

ROMAN ROAD
PRESS RELEASE

DaddyBears

SHINY SEXY SOFT

Private View: Friday 13 October 2023, 6 – 8 PM

Exhibition: Saturday 14 October – Wednesday 01 November 2023

Location: 69 Roman Road,
London E2 0QN

Opening Hours:
Monday – Tuesday, by appointment
Wednesday – Friday, 11 AM – 6 PM
Saturday, 11 AM – 5 PM

Shiny, sexy, soft: a curious choice of words to describe an artist's work but ones that seem perfectly befitting to characterise the dreamy and shimmery pieces on display in DaddyBears's first ever solo show at Roman Road. A dimly lit space with the blackest of blacks flooring houses several unique and upholstered found object sculptures, while the walls are adorned with floor-to-ceiling textile photographs documenting a domestic space decorated with blurred stock photos of female nudes. Through her immersive exhibition, DaddyBears seeks to reappropriate one man's interior design choices into a new and fantastical room of her own.

Shiny Sexy Soft presents a fragmented glimpse into the world of sex work, and the projected glamorisation and stigmatisation it habitually assumes. Drawing on the interior spaces of sex work, or those that are conceived and created to impart a desired delusion, the show communicates a broken fantasy, destabilising the imagined experience.

Two home environments (or worlds) of reverie – one invented and dreamlike, the other real and teeming with desire – are stitched together, recreating and materialising an installation that at once evokes feelings of familiarity and cosiness, otherworldliness and unease. The artist's laboriously handcrafted satin sculptures recall everyday household furniture and items while the draping stretched wall photographs, printed with a grungy green filter, envelop and situate the viewer within a curious dwelling. Ideas surrounding different perceptions and perspectives, the gaze and the gaze of others come into play, as DaddyBears reconceptualises snippets of her lived experiences within a space that creatively explores how people choose and present their habitats, what we can project onto a setting and what is projected onto us.

Despite being legalised in the UK, and in around 50% of countries worldwide, the sale of sexual experiences is a contentious issue, and a prevalent industry that still remains taboo and enveloped in uncertainty. DaddyBears is hoping that when visiting *Shiny Sexy Soft*, we contemplate the link between what we ascribe onto others and the environments they may find themselves in, whether through choice or force.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

DaddyBears (b. Bradford) is a British artist working with textile sculpture and installation. She received her MA in menswear design from the Royal College of Art, London (2017), and her BA in fashion design from Middlesex University, London (2015). DaddyBears was invited to take part in Palazzo Monti's spring 2022 residency in Brescia, where she subsequently had her first duo show *Can't Stop Can't Let Go* (2022). She was also recently selected for Roman Road's first studio programme in London (2023). Her work has been shown in group shows at Asylum Studios, Suffolk (2020) and Bad Art Presents, London (2019).

ABOUT ROMAN ROAD

Roman Road, formerly an art gallery founded by Marisa Bellani in 2013, is a community driver and catalyst for artists' career growth and creativity, driven by its founder's desire to propose a new and viable support system for artists, responding to the XXIC ever-evolving art world. As such, Roman Road's activities are dedicated to two main aspects: Studios and Curation.

Studios are spaces where artists can expand the parameters of their practices. Roman Road's mission to unearth talent and root artists to its community is achieved through the implementation of its studio programme, providing a sense of belonging and furthering its purpose and commitment as a leading facilitator fostering experimental freedom and artistic autonomy.

As opposed to the showcasing of full-on programming specific to galleries, Curation is a branch dedicated to the conception and production of fewer exhibitions, either internally or in partnership, to push further the academic research focusing on an in-depth and qualitative study of two main topics: the future of the world through utopia and dystopia, and the complexities of the human mind, from non-normative identities to challenging stereotypes in modern society.