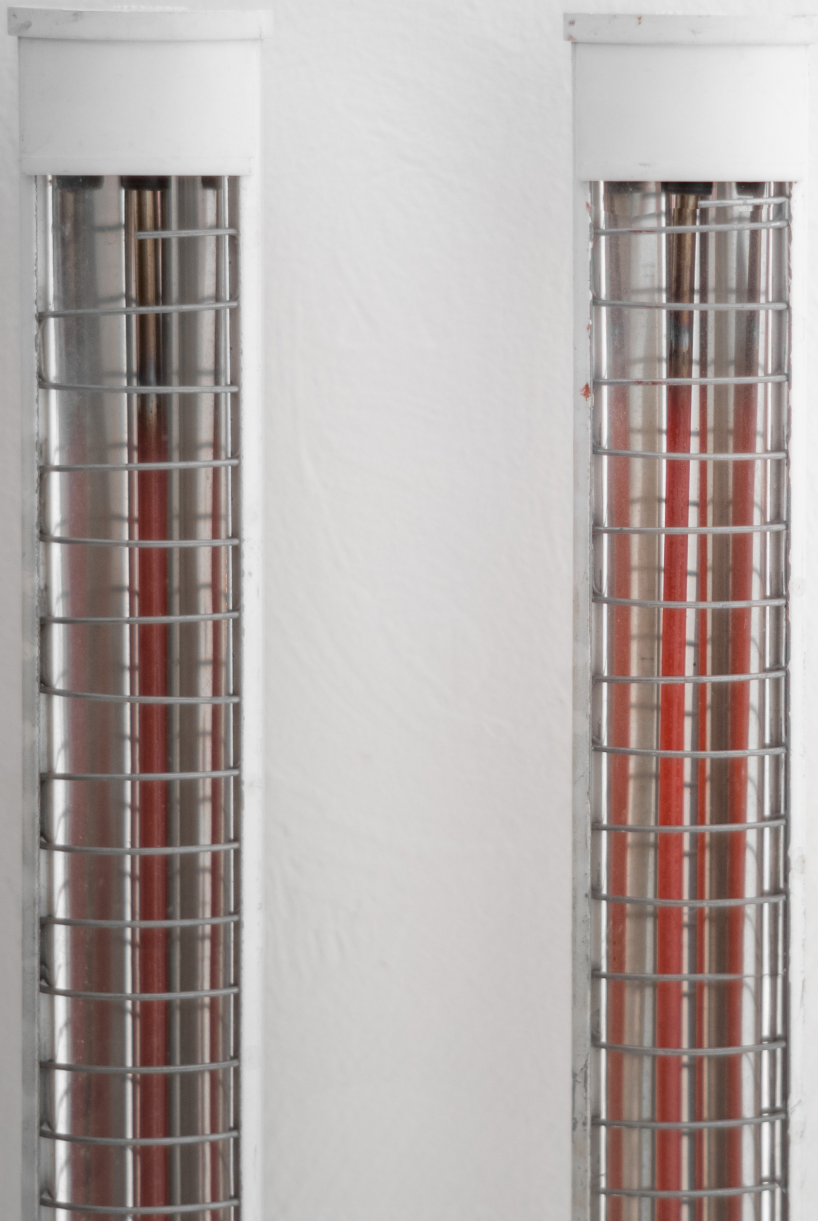
Johan F. Karlsson, Dimitris Tampakis, *Careful What You Wish For*, curated by Dinos Chatzirafailidis, 2025, exhibition view, DISPLAY, Parma, Italy

