

G A S W O R K S

PRESS RELEASE

Anna Perach

1 February – 28 April 2024



In her work, Anna Perach (b. Ukraine based London) explores the dynamics between personal and cultural myths. With diverse references including domesticity, fairy tales and psychoanalytic theory she transforms female archetypes into sculptural hybrids, exploring ideas of identity, gender, and craft. Her work engages with historical narratives through the depiction of enigmatic female characters that dwell in the uneasy space of between, inside, and outside of their bodies.

For her first institutional solo exhibition in the UK, Perach presents **Holes**, her most ambitious project to-date. A site of rebirth, where non-conforming and subjugated bodies take control, *Holes* pushes beyond conventional understandings of flesh and skin. Comprising large-scale sculptural forms and installation, the exhibition is inspired by instances where the female body is viewed by a religious or scientific patriarchal authority as something that transgresses the rules of morality and nature. These moments include witch trials from the renaissance period, 17th Century anatomical Venus sculptures designed for disassembly and exploration of the feminine interior; and the work of an 19th century neurologist Jean-Martin Charcot who treated women diagnosed with hysteria.

In her exhibition, Perach makes space for her characters to transcend their assumed characteristics of good and evil, scientific and mysterious, entering a liminal space of unknowing and potential. In her words: “The characters’ bodies are in transition and transformation, disobeying the boundaries of the self as an impenetrable unit and by metaphor the boundaries of societal rules.”

Employing a distinctive visual vocabulary, Perach works with an intricate tufting technique, commonly used to produce domestic textiles, to create surreal wearable sculptures or skins often used for performances. Richly detailed and layered, the sculptures confound conventional expectations, with stretched limbs, engorged features and uncanny faces. Alluring yet monstrous, Perach blurs the lines between interior and exterior and in *Holes*, they will be further activated in a new two-part performance, taking place at selected times during the exhibition. With movement direction by Luigi Ambrosio, sound by Laima Leyton, performed by: Agnieszka Szczotka, Anna Guzak, Maria Sole Montacci and Chiara Pagani.

Gasworks commissions are supported by Catherine Petitgas, Gasworks Exhibitions Supporters, and the Anna Perach Exhibition Circle.

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PRESS CONTACT

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[High res images are available here](#) (log in with email address)

IMAGE

Anna Perach, *Mistress of the Desert*, performance. Photo: Lena Gomon. Courtesy the artist and Fireflies Project

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About Anna Perach

Anna Perach is based in London, UK. She has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions internationally including: Richard Saltoun, London (2023); Edel Assanti, London (2022); Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art; ADA, Italy (both 2021); Centrale Fies, Italy (2020); MOSTYN, Llandudno; Mimosa House, London (both 2019). In 2022, Perach was awarded the Carol Rama award at Artissima and the Hopper prize, in 2021 she received the Ingram Prize and in 2020 the studio award with Sarabande, The Lee Alexander McQueen Foundation as well as the Gilbert Bayes award. Perach is a studio holder at Gasworks.

About Gasworks

Gasworks plays a unique role in the contemporary visual arts sector by working at the intersection between UK and international practices and debates. It does this by providing studios for London-based artists; commissioning emerging UK-based and international artists to present their first major exhibitions in London; and developing a highly respected international residencies programme, mainly working with artists based outside Europe and North America. All programmes are accompanied by events and participatory workshops that engage local and international audiences with artists and their work.

Gasworks is also the hub of Triangle Network, an international network of small-scale arts organisations and projects that support and disseminate the work of emerging artists through artist-led workshops, residencies, exhibitions and outreach events. Gasworks and Triangle Network are registered as a charity in the UK under 'Triangle Arts Trust' and all their activities are free to the public.

Listings Information

Anna Perach, *Holes*

1 Feb – 28 April 2024

Gasworks, 155 Vauxhall St, London SE11 5RH

Open: Weds – Sun 12–6pm. Free admission

www.gasworks.org.uk

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URL: <https://www.gasworks.org.uk/exhibitions/anna-perach/>

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