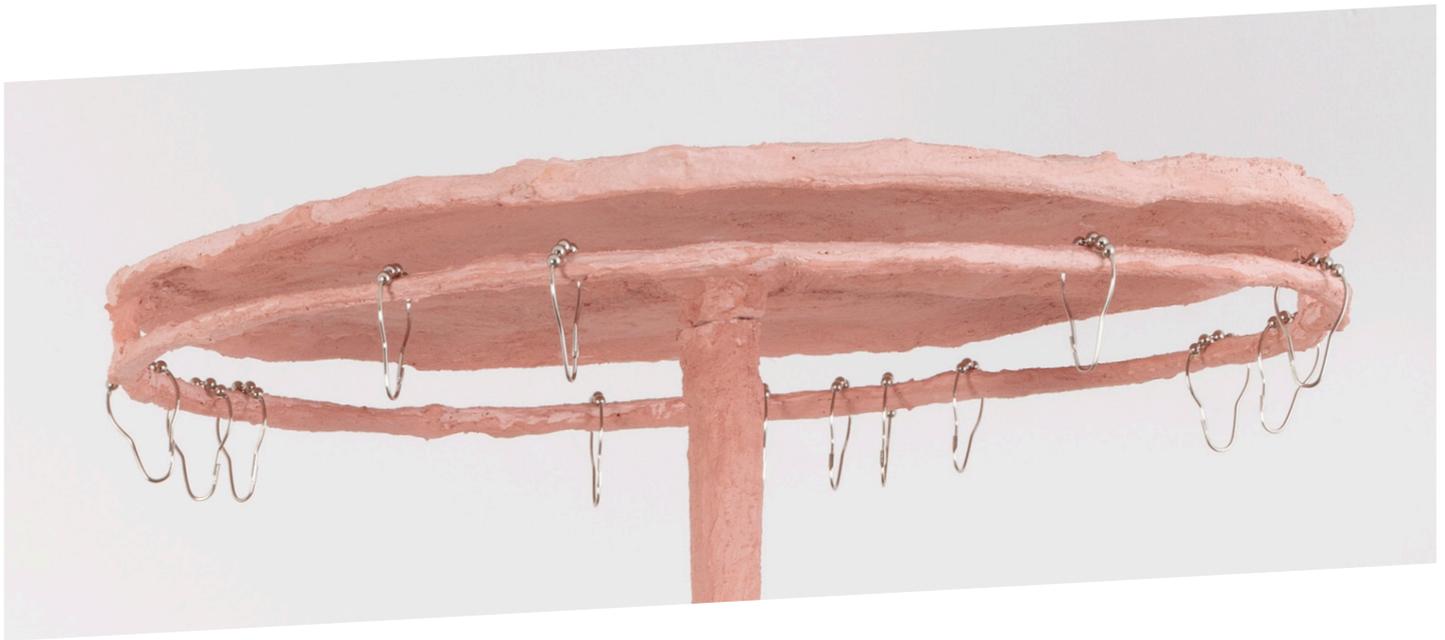


Oren Pinhassi - The Crowd

Exhibition: 20 October - 18 December 2020
Monday to Friday 11am - 6pm



Edel Assanti is pleased to present *The Crowd*, Oren Pinhassi's second solo exhibition at the gallery.

The Crowd is comprised of a group of freestanding sculptures which on first impression channel bodies: looming just above human height on spindly legs, their slotted torsos are suggestive of ribcages; protrusions here and there resolve in the composition as feet, breasts, or buttocks; holes widen on their surfaces like eye sockets; panes of glass recede into the shade of an arch like featureless faces. These initial cues give way to a pattern of erotic transmutation in which object, architecture and body flow seamlessly into one another in borderless free association.

Pinhassi's installations examine the relationship between the human figure and the built environment by conjuring evocative sites that intersect public and private exchange. Past works explored bathhouses as spaces of vulnerability and sensuality, or cruising spots in nature as voyeuristic portals to erotic transformation. The sculptures in *The Crowd* invoke architectures of authority, incorporating features of manmade spaces designed to exert power over individuals within them. Quotations from civic institutions are equally abundant – voting booths, segregation cells, institutional desks. Points of bureaucratic exchange become expressions of bodily desire, as teller windows imply receptive orifices.

Pinhassi's primary materials are plaster and sand, methodically layered over welded steel skeletons. The visual sensibility created by both medium and application is one of constructive ambiguity – the tactile surface announces itself as handmade, yet the predominantly grey colour and repetition of form across the group of sculptures evokes a spectre of concrete modernism that is instantaneously disavowed by their voluptuous sensuality, urging us towards a logic of futuristic hybridity. Standing in contrast to the more architectural works are several comparatively humanoid figures, if only for their suggestive pastel pink colouring that guides us towards the interior space of the body.

The holes in the screens and torsos of the sculptures invite an opportunity for mediated communication. Pinhassi's new body of work interrogates the paradox of individual isolation in the era of hyperconnectivity. Despite their playful shapeshifting, Pinhassi's totemic figures are ultimately "alone together," solitary in their mutual separation. Physiologically bound to their own architectural constitutions, they invite us to question the environments we create as prisms through which human experience is channelled and reshaped.

The exhibition is accompanied by an essay by Cédric Fauq.

Oren Pinhassi graduated from the Yale School of Art in 2014. Recent solo shows include *Castello San Basilio*, Basilicata, 2019; *Palazzo Monti*, Brescia, 2019; *One in the mouth and one in the heart* at Skibum MacArthur, Los Angeles, 2018; *Springs* at the Petach Tikva Museum of Art, Israel, 2017; *Nature Calls* at RIBOT Gallery, Milan, 2017; *Hanging Gardens* at New Capital Projects, Chicago, 2016. Group exhibitions include *For Mario* at Tina Kim Gallery, New York, 2019; *Four* at Yossi Milo, New York, 2019; *This Is Not A Prop* at David Zwirner, New York, 2018. Completed residencies include Outset Contemporary Art Fund's Bialik Residency, 2017, the Shandanken Project at Storm King Sculpture Park, New York, 2016 and the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Maine, 2014. Pinhassi has been awarded numerous prizes including The Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, 2018; Fannie B. Pardee Prize, Yale School of Art, 2014; The Art Slant Prize, 2014; Shlomo Witkin Prize, 2011 and the Excellence Program Scholarship, Israeli Ministry of Education, 2011. Pinhassi lives and works in New York City.

EDEL ASSANTI

74a Newman Street, London W1T 3DB
art@edelassanti.com +4420 7637 8537