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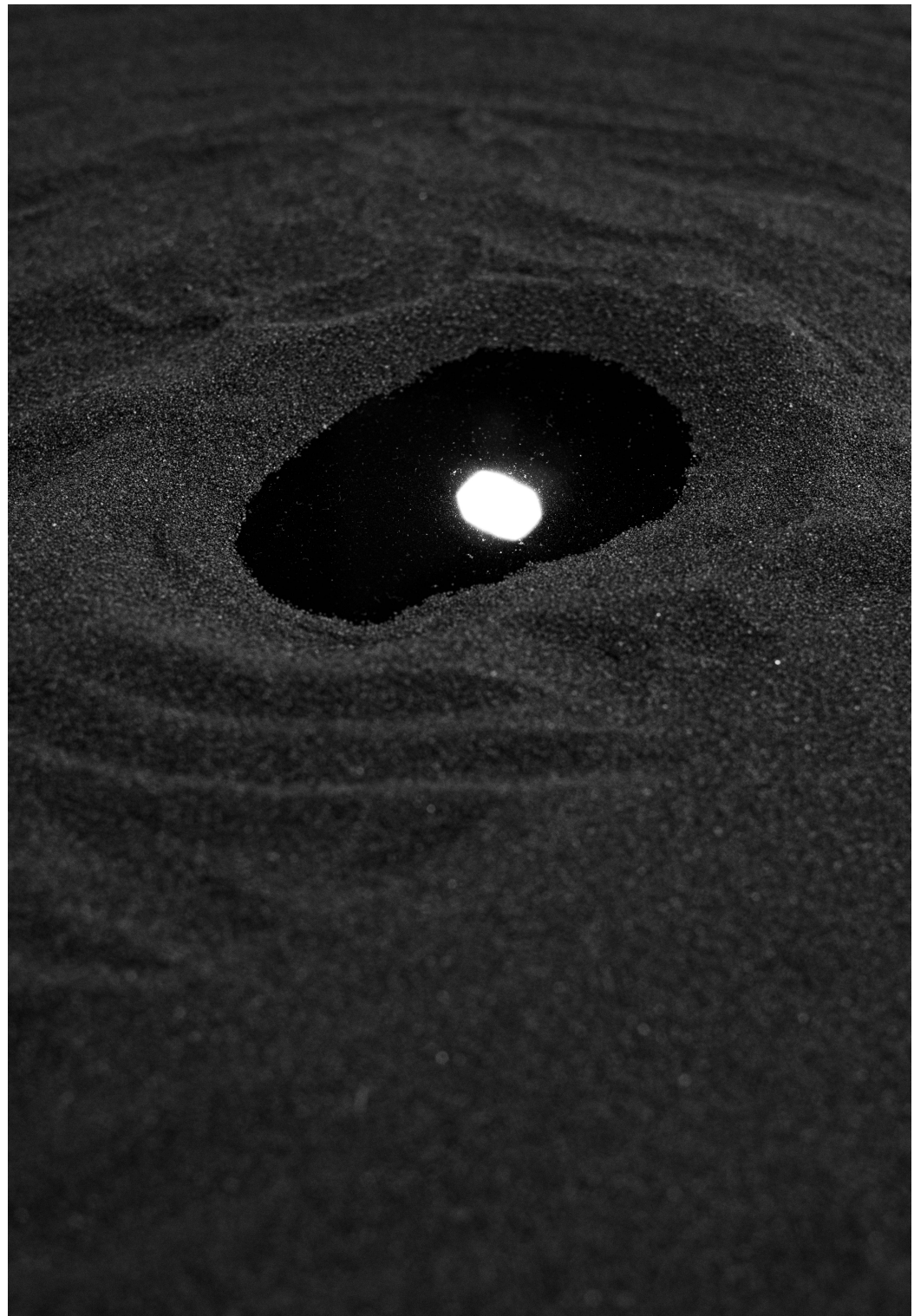


Johan F. Karlsson  
*Transition Piece*, 2021 (detail)  
2 x Infrared heaters  
Dimensions variable



Johan F. Karlsson  
*Abysmal*, 2021  
Fine black sand, sunfilm coated glass  
Dimensions variable

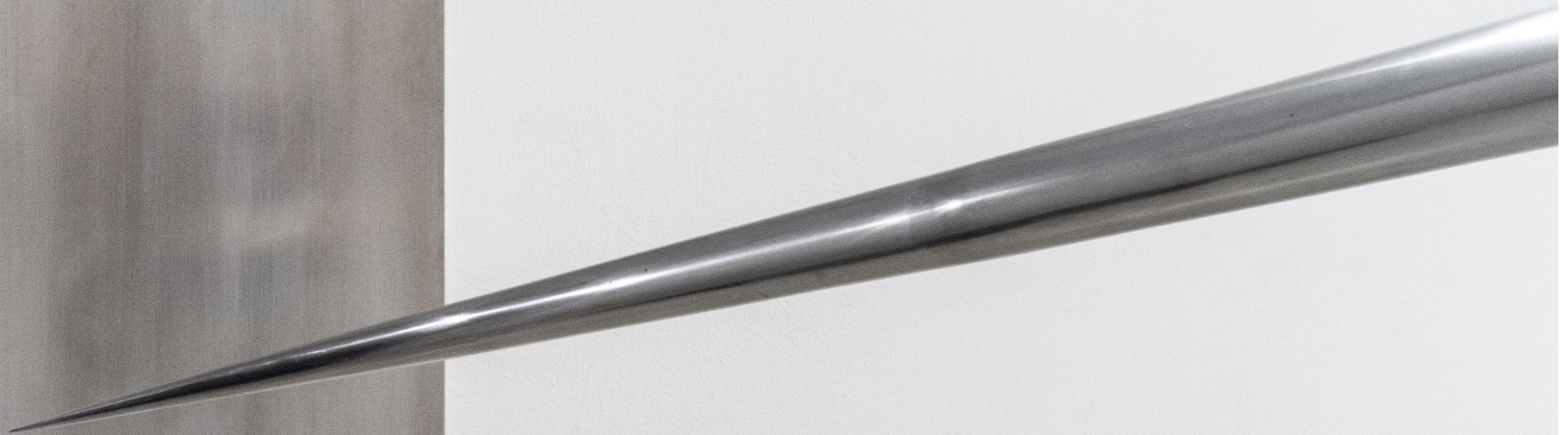
Johan F. Karlsson  
*Abysmal*, 2021 (detail)  
Fine black sand, sunfilm coated glass  
Dimensions variable





