

ARTE FUSE

Eight New Exhibitions at The Mattress Factory

November 2019

The Mattress Factory's latest show, Factory Installed 2019, features eight new exhibitions by nine artists from around the world. The site-specific installations include Night Blooms by Tra Bouscaren, Holding Fragments by Naomi Draper, You're Not the Boss of Me by Nathan Hall, Laboratory for Other Worlds by Patte Loper, Dragonfruit by Pepe Mar, "Taking good care of your things leads to taking good care of yourself" by Adam Milner, All is Not Forgotten by Patrick Robideau and The Other Apartment by Sohrab Kashani and Jon Rubin, which occurs simultaneously in Pittsburgh and Tehran.

Main Building – 500 Sampsonia Way



Pepe Mar, Dragonfruit, 2019. Photo by Tom Little.

Dragonfruit – Pepe Mar: In this body of work, Mar absorbs, and ultimately scatters back to his viewer, the layered and disparate historical references which pollinate his career. He cites the history of art and Indigenous artistic practices; of fashion and the queer club scene of the last forty years; of the Mattress Factory itself; and of his own fifteen-year practice. Creating a series of custom textiles with images borrowed from these diverse sources, Mar collages, sews, and paints this material, and ultimately brings together these distinct imageries to derive entirely new contexts from the recombined originals.

Central to Mar's process are humanoid figures he calls "Paprikas." These characters feature throughout his work, and they serve the role of mythological devourers who ingest and digest visual references from the many fonts of inspiration which inform Mar's practice. For *Dragonfruit*, Mar creates a new generation of Paprikas made predominantly of leather, harnesses, and chains purchased from second-hand stores with close ties to the LGBTQ community, allowing references to the queer club, bondage, and leather scenes to bubble up to the surface of his practice.

Dragonfruit engages in world-building at a massive scale, where Paprikas take in all that surrounds them only to expel it into the world as new matter. Mar collapses time into one continuous moment, threading past and present through his visual references and laying flat the entirety of his career between then and now. The exhibition encapsulates all things that have seeded Mar's practice, an Encyclopedic Palace of the World, which puts on display the ordered chaos of *Dragonfruit's* own creation.

The Other Apartment – Sohrab Kashani & Jon Rubin

Night Blooms – Tra Bouscaren

All is Not Forgotten – Patrick Robideau

Holding Fragments – Naomi Draper

You're Not the Boss of Me – Nathan Hall

Laboratory for Other Worlds – Patte Loper

"Taking good care of your things leads to taking good care of yourself" – Adam Milner

About the Mattress Factory: Hailed as the best museum for installation art in the United States, the Mattress Factory invites visitors to experience "art you can get into." Over the past 42 years, the Mattress Factory has presented and commissioned new installation and performance works by over 750 artists, both established and emerging, who have challenged themselves and their audiences through the support of the museum's exceptional residency program. The Mattress Factory's outreach programs serve more than 30,000 students, teachers, adults, and families annually, and its activities as a visitor attraction, educator and employer continue to invigorate Pittsburgh's North Side. For more information, call 412.231.3169 or visit mattress.org.