



## Zoe Williams. Capital Vice

23 September - 26 November 2022  
curated by Luca Bochicchio  
with critical contribution by Caterina Avataneo  
and the collaboration of Paola Gargiulo

On **September 23** ABC-ARTE open **from 6:30 pm** in Genoa the first the first Italian solo exhibition by the internationally acclaimed, London-based artist **Zoe Williams** (Salisbury 1983).

Williams arrived in Albisola at the beginning of April 2022 to spend an almost three-month period as artist in residence at the Ernan Design Studio pottery, where she has produced the body of sculptural work that forms the nucleus of Capital Vice.

The exhibition and the period as artist in residence are the result of a combined synergy involving the ABC-ARTE gallery (engaged in a series of projects to establish relations with young artists and international curators), Luca Bochicchio, the director of the MuDA and of the Casa Museo Jorn at Albissola Marina (the international cultural centre that has been promoting exhibitions of contemporary art based on periods of residence and workshops in collaboration with the Albisola pottery since 2016) and the Parisian Ciaccia-Levi gallery, which represents Zoe Williams and is taking part in this initiative. Williams' residence at Albisola, promoted by ABC-ARTE and Ciaccia-Levi, is moreover the prelude to a long-term exhibition project which will involve the museums of Savona and Fraeme Projects in Marseille in 2023.

Zoe Williams' artistic practice is based on the construction of works installations that engage the emotional and sensorial perception of the viewer in a play of subversion, corrosion and transfer of the commonly accepted notions of eroticism, magic, gender, hedonism, excess and artisanal skill. The sculptures made for the exhibition *Capital Vice* play this game to the full. They are a response on the one hand to the artist's need to give her own visions, anxieties and provocations physical, absolute form, and on the other hand to the awareness of the relation of complicity, study, involvement and diffidence that the images set up with the observer.

Zoe Williams has imagined the four rooms of the ABC-ARTE gallery as the scenes for the unfolding of a dramatic narrative that may evoke both a medieval dramatic production and a Dario Argento horror film. The exhibition is in fact a psychosexual drama in four moments, in which symbolic and mysterious objects and persons appear, incorporated in enamels and brilliant, seductive colours: female busts, mythological figures, reflecting grotesques, slippers, accessories and fantastic Baroque vases.



The conceptual framework of the exhibition is supported by multiple layers of meaning: *Capital Vice* as the seven deadly sins according to Christian theological doctrine (there are symbolic allusions to this in the cardinal red and the sublime Baroque decorations), and at the same time as the original sin of capitalism, the consumption and commodification of the individual (the shift from the intense red of the works towards the pulsating, bloody passion of sensual, opulent and ambiguous bodies). Genoese aesthetic and history - the background of the gallery - infuse inspiration and exuberance into the ceramic sculptures and all the multi-material installations of Zoe Williams. The clink of money, the dung, the figureheads of the ships, the roses, the sexual attributes of mythological figures like the Gorgon, revive the macabre purification ritual required by the epiphany of the divinity and, at the same time, bring us dangerously close to the abyss of commodification, gambling and greed.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a new bilingual monograph published by ABC-ARTE with essays by the curator Luca Bochicchio, the critical contribution by Caterina Avataneo and a richly illustrated ensemble of images and documents.

### **Zoe Williams. Capital Vice**

23 September - 26 November 2022  
tue-sat: 09:30-13:30 e 14:30-18:30  
sun-mon: by appointment

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**Artist short biography:**

"My practice incorporates a range of mediums including moving image, ceramics, drawing and performance and is often collaborative in its process and outcome. These elements are combined to create immersive objects and environments, which conjure a playful and corrosive interchange between notions of the erotic, craft, magic, gender, hedonism and excess. Through the cross contamination of these influences, I wish to provoke conversations around the pressures of power, the politics of sex and the economics of production. My work explores the shifting use values of objects and rituals through history and within contemporary society. Food also plays a prevalent role within my practice, as a tool for exchange, disgust and sensuality."

**Significant solo exhibitions include:**

*Tendresse, Tendril*, Ciaccia Levi Gallery, Paris; *Sunday Fantasy*, Mimosa House, London; *Ruffles*, Artmonte-carlo, Monaco; *The Unruly Glove, The Green Bum and The Sickly Trickle*, Ciaccia Levi Gallery, Paris; *Morsa*, Studio Amaro, Naples; *Pel*, Ciaccia Levi Gallery, Paris; *Soft Paste*, The Studio Warehouse Gallery, Glasgow; *The Flight of O*, Spike Island, Bristol.

**Significant group projects & residencies include:**

(X) *A Fantasy*, group exhibition and solo performance commission, DRAF, London; *Spring/Summer 2015*, DCA, Dundee; *The Chic and The Borderline*, cur. by David Roberts Art Foundation, part of Art International Istanbul; *Mood is Made /Temperature Is Taken*, GSS, Glasgow; *Chateaux Double Wide*, Glasgow International Festival 2016; *H Y P E R C O N N E C T E D*, MMOMA, part of 5th Moscow International Biennale of Young Artists; *Mademoiselle*, Centre Régional d'Art Contemporain Occitanie, Sète, France; *The Armoury Show 2019*, New York; *Playful Aggressions*, Greengrassi, London; *Ruffles*, Art Montecarlo 2019; *Something Soft*, Kunstraum, London; *Cookbook 19*, La Panacée, Montpellier. *Triangle- Gasworks and British Council, Crafting Futures Residency Nepal; CHAPTER 4OUR, Abundance*, Het HEM, Netherlands; *Modern Conversations*, Tate St-Ives.

**Forthcoming Projects Include:**

*Solo exhibition*, Fraeme Projects, Marseille, (June 2023)  
*FLUXUS/Magnetic* Laurette Villa Arson, Nice, France (November 2022)  
*Solo exhibition with Carol Rama*, Milan drawing Week, Ciaccia Levi, Milan, Italy (November 2022)  
*Richard Saltoun Gallery*, ceramic residency, and group exhibition, Rome, Italy (November 2022)  
*Artissima*, Ciaccia Levi Gallery, Turin, Italy (November 2022)  
*The Horror Show!*, Somerset House, London (October 2022)  
*La Fugitive*, cur. by Ana Mendoza Aldana & Claire Le Restif, LE CRÉDAC, Ivry-sur-Seine, France (September 2022)  
*Wet Resistance*, Dortmunder Kunstverein, Dortmund, Germany (August 2022)