

# ROMAN ROAD

## PRESS RELEASE SP-ARTE/2018 Stand L12

Wednesday 11 April – Sunday 15 April 2018

Bienal Pavilion  
Ibirapuera Park  
Av. Pedro Álvares Cabral, portão 3 (Gate 3)  
São Paulo, Brazil

Opening Hours:

Wednesday 11 April: Preview day  
Thursday 12 April: 1 PM – 9 PM  
Friday 13 April: 1 PM – 9 PM  
Saturday 14 April: 1 PM – 9 PM  
Sunday 15 April: 11 AM – 7 PM

Roman Road is very pleased to be participating at SP-Arte/2018 with a duo booth by Alix Marie and Marie Orensanz. Bringing together varied sculptures, photographs and drawings, the booth examines the legacy of classical sculpture in the work of these two artists and looks at how they draw on a tradition of fragmentation that comes from the display of broken statues from antiquity.

During the 1970s, Marie Orensanz moved to Milan and her close proximity to the Carrara marble quarries inspired a decisive turning point in her practice. She began working with remnants of marble found at the quarry sites, transforming them into books and sculptures on which she draws symbolic lines, words and signs representing thoughts. These unique sculptural works, a selection of which are displayed on plinths in the stand, all echo a distinct visual language that flows from one piece to the next. The booth also presents a collection of Orensanz' drawings, in which she correspondingly incorporates smaller offcuts of marble.

Alix Marie's practice stems from her interest in exploring our relationship to bodies and the construction of gender. In 2014, she created an installation composed of large-scale photographic prints of close-up body parts of her ambiguous and androgynous lover, Orlando. Tracing over the inches of her lover's skin, the blown-up images expose and fragment his body into a collection of abstract, fleshy details. The photographs have been covered in wax, crinkled, scanned and then reprinted, resulting in a trompe-l'oeil and marbling effect. The display specially features a collection of these waxy photographs on aluminium by Marie, as well as some of her recent small sculptures, which further show the human body in a disjointed form.

By bringing together a selection of significant works by Orensanz and Marie, Roman Road's booth examines how these artists have approached the materiality of marble in very different ways, offering two distinct perspectives on fragmentation and reinterpretations of the sculptural object. Coinciding with the fair, Orensanz' works are featured in the touring exhibition *Radical Women: Latin American Art, 1960-1985* at the Brooklyn Museum in New York from 13 April – 22 July 2018, and subsequently at Pinacoteca de São Paulo from 18 August – 19 November 2018.

### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

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.

Marie Orensanz (b. 1936, Mar del Plata) began her career studying painting in Buenos Aires under Argentinian Modernist masters Emilio Pettoruti and Antonio Seguí. In 1972, she moved to Milan and began working with sculpture. Orensanz received a retrospective at Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires (MAMBA) in 2007, and has had solo shows at Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Rosario; Maison de l'Amérique Latine, Paris; and Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes, Buenos Aires. In 2017, she was featured in *Radical Women: Latin American Art, 1960-1985* at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles. Her work is held in collections worldwide, including at Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; Centro de Multimedia Internacional, São Paulo; Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris; and Bremen Museum, Germany.

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## 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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Marie Orensanz, *Le papillon*, 1993. Drawing on paper and marble, 40 x 34 cm, unique.  
Courtesy of Roman Road and the artist