ROMAN ROAD

PRESS RELEASE
ALIX MARIE
LA FEMME FONTAINE

Private View:
Wednesday 04 April 2018, 6pm – 9pm
Exhibition:
Thursday 05 April – Sunday 20 May 2018

Opening Hours:
Wednesday – Friday, 10am – 6pm
Saturday, 12pm – 5pm and by appointment

Roman Road is very pleased to present *La Femme Fontaine*, the first solo exhibition by Alix Marie in London. The show features an installation composed of concrete sculptures and fountain systems, which expands on her current investigation and critical inquiry of the body, its cultural representations and appropriations.

Marie's *La Femme Fontaine* (2017) was originally commissioned as a site-specific work for her first exhibition in Italy at Matèria. Over the past months, she has been evolving and adding to the project, creating new sculptures for her solo show at Roman Road. The varied presented works are concrete casts of different parts of the artist's body, which contain plastic tubes that channel and spurt out water. The exhibition displays Marie's unique pieces on the floor and at differing heights on the walls of the gallery space, generating an immersive installation of fragmented forms.

Employing the human body as subject, *La Femme Fontaine* (2017 and 2018) explores themes of amorphousness, fluidity, and the deconstruction of gender stereotypes. The work has evolved from Marie's interest in fluids and wetness, and their connection to feminine symbolism. Through the plastic tubing, liquid courses through her concrete sculptures, highlighting woman's aqueous embodiment and challenging the abjection that surrounds the female body and it's production of bodily fluids. The title of the work is taken from a popular French expression used to describe female ejaculation, a natural act that has been banned from being featured in pornography in the UK. With her installation, Marie also confronts the notion of woman's fragility, rendering her indexical sculptures in commanding concrete.

La Femme Fontaine opens on Wednesday 04 April and will be on display at Roman Road until Sunday 20 May. On the occasion of the exhibition, the artist will be in conversation with Photoworks director Shoair Mavlian during the morning of Thursday 17 May at the gallery.

ABOUT THE ARTIST
Alix Marie (b.1989, Paris) works across the mediums of photography, sculpture and installation. She graduated from Central Saint Martins College in 2011 with a first class honours degree in fine art and later completed an MA in photography at the Royal College of Art. In 2017, she won the Portfolio Review Award and was selected for the 11th edition of Foam Talent Call. Recent exhibitions include: *MDAM* at Roman Road, London (2017); *The Body is Victory and Defeat of Dreams* at K-Gold Temporary Gallery, Lesvos (2017); and *ADYTA* at Ratinger Tor, Düsseldorf (Solo, 2018) as part of Duesseldorf Photo Weekend 2018.

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Alix Marie, *La Femme Fontaine*, 2017. Installation. Courtesy of Roman Road and the artist. © Alix Marie

ABOUT ROMAN ROAD

Roman Road was founded in 2013 by Marisa Bellani and initially began as a project space. The peculiarity of the premises has had a direct impact on the gallery's programme since its beginning. Tall and with a small footprint, the space led the director to challenge artists to employ the architectural elements in order to develop or restructure a body of work. Artists have frequently been asked to use the exhibition as a medium and have managed to transform the gallery room into a unique work of art. In 2014, the building underwent refurbishment to instate an additional private viewing space that gathers varied works by the gallery's represented artists, which are viewable by appointment. Since completing this renovation in 2015, Roman Road has established a qualitative programme, including participations at art fairs, and has seen its represented artists become internationally recognised by institutions and collectors.

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