



## **Karla Black**

Until 29 October 2023

Karla Black is a critically acclaimed Scottish artist, who has been working with sculpture for more than twenty years. This exhibition presents newly commissioned sculptures and is the artist's largest UK exhibition to date.

Black uses a distinctive palette of pastel and metallic colours and selects materials for their physical properties, from cotton wool, Vaseline, bath bombs and make-up to polythene, cellophane, powder paint and paper. The artist worked independently in the gallery spaces over a two-week period, transforming these raw materials and pre-prepared forms from her studio into works that hang, hover, rise, assemble, scatter, curve and spread.

The exhibition is composed of two gallery-filling works and a number of singular sculptures including *Study The Method Of The Theft*, 2023, a wall-based sculpture comprising paint-filled jewellery boxes in grid formation. With this work, the artist brings to mind the desirable and carefully organised displays of sweet shops and make-up counters.

Black has a longstanding interest in Greek philosophy and ancient history, in particular the closed-off environment and politics of Plato's Academy, the first institution of higher

learning in the western world to the virtual exclusion of women. The exhibition centres around *The Academy, 2023* the form of which takes inspiration from the landscape and outdoor gymnasium of Plato's Academy, a male-only zone where rigorous and influential discussions also took place.

Robe-like objects around the perimeter of this space allude to the Academy's exclusive political environment, with the exception of one wall-mounted, colourfully embellished paper form that draws attention to the contributions of women in modernist art. In form and in its feminist stance, *The Academy, 2023* also pays homage to artist Louise Bourgeois' work, *The Destruction of the Father, 1974*.

*Home From The Academy, 2023*, is a looser, abstract work running the length of the gallery, made of ragged paper and spherical cosmetics briskly rubbed, rolled and scattered across layers of cotton wool, paper and powder. A more free-form sculpture that mimics the chaos of domestic life, it contrasts *The Academy, 2023*, and involves the viewer in a sensory way.

View more work by Karla Black in the Gallery Window Box.

### **Artist talk**

**Thursday 19 October, 5.30 – 8pm**

Karla Black will be in conversation with Fiona Bradley, Director of The Fruitmarket Gallery, Edinburgh.

£7.50 (£5 concs) advance booking essential via Eventbrite.