

# God Willing

*Consumed by Devotion.....Devoted to Consumption*



Curated by

*Isabella Greenwood*

06.12.24 — 06.01.24

The pursuit of the divine in the digital age remains a significant area of inquiry, as we navigate the complexities of contemporary compulsions to devote ourselves to something greater: an impulse that coexists with a relentless consumption of media, dogmatic structures, and iterations of a daily bread that has staled. Showcasing artists with varied relationships to Catholicism—from Irish, Italian, Greek Orthodox, and Chinese perspectives—the ‘God Willing’ group show will seek to interrogate both of these urges, within the context of devotional institutions that both tether and bind, returning to the foundational principles of faith. Catholic regalia and religious iconography are reimagined through the intersecting lenses of queerness, digital culture, and embodiment, offering a critical reconstruction of sacred symbols, practices, and holy texts.

**Isabella Greenwood**

*M Lissoni* They| them

M Lissoni is a transdisciplinary artist based between London and the South of Italy. Their research-based practice focuses on the sacred as a tool to transcend personal authorship and embody collective ritual. Their work ponders issues of memory, cultural erasure, gender and mourning as a way of documenting in-between identities by embodying a perspective of periphery. Their interest in collecting fragments of objects, religious iconography and traces of oral histories is rooted in alternative practices of archiving the body and is then transfigured into installation, sculpture, print, text and books. Their work has been presented internationally across institutions such as Lismore Castle Arts, Ireland, 2023; Fabbrica del Vapore, Milan, Italy, 2022; the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, 2022; Barbican Centre, London, 2020, as well as independent, artist-run spaces such as Reference Point, London, 2023; ENTER ENTER, Amsterdam, 2023; and Biblioteka, London, 2022.

*Lily Bloom* She| her

b. 1993, London. Lily Bloom is a transformative artist whose practice spans self-portraiture, sculpture, and mixed media. Her work delves into themes of souvenir, memory, and horror, often blurring the line between the uncanny and the intimate. Bloom’s recent projects incorporate playful yet subversive “modern religious

souvenirs,” reinterpreting traditional church handouts through a consumerist lens, showcasing her knack for reimagining ritualistic objects in contemporary contexts. Her installations invite viewers into a fragmented, nostalgic world, where personal and collective memories collide with dark humour and macabre beauty.

*Chelsey Zawang* She/her

b. 2000, Wenzhou, China, Based in London & Shanghai. Zi Wang’s practice focuses on feminism and domestic spaces. Aware of geographical and architectural segregation Wang is keen to spotlight female existence and the danger of patriarchy by displaying and re-creating traces and marks left from history, events, movements and actions in daily life. With the journey of continuously reconstructing and redefining borrowed fictional narratives and personal stories, Wang attempts to cross the boundary between the visible and invisible. She is interested in the concepts of space that dwell inside the pictorial surface and unfolds this notion through various materials in her works. Drawing inspiration from traditional Chinese paintings, literature and Taoist notions, alongside various architectural styles, Wang’s work unveils interconnected narratives of her life and cultural heritage. Wang gained her BFA in Fine Art at Chelsea College of Art in 2023. Her recent exhibitions include participating in RCA CAP x Montez radio at Tate Modern Lates and Future Archaeologies at Camden Art Centre Sculpture Park.

*Dyke Viagra* They| them

Dyke Viagra a.k.a. Zoe Lampou is a Greek artist living and working in London. They are a recent graduate from MA Contemporary Art Practice from the Royal College of Art. Their interdisciplinary practice which spans installation, sculpture and printmaking revolves around the exploration and dissection of the queer self through the lens of contemporary Greek culture and tradition. Using subversion as the main tool for the reclamation of a culture that has historically ostracised them they focus on reframing the narrative of what it means to be a gender non-conforming lesbian within the scope of Greek culture. They often work with metal and leather, while also incorporating tattooing into their practice.

*Ronnie Danaher* She/her

Ronnie Danaher is an artist and filmmaker working with moving images, digital technology, and sculptural installation to explore the sacred within the digital realm. Born in Leicester, they are now based between Vienna and Leeds. Their work employs playfulness and the gilded camp of Catholic imagery to address complex emotions around their religious upbringing, treating the internet as a space to prototype alternative identities and belief systems. Their practice is deeply rooted in the digital, often manipulating non-art programs and technologies such as Microsoft Excel to create moving images and GIFs. Recurring themes in their work include the sacred, screens, internet echo chambers, memes, social media, Irish heritage, family dynamics, guilt, and shame. These themes form part of an ongoing research project investigating and collaging the intersections between digital culture and belief systems. They are currently laying the groundwork for a new project inspired by the legend of Saint Wilgefortis, exploring elements like Gregorian chant, Sean-nós singing, karaoke, and Madonna's Like a Prayer.

*Ariane Heloise Hughes* She/her

Engaging deeply with the aesthetics and history of surrealism, Hughes' paintings draw on and exaggerate the interplay between the real and the unreal, at once ramifying and enhancing their reading. She uses traditional artistic techniques to re-engage her audience in the act of looking, encouraging us to consider online habits and the passive consumption of images in our digital world today.

*Georgia Somerville* She/her

b. 1993, New Zealand. Georgia Somerville is a London-based queer multi-disciplinary artist whose work encompasses painting, sculpture, and installation. Rooted in the legacies of feminism, psychoanalysis, and queer theory, Somerville's practice establishes spaces of resistance and realms of utopian ceremony and ritual. Through her multimedia immersive experiences, Somerville creates a psychedelic response to spirituality and religion, transcending the mundane and the banal. Her art unfolds into mysterious worlds filled with shimmering magnetism and kaleidoscopic hues,

where each turn reveals a new secret or casts a shadow, inviting viewers to engage with the complexities of identity, existence and perception. Here, the search for an(other)worldly sense of (dis)order takes shape.

