

**GBE
291 GRAND ST
NY NY 10002**

***OTMA'S BODY*
WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM**

**JANUARY 19 – MARCH 4, 2018
OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2018 6 – 8PM**

Women's History Museum presents *OTMA's Body*, their first solo show at Gavin Brown's enterprise. The exhibition brings together clothing from their four collections alongside jewelry, prints, and a menagerie of sculptural pieces, both old and new.

Established in New York City in 2014, Women's History Museum is the moniker under which Amanda McGowan and Mattie Rivkah Barringer make work, often in close collaboration with friends and other artists. Typically combining performance, image making and clothing design and production, their oeuvre has more recently expanded to incorporate sculpture, music, video, as well as a film titled, *Pauline's Yoke* (2017).

The show's title references OTMA, the self-given acronym of the Grand Duchesses Olga, Tatiana, Maria and Anastasia Nikolieva. Useless to a Romanov dynasty with rigidly patriarchal inheritance laws, the girls led stilted, closed-off lives before being executed for their parents' incompetence on July 4, 1918. OTMA, taught to self-negate from a young age, leaving behind diaries, toys, and endless photographs of one another; OTMA, only useful married off to princes, falling in love with the soldiers guarding them; OTMA, with no agency to alter their fate, sitting for entire days by the window, fascinated by the world passing by.

Interpreting the Grand Duchesses' lives, *OTMA's Body* manifests as sofas, pillowy sculptures, a vanity, an armchair. Sites of comfort and self-contemplation, intricately inscribed throughout with sutured dreams and desires. These are emotive, palimpsestic objects, at once hyperbolically domestic, at the threshold of the supernatural, and as much repositories of personal significance as they are spaces that echo with moments of friendship and solidarity.

In addition to the exhibition, a live set of new music by Jack Scanlan will be presented on opening night and there will be two additional events with Women's History Museum's close collaborators: an ASMR-inducing self-help makeup clinic by Gogo Graham, and a night of image and words featuring Gabriela Rivera-Morales among others.



"Amanda and Mattie truly put the 'um' in museum."

- Ylang Ylang poon

"At once a femme collage and intricate catalogue for anything you'd ever want on a garment as a clothing lover or historian and a sweet N sour sensation of theatrics and costume."

- Gabriela Rivera-Morales

"Earth spirits on eBay, is consignment an element? Hidden in everyday life, Women's History Museum emerges every few months to suspend their close friends, loved ones, and acquaintances they haven't gotten to know yet but want to in rays of light. Often framed by performance, their endeavors refract their intentions vis a vis their wares, protecting and ennobling their community."

- Sera Serpas

"Unholy Spiritual Healing ✨ Panic And Ecstasy."

- Dylan Scheer

"It's seems that WHM invites us to witness a host of bodies—bodies that command attention to legacies of hysteria and precarity. A drape, an old world stitch, and a vision for a world that is Becoming."

- Nico Fuentes

"Creative genius and supernatural craft-making beyond compare."

- Gia Garrison

"WHM: chisel any mosaic of our GreatCathedrals; cut&paste every.bit of precious glass and stone along the surface of the YellowstoneGlacier ANDj weave them throughout the HolyInterior of a chrysalis just before it blooms into theWingedBeauty... and then tell meU don't see a resemblance."

- Alma Yei

"WHM obliterates the physical world and reassembles the pieces as tools for accessing higher dimensions. Wearing a WHM garment is a consciousness altering experience of embodying the divine femme in her various beautiful, chaotic and fucked up forms."

- Jennie Fidler

"When you swipe absolutely not to confining yourself to eurocentric standards, to the cacophonous social media spiral, to simply following the I-love-fashion! course, to behaving, cloth can be a total fucking trip. WHM is the drug that will take you there!"

- Candice Williams

"I've been to the museum. There are a few shiny pebbles rattling around the inside of an old porcelain baby doll, but instead of pebbles it's shrieks and instead of a doll it's my head."

- Gogo Graham

"Unapologetically sick n twisted goddesses of the Fluffy pillowed n bowed Dollhouse."

- Tyler Jones

"WHM is a community nursing home where femmes button up sore wounds, bandage tired feet and replace the old stuffing with anew, putting each other back together. Amanda and Mattie themselves I have to say are not so subtle animorphs. But I am on to them!"

- Firpal Jawanda

"A thread of girls who were taken by the aerosol can, by the city, by a dream: I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A PILOT."

- Santi Alzate Botero

"WHM metabolizes and chews up fashion, and with it the signifiers of gender role and archetype. For the anachronisms present in the work, fibrous origins of feminine labor and ingénue refinement among them, I get the sense there's both craving and nausea. It's capital-T taste by rumination, the nervous condition of regurgitating and re-chewing what's partially digested."

- Misty Mountain

"Diekanmallskfnnd sometimes when I close my eyes, I see myself underwater, my skin molting into diamonds."

- Sylvia gz

"Handmade feeling / Like love weaving in the digital age in a capitalist NYC."

- Giovanna Sundqvst Olmos

"WHM is a host of practices. Construct, deconstruct. Embellish, reveal. Gift, receive, manifest. The works themselves, like the people and place they dress, are a bounty of sentiments bound in fabric. Over the years, WHM has evoked both the antithesis and genesis of fashion - honoring the material, blessing the wearer, enchanting an expanding audience and binding together a community of femmes in the halls of its illustrious, phantom temple."

- Jahmal B Golden

