

## **Frida Orupabo** ***Fear of Fear***

**May 11 – June 17, 2023**

For her first exhibition in Mexico, Frida Orupabo presents *Fear of Fear* which consists of an installation of eight new human-sized collages, created by hand by the artist that will be exhibited in the main space of the gallery. In addition to this, the exhibition will be accompanied by three sculptures, as well as a monumental wallpaper that can be seen behind an installation of green curtains, and a video piece. The title of the exhibition is an allusion to Rainer Werner Fassbinder's film of the same name. Like the German director, Orupabo creates complex characters, plagued by contradictions that together generate a melodramatic satire of modern society.

Frida Orupabo's paradigmatic work consists of groups of human-scale collages of fragments of African bodies in black and white that the artist prints, cuts out and recomposes. Orupabo, being an artist of African descent in Norway, has marked the lack of representation of such bodies in public images as the original motivation for her work.

Orupabo's figures carry the wounds of their origins. It is black and white photographic material –from a time prior to technicolor and the civil rights movements– drawn not only from thematic archives such as vintage fashion photoshoots, Renaissance paintings, and the works of other contemporary artists; but also from the much larger and residual image bank that is the internet (much of this work can be seen on her Instagram profile @nemiepeba, conceived as a work of art). Orupabo uses the possibilities of dislocation and reassembly inherent in collage to relocate her figures in anachronistic situations, attire and poses. The figures are deformed, re-shaped and freed from the confines of their photographic character in a process that turns them into the enigmatic and sovereign protagonists of their own stories.

Frida Orupabo was born 1986 in Sarpsborg, Norway, and lives and works in Oslo. Solo exhibitions include Fotomuseum Winterthur (2022); Museu Afro Brasil, São Paulo (2021); Kunsthall Trondheim, Trondheim (2021); Huis Marseille, Amsterdam (2020); Portikus, Frankfurt am Main and Kunstneres Hus, Oslo (both 2019). Orupabo participated in the Okayama Art Summit (2022); the 34th São Paulo Biennial (2021) as well as the 58th Venice Biennale exhibition (2018). Together with Ming Smith and MissyLanyus, Frida

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**Visiting hours: Tuesday – Thursday, 11 am – 6 pm, Friday – Saturday, 11 am – 4 pm**

**For more instalación views, please visit [www. nordenhake.com](http://www.nordenhake.com) after the opening**

**For more information and images for press, please contact the gallery.**

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Orupabo presented her work in Arthur Jafa's exhibition "A Series of Utterly Improbable, Yet Extraordinary Renditions" at Moderna Museet in Stockholm and Galerie Rudolfinum in Prague (both 2019), Julia Stoschek Collection, Berlin (2018), and Serpentine Sackler Gallery, London (2017).

Frida Orupabo's first monograph was published by Sternberg Press on the occasion of her exhibition at Kunsthall Trondheim 2021. The book contains extensive documentation of her work and essays by Stefanie Hessler, Lola Olufemi, and Legacy Russell. Her work is included in the collections of Tate, UK, Guggenheim Museum, USA, Studio Museum in Harlem, USA, LACMA, USA, Kadist Foundation, France / USA, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Denmark, Museum Ludwig, Germany, Jumex Museum, Mexico, among others. She is shortlisted for the Deutsche Börse Photography Foundation Prize 2023 as well as for the Joan Miró Prize 2023.

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