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Dimitris Tampakis  
*SILPHIO*, 2023  
Aluminium  
102 x 50 cm

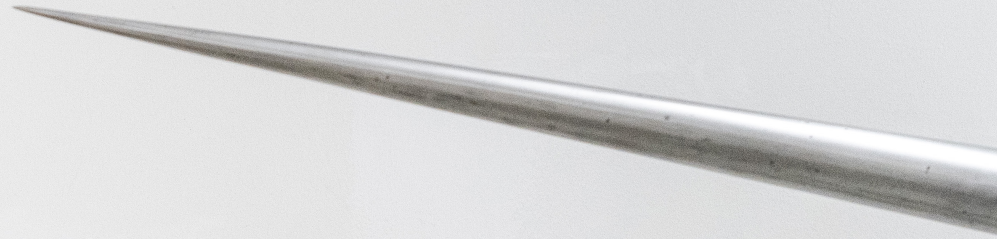
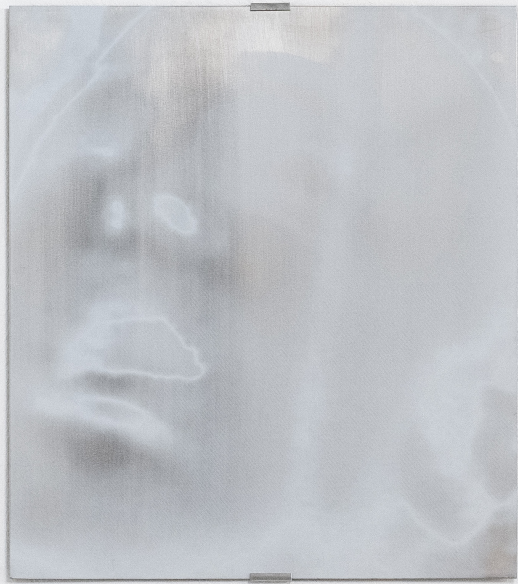




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Dimitris Tampakis  
*N.E.T.*, 2023  
Oxidized zinc and aluminium  
106 x 42 cm



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Dimitris Tampakis  
*D.A.*, 2025  
UV on aluminium  
47.5 x 41 cm

