



Always the Real Thing

16.03.18 - 14.04.18

Helene Appel, Miriam Austin, Lupo Borgonovo, Hannah Lees, Laura Porter and Wieske Wester

Curated by Caterina Avataneo and Anaïs Lerendu

"The church of Chamula offers its visitors no banks. Instead the floor is covered with hay, pine needles, flowers and hundreds of thin candles. [...] The smell of resin, incense and paraffin is lingering through the air. Next to the Tzotzil who sit on the floor uttering prayers in their mother-tongue, the visitor is irritated by the presence of three things: running chickens, a reasonable amount of pox, a traditional sugarcane liquor, Coca Cola and a lot of people burping..."

Testimony of a visitor, Church of Cahmula, Mexico 2016

Looking at a contemporary Mexican ritual in which Coca Cola is offered alongside prayers and sacrificed chickens in order to appeal for the salvation of seriously ill relatives, *Always the Real Thing* gathers works by six international artists whose practices touch on ideas of tradition and authenticity. In the show, which takes its title from one of the most well-known Coca Cola advertising slogans, the ceremonial use of food is re-contextualised with a humorous twist, and mysticism and popular culture are mixed to produce a combination of the sacred and the profane that collapses past and present through anachronisms of the form and content of belief.

Preview: Friday 16th March 6:30 - 9pm

Opening days

Saturdays 12 - 6pm

and by appointment

WHITE CRYPT

St Mark's church

337 Kennington Park Road

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Floor plan Always the Real Thing

1. Laura Porter, *Le choucouhou des nanas*, 2017, EVA foam, styrofoam, nigelle seeds, black-eyed peas, woodglue, car vinyl, copper, synthetic hair, tulle, steel, plastic film, ink, tape, variable dimensions
2. Wieske Wester, *Corn*, 2015, oil on canvas, 80 x 60 cm
3. Laura Porter, *Tips*, 2015, UV print on plastic fingernail tips, fiberglass, resin, wood glue, neons, PMMA, variable dimensions
4. Helene Appel, *Pollack*, 2017, Encaustic and oil on linen, 15,6 x 9,3 cm
5. Helene Appel, *Pollack*, 2017, Encaustic and oil on linen, 21,6 x 10,4 cm
6. Miriam Austin, *Andraste 3*, 2018, silicone, seaweed, melon, salt, aconitum, aluminium, steel, dried brugmansia, borage, solanum siricea, hyacinth, hawthorn, wax, honey, variable dimensions
7. Lupo Borgonovo, *Frutto*, 2014, silicone rubber, 15 elements, variable dimensions
8. Wieske Wester, *Bananas #8*, 2017, oil on canvas, 40 x 50 cm
9. Hannah Lees, *To it save every twig*, 2018, onion skin dye, black rice soaking water, acrylic paint, canvas, clay Asanka grinding pot, date seeds, plastic date stem, paper, variable dimensions
10. Hannah Lees, *A Rumbling is Felt*, 2018, Performance/Reading
11. Wieske Wester, *Carrots #1*, 2017, oil on canvas, 24 x 30 cm

