

# ROMAN ROAD

## PRESS RELEASE

### CODE 3

### STAND 053

Thursday 30 August – Sunday 02 September 2018

Opening Hours:

Bella Center  
Center Boulevard 5  
2300 Copenhagen S  
Denmark

Thursday 30 August: Public Vernissage 5 – 8 PM  
Friday 31 August: 11 AM – 8 PM  
Saturday 01 September: 11 AM – 8 PM  
Sunday 02 September: 11 AM – 6 PM

Roman Road is very pleased to be returning to Code Art Fair this year with a solo booth by Alix Marie. Ranging from photography, sculpture and installation, Marie's work engages deeply with the human body and its representation. Throughout her practice, she has shown an interest in exploring the tactile and performative possibilities of photography, often creating three-dimensional and sculptural works that focus on depictions of skin and the fragmented body. The stand specially features three new bodies of work by the artist stemming from this investigation, which together also explore the sociocultural idealisation of the body.

With her new series *Olympians* (2018), Marie employs pages from bodybuilding magazines to create unique photographic works of muscular body parts. Using black permanent markers, she selects and delineates shapes of the exposed bodies and fills in the remaining background of the magazine pages. The faces of the male models have also been drawn over, removing their identities and leaving only their muscular arms, legs and torsos to view. The works are enclosed in Perspex and sealed using a strong yet flexible rubber tape, mimicking the impression of the pictured bodies and adding certain tactility to each piece.

Using similar cropped images of male bodybuilders taken from the magazines, Marie has used the dye sublimation printing technique in her new *Deep Muscle Massage* (2018) and *It's Like Somebody Blowing Air into your Muscle* (2018) works to create three-dimensional photographic sculptures. In both series, the images are printed onto satin polyester fabric, which is then sewn around electric massage mats and fans, creating a distinct motion and added sense of animation to the fleshy objects. While the *It's Like Somebody Blowing Air into your Muscle* pieces fidget in a steady motion from the circulating air, the *Deep Muscle Massage* works displayed on the booth have been customised to individual massage programs, generating different sequences of sound and instigating an immersive presentation that audibly brings to mind the repetitive workout regimes that bodybuilders undergo to maintain their desired physiques. This repetition of movement and energy carries across all three of Marie's latest projects, not only through the visible motion in the two aforementioned series but also in the lengthy process to create each of her *Olympians*, in which she laboriously colours to the edges of every magazine page with a fine marker pen.

#### 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. Her work was recently featured in the internationally touring *Foam Talent* exhibition, presented in Amsterdam, New York, London and Frankfurt. Recent solo exhibitions include *La Femme Fontaine* at Roman Road, London, and *ADYTA* at Ratinger Tor, Düsseldorf, as part of Duesseldorf Photo Weekend 2018.

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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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Alix Marie, *Olympians 88*, 2018. Black marker pen on magazine paper encased in a handmade Perspex and self-amalgamating rubber tape frame, 27 x 20 cm (32 x 25 cm with frame), unique. Courtesy of the artist and Roman Road