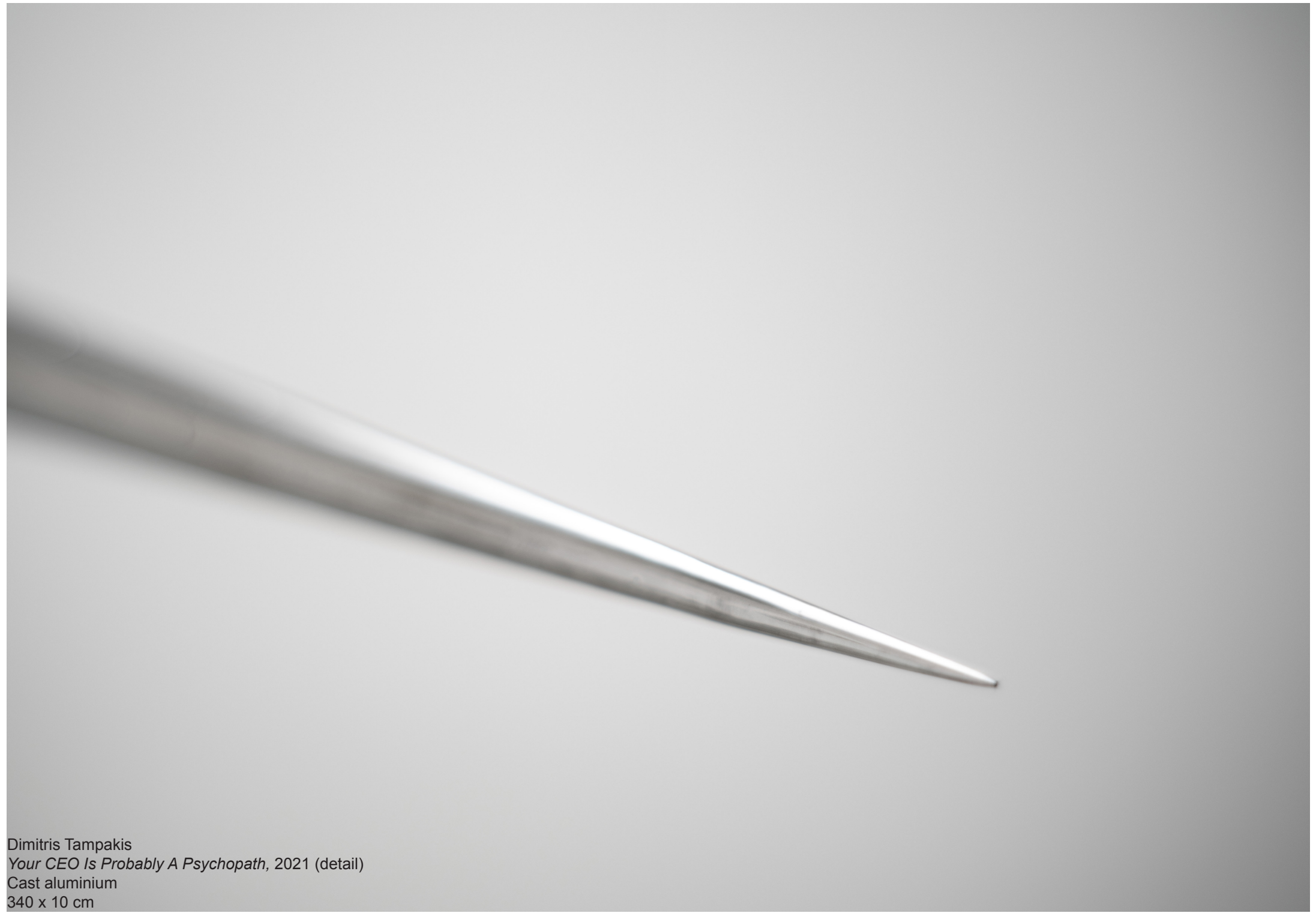


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Dimitris Tampakis  
*Your CEO Is Probably A Psychopath*, 2021  
Cast aluminium  
340 x 10 cm





Dimitris Tampakis  
*Your CEO Is Probably A Psychopath*, 2021 (detail)  
Cast aluminium  
340 x 10 cm



DIMITRIS TAMPAKIS

JOHAN F. KARLSSON

CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR

DISPLAY

[www.spaziodisplay.com](http://www.spaziodisplay.com)

# DISPLAY

Johan F. Karlsson  
Dimitris Tampakis

Careful What You Wish For

a cura di Dinos Chatzirafailidis  
08.02.2025 - 15.03.2025

La mostra Careful What You Wish For si sviluppa attraverso un intreccio complesso tra vulnerabilità e identità, mettendo in luce come la paura e la fragilità dell'esperienza umana plasmino la nostra comprensione del sé. Esaminando le dimensioni psicologiche dell'esistenza, le opere invitano al confronto con le forze invisibili che influenzano la percezione e l'interazione, introducendo una riflessione sulla natura autonoma e individuale del corpo e sulle complessità del navigare i confini tra sé e l'altro.

In *Abysmal* (2021), Johan F. Karlsson costruisce un sepolcro sommerso, schermato dalla luce solare. Il contrasto tra luce e oscurità, con la sabbia nera che assorbe e la pellicola riflettente che respinge, conduce l'osservatore ad uno stato di auto-percezione attivato dall'osservazione del proprio riflesso, e dal confronto con elementi che mettono in discussione la propria stabilità esistenziale. In *Transition Piece* (2021), l'artista ricrea una condizione spaziale in cui un cambio di temperatura evoca una presenza. Segni che indicano il recente passaggio di un "altro" fugace ed effimero suggeriscono un pericolo imminente. Quando i due impianti a infrarossi vengono attivati, generano calore in modo sottile, funzionando come surrogati viventi di oggetti familiari, ricontestualizzati nel loro stato originario.

