



Deniz Ünal



The Healing Hands of Room Three (or so I would like to believe)

Performance, 2022, 35mins
Perfomaned at Camden Art Centre as part
of the program One in the Other











In the performance and resulting installation *The Healing Hands of Room 3* (or so I would like to believe), Deniz Ünal embodies conflicting and simultaneous desires between fear and being feared, visibility and invisibility, possession and exorcism. Ünal uses emotions as performative gestures to navigate the complex feelings and affects of trauma and its relation to fear and desire. The performance attempts to capture the transformative and healing potential of 'acting out' and role playing. Her performance is both nonchalant and erotic, navigating the space through language, interaction, touch and mark making.

What is left in the space are the giant hands of the room; as tactile, comforting and overbearing. A restorative gesture for the future.

It Was Over L Last Night



Long Before

2021

Performance at Kunstverein Har-
burger Bahnhof, 45mins
in collaboration
with Adam Christensen





Teddy in Lockdown, online performance, 9mins
2020

Kunstraum London

Performers: Amy Gwatkin, TEDS, Deniz Unal
and Nadja Voorham

Teddy in Lockdown reimagines segments of the
2019 performance of *Characters of Control* as a
distorted nightmarish fever dream, touching on
themes of isolation and claustrophobia.



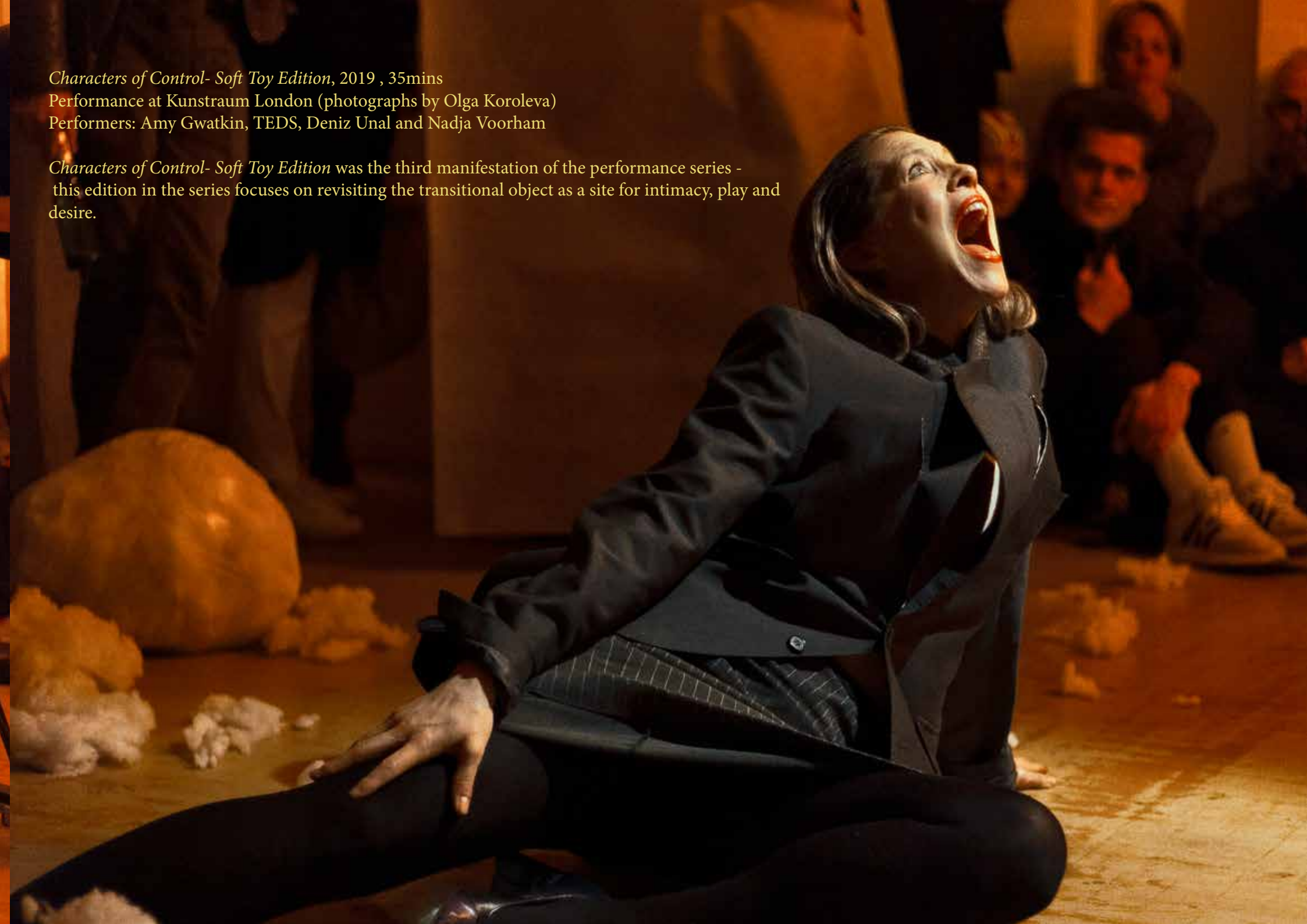


Characters of Control- Soft Toy Edition, 2019 , 35mins

Performance at Kunstraum London (photographs by Olga Koroleva)

Performers: Amy Gwatin, TEDS, Deniz Unal and Nadja Voorham

Characters of Control- Soft Toy Edition was the third manifestation of the performance series - this edition in the series focuses on revisiting the transitional object as a site for intimacy, play and desire.





