



Kaari Upson
SLEEP WITH THE KEY
September 25 – novembre 9 2013

Massimo De Carlo gallery in Milan inaugurates its new season with *Sleep With the Key*, the first solo exhibition in Italy by artist Kaari Upson. The artist's universe is an archive of human inner feelings animated by unfathomable entities, shadows and ghosts. Action and reaction seem to overlap in the kaleidoscopic and yet obscure world of Kaari Upson. With a stream of consciousness that continuously blurs reality and fantasy, public and private, the Self and the Other, the Californian artist investigates the mysteries of the human experience.

Sleep With the Key is an open window to Kaari Upson's interior world, which unclenches the memory of passed happy moments, jealously locked into the artist's heart.

The series of brand new works in *Sleep With the Key* summarize the last years of the artist's research and build a carnal universe in negative: Kaari Upson's exhibition is a project about absence, separation, and loss. *Sleep With the Key* is a show about the body, where the body never appears.

Sleep With the Key starts with a monumental group of unique silicon mattresses. The molds for the mattresses are found by the artist in the streets of Los Angeles. King size, Queen size, Single and Crib size mattresses appear through multiple layers of transparent or colored liquid silicone, with a production process that escapes the artist's absolute control. The objects' surfaces are enriched by unexpected shadows. Going from a liquid to a solid state, the silicone catches Kaari Upson's thoughts and returns fleshy and sensual color fields, thus producing a perfect synthesis between Reason and Unconscious.

On the second floor Kaari Upson presents a series of rugs, also made in silicone, and some compositions of aloe plants' casts; specular and undefined compositions, abstract decorations and colour dripping get, nestled into the fibres of these seductive surfaces that, while crystallizing a moment in time, continue to underline the absence of the human being. Up one of the walls, a window opens onto an ideal landscape, a meditative space in which to project one's self.

Kaari Upson's works look apparently familiar to us. They appear as everyday objects yet nevertheless they give us a sense of turmoil, instability and perversion. Hidden deeply into the human spirit, our most unmentionable dreams emerge from the translucent surfaces and the mysterious physicality of Upson's works. "The uncanny is something that can be familiar, yet foreign at the same time, resulting in a feeling of it being uncomfortably strange or uncomfortably familiar." (The Uncanny, Sigmund Freud, 1919).

In the occasion of Kaari Upson's exhibition, Massimo De Carlo gallery is also pleased to announce the launch of its new website www.massimodecarlo.com, an extraordinary tool to discover the world of some of the most interesting artists of our time. The new website – presenting for the first time Milan and London galleries together – is a brand new platform that unveils the activities of the gallery in an eye-catching, image-oriented and easy-to-navigate way. Coherently with the exhibitions, the program, and the attitude of the gallery, massimodecarlo.com puts the artists and their works in the foreground: their career unrolls through clear pages, the works are always visible in full screen mode, and any exhibition or work is available to share on Facebook and Twitter.



Moreover, the new website gives the user the possibility of picking his or her favourite works throughout the whole website to build his or her own personal selection of the gallery's artists. The new Massimo De Carlo's website is double language (English and Italian) and it is available in a native mobile version for iOS and Android smartphones and tablets.

KAARI UPSON

Kaari Upson was born in 1972 in San Bernardino, California. Kaari Upson lives and works in Los Angeles and is one of the most interesting voices on the newest Californian artistic scene. The artist presented her work in a noteworthy solo show at the UCLA Hammer Museum in Los Angeles (2007). Her works have been exhibited in collective show such as *Nine Lives* curated by Ali Subotnick at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles (2009); *Sack of Bones*, curated by Ellen Langan and Blair Taylor for Peres Projects, Los Angeles (2008); *Pretty Ugly*, curated by Alison Gingeras for Gavin Brown's Enterprise & Maccarone, New York (2008); *FOR EVER*, curated by Clara Kim and Eungie Joo presented at the 915 Mateo in Los Angeles (2007); *George Herms: Xenophilia (Love of the Unknown)* at the MOCA Pacific Design Center, Los Angeles (2011), *The Residue of Memory* curated by Heidi Zuckerman, director of the Aspen Art Museum in Aspen (2012), *Test Pattern* at the Whitney Museum of American Art (2013).

Hard Facts:

Massimo De Carlo, Milano
Via Giovanni Ventura, 5 – 20134 Milano
From September 25th until November 9th, 2013
Open Tuesdays to Saturdays, 11.30am – 7.30pm
Opening: Wednesday September 25th 2013, from 7.00pm

For further information and materials:

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