In *Your CEO Is Probably A Psychopath* (2021), Dimitris Tampakis utilizza un meccanismo centrale costruito attorno alla paura di perdere il controllo sul proprio corpo. Creando una figura sinistra e fittizia, incarnata in un oggetto elegante ma insidioso, l'artista sfida l'umano bisogno di rimanere vigili di fronte a possibili danni fisici nell'ambiente circostante. Con la sua dimensione monumentale e i bordi affilati, l'opera si articola attorno a minacce rivolte al corpo: la sua dissoluzione, frammentazione o usurpazione.

*N.E.T.* (2023) presenta l'immagine grafica di una scultura greca antica cannibalizzata, evocando paure istintive e profonde. Tampakis enfatizza le crepe sulle superfici della scultura, causate da dispute religiose, sollecitando un confronto con il continuum storico delle tendenze violente. Catturando uno sguardo inquietante rivolto verso l'alto, *D.A.* (2025) suggerisce associazioni corporee, mentre mette alla prova i limiti di scala e prossimità. Parallelamente, *SILPHIO* (2023) provoca lo sguardo con fugaci riflessi attraverso la forma allusiva di uno specchio in alluminio dissolto che trascende la mera fisicità.

L'attenzione condivisa dei due artisti verso l'incontrollabile e l'irrazionale favorisce un incontro psicologicamente carico, fondato su un'esplorazione profonda della collisione. Entrambi gli artisti impiegano varianti formali o stilistiche e pattern affettivi, come l'utilizzo di indizi percettivi minimi o la veicolazione di un'estrema immediatezza. Nel dispiegarsi della mostra, stimoli e reazioni emotive emergono nello spazio di un intermezzo, nella capacità di agire e di essere agiti. Alternando modalità di coinvolgimento diverse e affrontando direttamente lo spettatore, i diversi elementi convergono per sostenere una narrazione solida, generando un'atmosfera di inquietudine e sondando gli aspetti primordiali dell'io.

# DISPLAY

artist – run/project space h24/7  
Founded and curated by Massimo Allevato & perfettipietro  
Vicolo al Leon d'Oro 4/A, Parma, Italy

**Johan F. Karlsson** (b. 1984, Örebro) lives and works in Malmö, Sweden. He holds a Masters degree in Photography from Aalto University in Helsinki, Finland, and a Bachelor's degree in Culture and Arts from Novia University of Applied Sciences in Pietarsaari, Finland. Recent solo and group exhibitions include: 2024 Forever Is Nothing - Space Department, Nara, JP. 2023 PresenceTime-Body - Galleria 3H+K - Pori, FI. 2022 Pathway Through A Sunstone - Skaffell Center for Visual Art, Seyðisfjörður, IS. 2021 Here Be Dragons - Celsius Projects, Malmö, SE. 2020 Sorgenfri Sol – Galleri SPARK, Malmö, SE. 2022 In the City Grows a Field - Malmö konsthall, SE. 2022 The Deep End - Two Thirds Project Space, Athens, GR. 2020 Transformers - Galleri CC, Malmö, SE.

<https://www.johanfkarl.com>

(With the support of the Swedish Arts Grants Committee)



Photo: Antonine Roure  
Edited by: Stathis Mamalakis

**DISPLAY** is an artist-run/project space based in Parma (Italy), founded in 2018 and directed by Massimo Allevato and perfettipietro. Taking a cue from a curatorial and artistic approach based on researching and collecting images found on the Internet, the exhibition space is conceived as a hybrid device, an analogical and digital display visible 24/7 through its glassdoor.

Full documentation of the past exhibitions at DISPLAY is available at [www.spazioidisplay.com](http://www.spazioidisplay.com)

## CONTACT

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**Dimitris Tampakis** (b. 1991, Athens) is an artist and designer with a Master's degree in Visual Arts from the Athens School of Fine Arts (2019-2021) and a degree in Product and Systems Design Engineering from the University of the Aegean (2009-2015). Recent solo and group exhibitions include: Theocharakis Foundation in Athens (2024), Enari Gallery in Amsterdam (2024), PÔLE-SUD in Strasbourg (2024), HAUNT in Berlin (2023), Xeno in Sigrí (2023), Foundation of Tinian Culture in Tinos (2023), the National Archaeological Museum in Athens (2023), Galerie Basia Embiricos in Paris (2024 & 2022), Kyan in Athens (2023), One Minute Space in Athens (2023 & 2024), ETOPIA in Spain (2022), Centrum Gallery in Berlin (2021), Keiv space in Athens (2021), MOMus in Thessaloniki (2018), UCL London (2019), and NBG Cultural Foundation in Athens (2019).

<https://tampakisdimitris.com>