Characters of Control- Soft Toy Edition, 2019, 35mins
Performed at Kunstraum London (photographs by Olga Koroleva)
Performers: Amy Gwatkin, TEDS, Deniz Unal and Nadja Voorham



Installation view from exhibition
Something Soft , 2019, Kunstraum
London (photographs by Tim
Bowditch)

Teds, material and stuffing, dimen-
sions variable, 2019



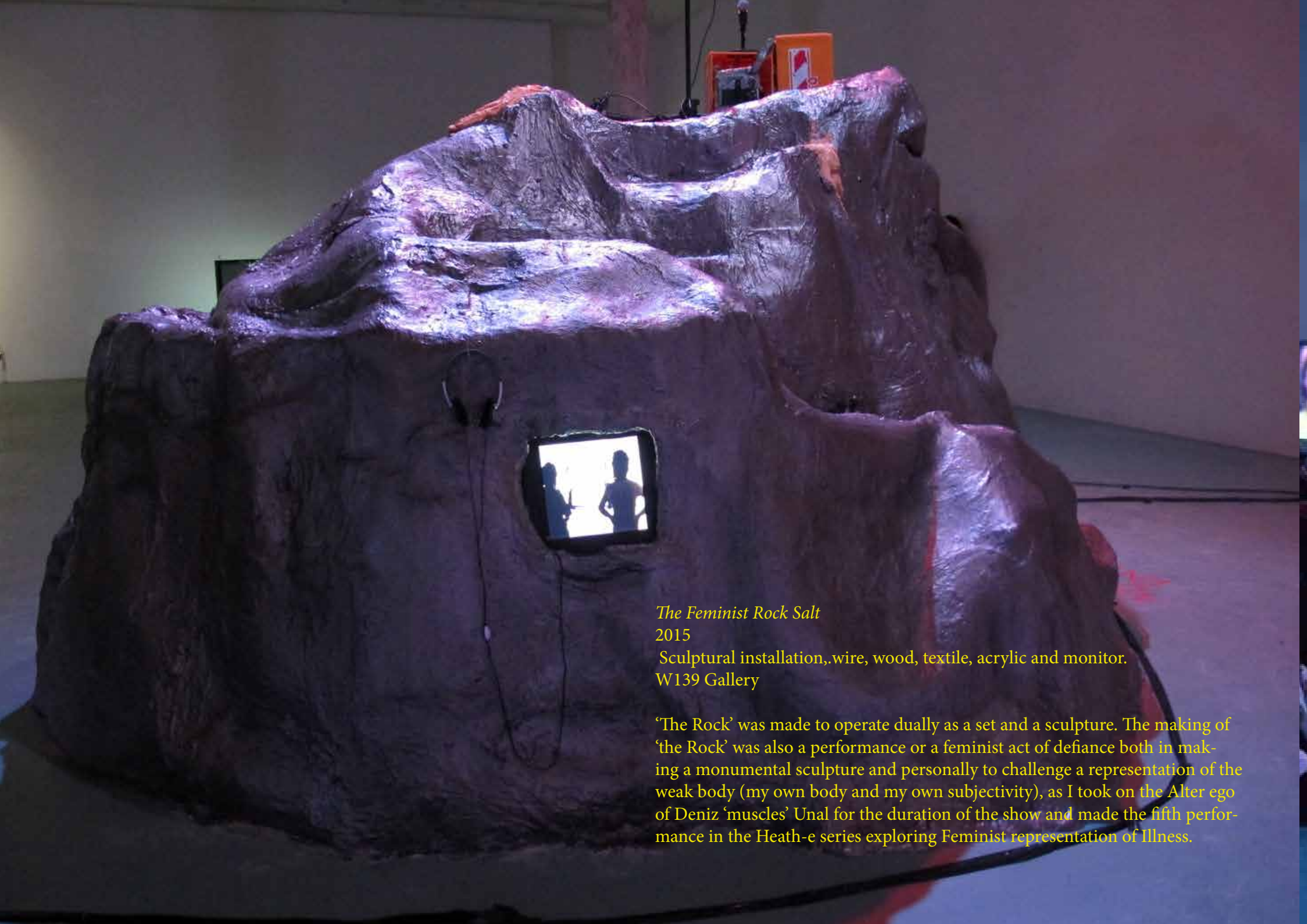
Unmothering /Unraveling, performance, 2018, 15mins with Fatma Unal. Performed at the Whitgift Centre Croydon.

