

Press release

Opening: Thursday 02/12, 16:00–21:00

Through 22/01/2022

Text and exhibition curated by: Efi Falida

In **Hotberg**, her new solo exhibition, Irini Karayannopoulou reflects on female sensuality through a metaphysical prism, while negotiating female emancipation in her own, non-apologetic way. The artist paints directly on the pages of vintage magazines and in old erotic postcards. She then enlarges these images and paints on them again and again until the point of exhaustion. In **Hotberg**, some images appear as prints, others become animations, while some turn into collages through the artist's ongoing experimentation protocols.

Hotberg is a celebration. The protagonists of Irini Karayannopoulou inevitably obtain new passports as they undergo new transformations. All sorts of possibilities unfold throughout this trip. Forgotten, anonymous sex dolls of past decades alchemically transform into strong, sensual figures, in new roles indicated by the artist.

In her collages, Irini Karayannopoulou explores the iconography of striptease and gambling. She obsessively collects advertising slogans from Las Vegas casino listings and interconnects them with promises of wealth and prosperity found in the pages of other obsolete publications.

In addition, the artist revisits a series of rare postcards printed in France in the 1950s. She steals the identities of the semi-naked ladies pictured in these tiny glossy cards. She repaints their faces and replaces their eyes with a mask. As she gives them back their anonymity, she enters another dimension and slips into a different moment in time.

Irini's dark oil paintings of faceless hair torrents blend with masked beings -their connection is almost supernatural. As a valuable part of the artist's practice, these paintings serve as souvenirs from the state of the unconscious which she often dives into. **Hotberg** is a poetic transformation of female images that turns the visual unconscious of whoever looks at them into an image.

The short film entitled *Hypnothèque* (Twin Automat 2021) is a capsule of sensuality where women float in a state between piety and unconsciousness, desire and death. It is a "handmade animation", a collaboration between the artist and the French film editor Sandrine Cheyrol. The soundtrack of the work was composed by psychiatrist and sound artist Christos Kalafatis.

Opening hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 14:00 – 20:00 & Saturday 12:00 – 16:00



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