



Galerie Dix9 is pleased to present

# FROM HER TO THE MOON

**Esmeralda Kosmatopoulos**

**07.10 – 25.11. 2023**

**Opening Saturday Octobre 7th / 5pm – 9pm**

**GALERIE DIX9 Hélène Lacharmoise**

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Tuesday-Friday: 2pm-7pm, Saturday 11am-7pm and by appointment

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# FROM HER TO THE MOON

For her inaugural exhibition at Galerie Dix9, Esmeralda Kosmatopoulos presents "from her to the moon" where the artist explores the notion of femininity in all its complexity. "from her to the moon" is the part of a larger projet "Mother" that explores the notion of femininity in all its complexity by looking at the first image we have of a woman - our mother - and one of the first places where we connect with femininity - her breast.

Sexual or maternal, aesthetic or erotic, women's breasts are seen today as both the emblem and proof of their femininity, enclosing the woman in a body that has historically been objectified and alienated. In this project, the artist shares her own memory as a woman in relation to her mother's breasts beyond the criteria of gender and sexuality.

Through a series of deconstructed paintings put on wheels, Kosmatopoulos proceeds by collages of elements with strong symbolism to create a personal mythology. An image of a full moon, traditionally linked to fertility, is thus covered by photographs of his own chest. An imaginary lunar landscape is then created made of skin pores, areolas, beauty marks and stretch marks that its adults' arms try to grasp and hold. The artist associates to each piece a vague but nevertheless nostalgic moment of her mother-daughter relationship, by inserting old photographs from her own childhood.

Kosmatopoulos invites us on a poetic journey through time and space, the body and the cosmos, the public and the intimate. A journey - both internal and external - that the artist undertook to understand her identity.



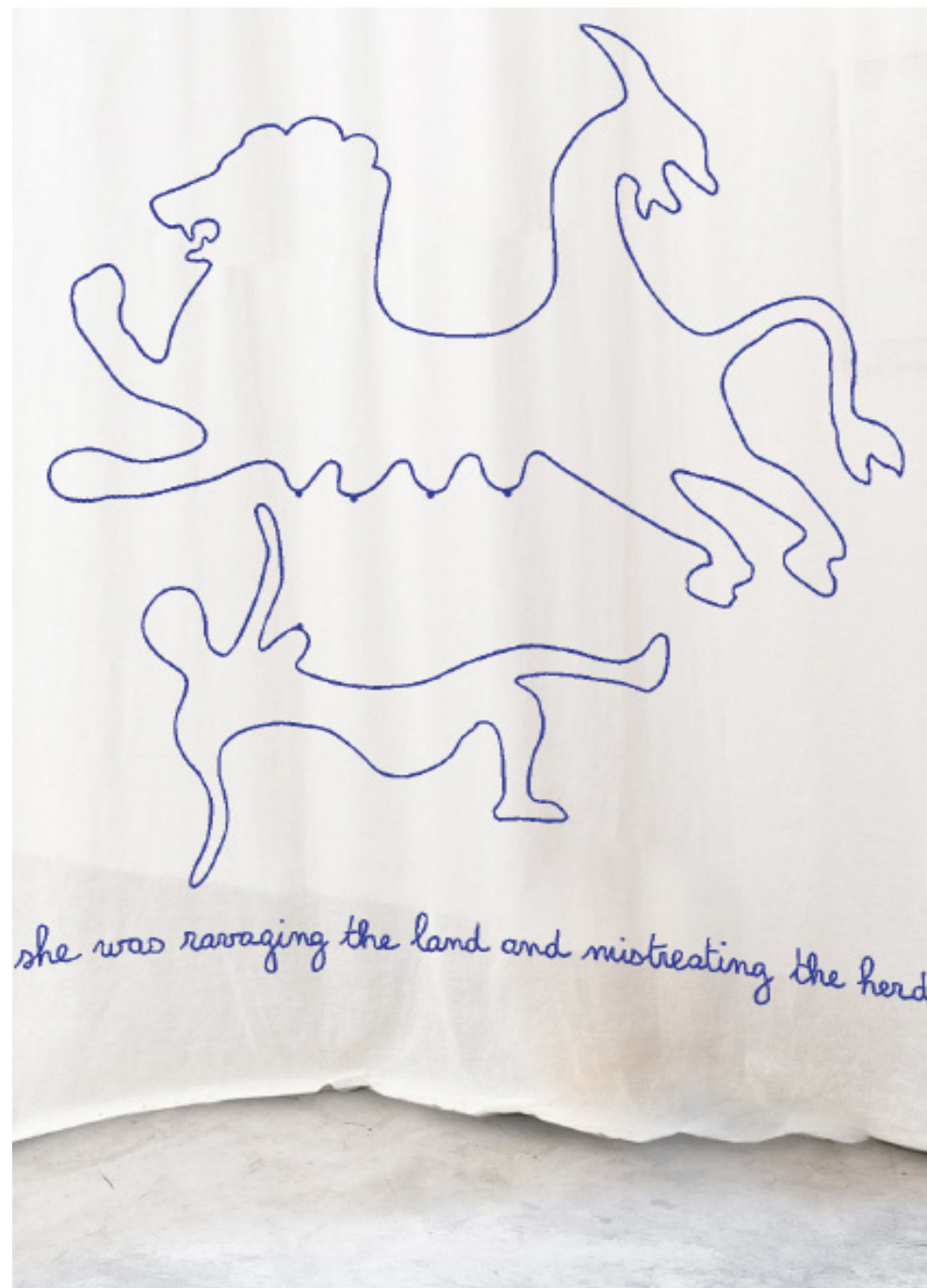
From her to the moon #5, C-print, wood, 160 x 110 x 6 cm, 2022-2023