*Daddy Bears* She/her

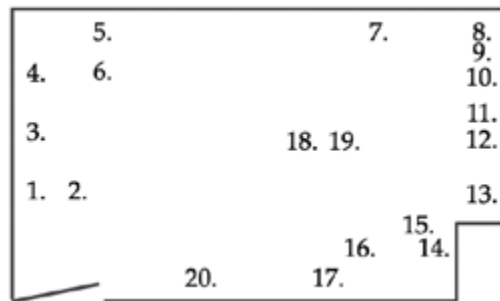
Daddy Bears is a female textile artist and sculptor based in London. She received her MA in Menswear Design from the Royal College of Art. She uses her knowledge of pattern cutting for garments to create 3d objects away from the body. To be able to fill a space with twisted fantasy sculptures feels like a fresh take on traditional techniques which are rarely seen to be manipulated in this way. The use of intense repetitive hand sewing featured throughout her practice is a testament to 'women's work' and a meditative labour of love. These intimate techniques are used to help emote feelings of romance, escapism and humour. Her work also references ideas of transitional objects, forms of play, and an obsession with nostalgia.

Curated by *Isabella Greenwood*

Isabella Greenwood is a cultural critic and curator based in London. Her work blends critical theory with reflections on digital culture, examining the intersections of technology, spirituality, cultural phenomena and memory. Her work often engages with hauntology, media archaeology, and posthumanist thought. She has contributed written works and criticism for Plaster, Polyester, PM/AM, Dazed, Cosmopolitan, Vogue, Elephant Magazine, The Toe Rag, Uncontaminated and Metal Magazine. Recent curatorial projects, alongside 'God Willing', include Vigil (November 22nd, 2024, Loods 6, Amsterdam), a group exhibition featuring over twenty-five artists that examined themes of mortality, decay, speculative afterlives, and the repetitive act of vigilance.

## List of works

1. Lily Bloom, Forgiven, 2024, book, stickers, keyring, A6.
2. Lily Bloom, Mud and Mire, 2023, plastic, wax, blood, 12 x 17 x 9 cm.
3. Ariane Heloise Hughes, Waiting Game, 2024, oil on linen, 25 x 25 cm.
4. Chelsey Zi Wang,  $\frac{1}{6}$  Second, Metal, 2024, acrylic board, 29 x 49 x 3 cm.
5. Chelsey Zi Wang, Untitled, 2024, watercolor and color pencil on marushi paper on aluminum, 72 x 104 cm.
6. Chelsey Zi Wang, What Has Happened Cannot Be Vaporised, 2024, metal, silicone, 26 x 61 cm.
7. Dyke Viagra, Crucifixion: Gouniota, 2024, iron, natural leather, tattoo ink, 117 x 81 x 5 cm.
8. M Lissoni, Saint Paul, Patron of Missionaries, Evangelists, and Theologians, 2020, aged copper, fragment of Pauline Epistles, handbound book, presented in vacuum plastic bag, 20 x 30 cm.
9. M Lissoni, Saint Sebastian, Patron of Archers and Athletes, 2020, aged copper, "Rush" poppers, handbound book, presented in vacuum plastic bag, 20 x 30 cm.
10. M Lissoni, Saint John the Baptist, Patron of Baptism and People Dealing with Storms, 2020, aged copper, lock of human hair, handbound book, presented in vacuum plastic bag, 20 x 30 cm.
11. M Lissoni, Saint Apollonia, Patron of Dentists and Mouths, 2020, aged copper, dentist tool, handbound book, presented in vacuum plastic bag, 20 x 30 cm.
12. M. Lissoni, Saint Agatha, Patron of Breast Cancer and Bell Founders, 2020, aged copper, nipple tassel, handbound book, presented in vacuum plastic bag, 20 x 30 cm.
13. Ronnie Danaher, (a) If You Jump on a Moving Party Tram, Where Do You Land?, 2024; (b) Saint Wilgefortis (Redux), 2024. Duration: 13m 8s
14. Ariane Heloise Hughes, The Rot Consumes, 2024, oil on linen, 40 x 25 cm.
15. Lily Bloom, Gypsy Rose, 2024, aluminum, solder, 59 x 40 x 30 cm.
16. Lily Bloom, Stay With Me, 2023, plastic, wax, blood, 15 x 43 cm.
17. DaddyBears, Romance Bridge, 2022, poly satin, hollow fiber stuffing, poly cotton thread, 30 x 70 x 24 cm.
18. Dyke Viagra, Archaic 01, mild steel, natural leather, tattoo ink, plaster, variable dimensions.
19. Dyke Viagra, Altar: Butch, 2024, mild steel, 133 x 31 x 31 cm.
20. Georgia Somerville, Eternal Flames, 2024, ceramic, Greek Orthodox beeswax church candles, 25 x 17 cm.



CHELSEY ZI WANG  
DADDYBEARS  
ARIANE HELOISE HUGHES  
LILY BLOOM  
RONNIE DANAHER  
DYKE VIAGRA  
M LISSONI  
GEORGIA SOMERVILLE  
MARTA BURHAN

6<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025  
Thursday to Saturday, 12:00–19:00;  
Monday to Wednesday and Sunday by appointment

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