

WHITE CUBE

Press Release

TARWUK

Conceived for the Stage

17 October – 2 December 2023

Press Preview: Monday 16 October, 4–5pm

White Cube Paris

White Cube Paris is pleased to present an exhibition by the artist duo TARWUK [Bruno Pogačnik Tremow (b. 1981, Zagreb, Croatia) and Ivana Vukšić (b. 1981, Dubrovnik, Croatia)], transforming the gallery into an installation which reimagines the formal conventions of traditional theatre.

Working as a single entity since 2014, TARWUK form part of a generation who came of age during the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s. Now living and working in the US, their practice can be understood within the context of the aspirations, struggles and eventual dissolution of the former Yugoslavian state, and its elusive avant-garde.

Comprising new paintings, works on paper, sculptures and illuminating orbs, 'Conceived for the Stage' evokes a metaphysical domain of real-time performance, where both objects and visitors assume roles of a troupe of performers and the audience.

Illuminated by the soft glow of hand-blown glass orbs, TARWUK's large-scale paintings depict intimate moments of theatre: a tender encounter between two lovers, a family dinner, the playful dance between owner and pet. These scenes unfold against elaborate backdrops adorned with brocade motifs and ornate early Renaissance-style decorative symbols.

TARWUK's sculptures conjure domestic scenes that feature Yugoslav worker uniforms, art-nouveau furniture and Edwardian costumes. Throughout the space, theatrical plinths support parts of an unfinished costume. Synthetic clay hands, detached from their body, rest motionless, while torn leather shoes sprout biomorphic formations of leather, metal, velvet, clay and cotton, forging landscapes of uncanny growth.

To mark the occasion of the show, White Cube and TARWUK are publishing an edition of 100 Riso-printed books, which serves as both a guide and a libretto for the exhibition, 'Conceived for the Stage'. The book is designed in collaboration with Timur Akhmetov and includes a text by Elizaveta Shneyderman, as well as a libretto written with the guidance of Fetva, a Moldovan psychoanalyst and Parisian DJ.

Coinciding with the exhibition, TARWUK's painting *MRTISKLAAH_ovO_imzU_rataeT* (2023) will be on view in White Cube's presentation (Booth D15) at Paris+ par Art Basel, Grand Palais Éphémère, from 19–22 October 2023.

MEDIA RELATIONS

**FOUCHARD
FILIPPI**
COMMUNICATIONS

Philippe Fouchard-Filippi

Tel : +33 1 53 28 87 53 / +33 6 60 21 11 94 / phff@fouchardfilippi.com

www.fouchardfilippi.com

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Notes to Editors:

- Admission to White Cube is free. White Cube Paris is by appointment only, contact: enquiryparis@whitecube.com. The gallery is open Tuesday–Saturday 11am–7pm. Address: 10 avenue Matignon 75008 Paris. Phone: +33 (0) 1 87 39 85 97. Website: whitecube.com
- White Cube's exhibition programme extends across locations in London, Hong Kong, Paris, New York, West Palm Beach, Seoul and online. Since its inception in 1993, the gallery has exhibited the work of many of the world's most highly acclaimed contemporary artists.
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Philippe Fouchard-Filippi
Tel : +33 1 53 28 87 53 / +33 6 60 21 11 94 / phff@fouchardfilippi.com
www.fouchardfilippi.com