

DIO HORIA
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Despina Stokou, *That's the Way (Pansexual)*, Oil acrylic and paper collage on canvas ,152 x 121 cm, 2018

DESPINA STOKOU

Sticky Watermelon Love | Solo Show

(August 23 - September 25)

Dio Horia gallery is happy to present *Sticky Watermelon Love* an exhibition of works by Greek artist Despina Stokou at the gallery's Mykonian location from August 23 through September 15. *Sticky Watermelon Love* is Despina Stokou's first solo exhibition in Greece. The gallery will host an opening reception on Thursday, August 23 from 20:00-02:00 with the presence of the artist.

Throughout her career Despina Stokou has developed an artistic practice that is based on the unconventional fusion of different public texts that together explore popular culture and take a stand on various political debates and on how these debates are mediated by contemporary public forum. Stokou creates time intensive, large format paintings and drawings that are not pieces merely to be looked at, but sublime objects meant to be experienced both as universal tools to update the current vocabulary used on contemporary debates and as a time capsule capturing the media pulse of a specific moment in time.

Sticky Watermelon Love includes all new works that explore gender fluidity and sexuality nowadays and how these issues were conceived and addressed in the 90s. The text sources that one reads in her artworks are sourced either from gender identity terms as currently prominent in the mainstream 2018 public conversation about gender fluidity and sexuality or from 90's R&B love ballad lyrics. Stokou meticulously combines these two diverse texts sources to examine how much work still needs to be done (in terms of media vocabulary,

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reproduction legislation and the cultural narratives) to achieve gender understanding and public dialog about gender, sex, sexuality, women and gay rights. In her works Stokou accompanies these deconstructed texts with direct paint, oil stick, markers and paper collage in an explosive, sensuous mix of material.

Despina Stokou, born 1978 in Athens, lives and works in Los Angeles. After studying painting at the Athens School of Fine Arts, she completed her masters in "Art in Context" at the University of Arts in Berlin. She has been exhibited numerous times at Kunstverein Gera, Gera DE; KW Institute of Contemporary Art, Berlin DE; Midway Contemporary Art, Minneapolis US; and the Center for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow UK. Her work is held in numerous private and public collections such as the Deutsche Bank Collection; Schwartz Collection, Harvard; and Zabudowicz Collection. Her work has been reviewed in The New York Times, ArtForum, ARTSY, Monopol, among others.

For high resolution images press the link below:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/rec1f07olea6ei0/AAD3E1EnzswKSflfvMppVHYCa?dl=0>

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DIO HORIA TEAM WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SUPPORTERS

