

Wax-built Castles

Chantal Spapens

Curated by Vittorio Venturoli

Co-curated by Victoria Froberg

On a continuation of the artist's body of work on the social over-structures conditioning a women's life in society "Wax-built Castles" is the first performance of a diptych born to state a regained self awareness and agency onto the roles built, with time, around her. This performance piece acts as a ritual, a first step towards metamorphosis. A physical change that will first melt the skin of everyday domestic life for revealing, tissue after tissue, a cage. The artist, as part of the collectiveness of women, invites you to tear the serene wallpaper of your house and question if the walls behind stand to cage or to protect. Chantal, driven by the works of female feminist artists such as *Louis Bourgeois'* "Femme Maison" tries to sever the image of the household from the idea of womanhood. And so with Hera's flames, the same flames that burnt at the hearth of centuries, she melts the deceitful flesh revealing the rusty bones of an ever so ancient patriarchy.



Chantal Spapens (1970) is a French/Dutch artist.

Her works exist at the intersection of personal experience and societal inquiries, exploring the multifaceted nature of womanhood within the backdrop of a contemporary, capitalist, patriarchal society. Her body of work weaves themes of female agency, body politics, and power relations, delving into the complex layers that define the feminine experience. Spapens invites viewers to engage with the intricate dance between individual stories and broader societal questions in her quest to unravel the essence of womanhood in the contemporary world.