

PRESS RELEASE

Proudick

7 November 2018 – 12 January 2019

a collaborative show by

Lindsey Mendick and Paloma Proudfoot

curated by Marcelle Joseph

Hannah Barry Gallery

4 Holly Grove

London SE15 5DF

For a man wins no better prize than a good woman, and none more chilling than a bad one-- always hunting something to devour. And no matter how strong he is, she roasts her man without fire, and hands him over to a raw old age.

- Anne Carson 'Dirt and Desire: An Essay on the Phenomenology of Female Pollution in Antiquity' (2000)

Proudick is the first collaborative exhibition of artists and friends Paloma Proudfoot and Lindsey Mendick. Drawing from the tradition of celebrity-couple portmanteaus, the artists have rebranded themselves as Proudick for the duration of the exhibition. Like the personal lives of Kimye, Brangelina and Bennifer, Proudick will offer up their private lives as tabloid fodder through still-life installation and performance, drawing from the world of Greek myth through to the work of Tracy Emin and Sarah Lucas.

We petrify our subjects: casting or simulating organic matter into clay. Fired and lacquered with glaze, they are hardened but still liable to shatter. Like Medusa, freezing our victims in anger, imposing stillness in our ceramics whilst a writhing unsure mass ourselves. – Proudick

Greek mythology often speaks of the danger of the female presence, with mythical women frequently violating the masculine form: melting, morphing and freezing them in an amorphous sexual desire. Proudick will create gothic souvenirs of these moments, extending and castrating everyday objects into the anthropomorphic protagonists of these stories. Oversized Jane Norman bags, oxblood eels, drooping bowling pins and oozing jacket potatoes become the contemporary echo of Medusa and her sisters. Like the portrayal of woman in myth, the works are porous: they bleed, seep, leak and swell.

Our desire to gain control through stillness bleeds into our life as friends. We take screenshots of text conversations with thwarted ex-lovers, freezing the evidence of their inadequacy. We turn this petrifying glare towards ourselves too, capturing and sharing our faces in hungover withdrawal, obsessively analysing seemingly inconsequential moments that spawn whole periods of self-disgust. Bile, drivel and love streamed through iMessage. - Proudick

Through the lens of friendship, Proudick's sculptural work will fuse with self-portraiture into one cohesive body of work. Looking historically to Tracy Emin's *My Bed* (1998), with all its tabloid controversy, Proudick give thanks to the inspiration it gave them to become artists by reappraising this work in the form of two parallel, yet single beds. The artists will explore the connection to Emin further, mirroring *The Shop*, a collaborative project between Emin and Sarah Lucas in the early 1990s.

Stemming from friendship and a need for respite, the two artists created a haven of free-spirited creativity in Brick Lane. A shop that transcended the studio and defied the particular trends that flooded the art of the time.

Like Emin and Lucas, Proudick will create effigies to their friendship, monuments to the dishevelled bedroom and the leaky woman. The sculptures will commodify their failures: the dirty cups and plates that reside and cower beneath the bed, posters that adorn bedroom walls, and knickers that unfurl as simultaneous trophies of the night before and spectres at the feast.

Proudickcock!

Wednesday 21 November, 7-8pm

An evening of performances exploring so-called 'acceptable' feminine behaviour and the millennial anxiety of both meeting and ignoring these expectations. Lying side by side, Proudick will stage an eating contest, a messy protest to the line of exes who have made fun of their shared enthusiasm for food. Through loud mouthfuls of hotdog, Proudick will out their ordinarily private misdemeanors. Teddy May de Kock will create a soap-opera-style performance created from the stream of text messages that Proudick have sent each other. Mendick will be harking back to teenage lovelorn misery in a musical exploration of Leona Lewis' seminal *Bleeding Love*, and Proudfoot will perform a new text work based on Hannah Wilke's 1982 performance *Stand Up*.

Lindsey Mendick (b. 1987, London, UK) received an MA in Sculpture at the Royal College of Art, London (2017). Recent solo and two-person exhibitions include: *The Turnpike Pottery*, The Turnpike Leigh (2018); *Perfectly Ripe*, Zabłudowicz Collection, London (2018); *Jamie Fitzpatrick and Lindsey Mendick*, Vitrine, Basel (2018); *She's Really Nice When You Get To Know Her*, Visual Arts Center, Austin, Texas (2016); *Girls* (with Rebecca Gould) as part of Periclo, Oriol Wrexham, Wales (2015); *Hot Flush*, STCFTHOTS, Leeds (2015); and *Lindsey Mendick and Lynn Fulton*, One Thoresby Street, Nottingham (2015). Selected group exhibitions include: *Survey*, Jerwood Space, London (2018); *Something Else*, Triumph Gallery, Moscow (2018); *Rhapsodies*, Ping Pong, Brussels (2018); *If You Can't Stand the Heat*, Roaming Projects, London (2018); *Flipside*, Fold Gallery, London (2018); *You See Me Like a UFO*, Marcelle Joseph Projects, Ascot (2017); *Herland*, Bosse & Baum, London (2017); *In Dark Times*, Castlefield Gallery, Manchester (2017); *You Were High When I Was Doomed*, IMT Gallery, London (2017); and *Sell Yourself*, Patrick Studios, Leeds (2017).

Paloma Proudfoot (b.1992, London, UK) received an MA in Sculpture at the Royal College of Art, London (2017). As well as her solo sculptural practice, Proudfoot works in collaboration with artist and choreographer Aniela Piasecka, and the performance group Stasis. Recent solo and two-person exhibitions include: Solo presentation with Soy Capitan, Art Berlin Fair, Berlin (2018); *The Detachable Head Serves as a Cup*, Cob Gallery, London (2018); *The Clean Carcass of the Host* (with George Rouy for Condo Mexico), Marso Galeria, Mexico City (2018); *The Engagement Party* (with Piasecka), Scottish Arts Club, Edinburgh (2018); *The Thinking Business* (with Rebecca Ounstead), The Royal Standard, Liverpool (2017); *There's One Missing From Your Bunch*, May Projects, London (2016); and *The Jockey* (with Piasecka), Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop (2015). Selected group exhibitions include: *SM*, Sans Titre, Marseille (2018); *Something Else*, Triumph Gallery, Moscow (2018); *Rhapsodies*, Ping Pong, Brussels (2018); *Becoming Plant*, Tenderpixel, London (2018); *Towards a Theory of Powerful Things*, Rod Barton, London (2018); *Chambre Dix*, Sans Titre, Paris (2018); *Terra*, Lamb Arts, London (2018); *Ripe*, Kingsgate Workshops, London (2018); *If You Can't Stand the Heat*, Roaming Projects, London (2018); *Doing it in Public*, Beaconsfield Gallery, London (2017); and *Herland*, Bosse and Baum, London (2017).