Unmothering/Unraveling was a revisit to some of the ideas from a video I made entitled *Rolls* (Mum Cleaning Video) from 2012. The performance explores ways to occupy and reclaim the public space of the familiar shopping centre environment, through a set of actions and gestures, in collaboration with my Mother, Fatma Unal. Inspired by various tantrums one observes between parent and child at Shopping Centres around the world.



Rolls (Mum Cleaning Video), 2012, 13mins, Installation view from Turf Projects, 2018

Rolls (Mum Cleaning Video) follows my mother and her cleaning company cleaning in various vacant houses across London. The cleaners role is to eliminate the dirt and traces of the previous inhabitants. We have claimed these temporary vacant properties as a spaces for performance to occur. The resulting footage introduces opportunities in these newly cleansed houses that collapse designated perceptions of spaces, time and ownership. For that short moment the vacant houses are places of work, play, exercise and theatricality.



The Feminist Rock Salt

2015

Sculptural installation, wire, wood, textile, acrylic and monitor.
W139 Gallery

'The Rock' was made to operate dually as a set and a sculpture. The making of 'the Rock' was also a performance or a feminist act of defiance both in making a monumental sculpture and personally to challenge a representation of the weak body (my own body and my own subjectivity), as I took on the Alter ego of Deniz 'muscles' Unal for the duration of the show and made the fifth performance in the Heath-e series exploring Feminist representation of Illness.



The Feminist Rock Salt

2015

(Performance by A. Christensen and made with D. Policarpo)

Apart from its physical manifestation, 'the Rock' worked as a performance space, over the durations of the exhibition I organised a series of events and performances to take place on the platform including performance by Kapwani Kiwanga, AnnaMaria Pinaka and Adam Christensen.

GETTING RIPPED
GETTING CUT
GETTING CHISELLED
GET ME A PROTEIN
SHAKE
HITTING THE GYM
HARD
SAY NO TO CARBS
FITNESSADDICT
NO PAIN NO GAIN
MOTIVATION
DETERMINATION
FOCUS
LIFESTYLE
QUADS
SQUATS
PROGRESS
JUST DO IT
I CAN I WILL

WIN
FAIL
WIN
FAIL
WIN FAIL
MAJOR FAIL
ZERO FUCKS GIVEN

NO WHERE TO GO
NO CHOICES
HOSPITAL DISCHARGE
STILL ILL
GOT CHRONIC

CONDITION
AIN'T GOIN NOWHERE
NOT OK
NOPE
NO MAGIC PILL
PHARMACEUTICAL
COMPANY WALLETS
FUG UR REPORT
DOCTOR SAY NO CURE
I KNOW DAT

ESCAPE FOR WOT THO
DON'T CARE BOUT
POETRY THO
NOT CLEVER THO
LITERALLY ANGRY
SICK CHILD SYNDROME
ALL DA TIME
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
RAISE UP
BRING DOWN
TIME 4 RANT
TIME 4 RAVE

UMMMMMM HMM

NO WAY
U LEAVIN' ME?
NOT NOW

OOZEY
FLOPPY
SOFTY

Getting Ripped

Excerpt from Text Piece, 2015

Published in Girls Like Us Magazine

Getting Ripped was commissioned by Girls Like Us Magazine and situates the language the aspirational performativity of health and against the realities of poor physical health.

HUGGY
FLESHY
PRODDY
DRIPPY
DROPPY
DRIPPIDY DRIP
DRIP DROP
FIX IT

UMMMMMM HMM

KAFKA
LUNGS
EMOTIONAL WOUNDS
INFLAMMATION
WHOSE NAME IS
F[ELICE]
ILLNESS SPEAKS TO ME
COS I ASKED IT TO

FELICE F[ELICE]!

GETTING CHISELLED
GETTING RIPPED
GETTING CUT
DON'T GET CUT UP
I KNOW THE FEELING

WHEN [...] CUTTING ME
UP
WHO CARES
INCISE OF
RIPPED TO SHREDS

GETTING RIPPED
JAW HURTS
RESIDUE OF PAIN
YOU CLENCH TOO
MUCH
ALL OK
LET IT RUN THROUGH
UR VEINS
NO PAIN NO PAIN
ACKER
LEFT SURGEON'S
OFFICE
CONVENTIONAL
MEDICINE
REDUCING ME
TO A BODY
DISEASED MEAT

A BODY
WITHOUT HOPE
WITHOUT WILL

DISEASED MEAT
STEAK
GRILLED CHICKEN
PROTEINS
SAY NO TO CARBS

DON'T LET
CONVENTIONS
REDUCE ME
MY BODY

Health-e part 3

Performance at Magasin Grenoble,
20mins, 2014

Health-e was commissioned by Performance Proletarians! A 48-hour live broadcast. I focused on dramatizing the work of 2 different female writers; Kathy Acker, Mary Barnes and my own writing on experiences of illness.