# CHIMERAS

Homer evoked in the *Iliad* the chimeras, these fabulous hybrid creatures made of several assembled bodies, «lion in front, snake in the back, goat in the middle». Twenty-eight centuries later, science has shown that this metaphor reflects a biological reality that is at the foundation of the mother-daughter relationship. During pregnancy, mother and fetus interexchange cells that end up settling permanently in the organisms of the one and the other. After birth, a girl carries her mother's cells all her life, but the mother also keeps her baby's cells within her; two chimeras are born.

Forty years after my umbilical cord was cut to make me a supposedly unique, free and independent being, I still carry within me cells that are genetically different from my own cells; I still carry within me - hidden in my bone marrow, my heart, my liver, my pancreas, my skin... or even my brain - raw pieces of a foreign body (biologically speaking), that of my mother. Since my youngest childhood, I have been told very often, "you are the exact copy of your mother" ... I should answer them that, in reality, it is not my identity that mimics her, but rather that her alterity constitutes a part of my identity. Whether I like it or not, my mother is in me.

Chimeric cells, sometimes beneficial, sometimes harmful (as the mother-daughter relationship very often is), are the foundation of a bond so deep that it is beyond our understanding or the power of our will. In the body of each woman, cells of her ancestors and her descendants coexist. They form an invisible thread that transmits knowledge and traumas. Before being mothers and even without ever becoming one, women are chimeras. Each contains us all.



CHIMERA - CHAPITRE 3 (Apollodore, La Bibliothèque, Livre II, III, 1), Fabric, embroidery, 350 x 289 cm, 2023



# ESMERALDA KOSMATOPOULOS



Détail de From her to the moon #2, C-print, wood, 160 x 110 x 6 cm, 2022-2023

An artist with multiple cultures, Esmeralda Kosmatopoulos was born in Greece in 1981. Raised in Paris, she now lives and works between Cairo and Paris. After graduating from ESSEC and starting a corporate career in New York, she quickly decided to devote herself to art to respond to an existential need: to question her own identity - between North and South, East and West. Through her work, she traces the boundaries – physical, cultural, spiritual – of her person in order to determine where she begins, where she ends and where she belongs.

Her practice is an investigation of the fundamental concepts of what makes us human - concepts of identity, otherness, personal memory, collective history, shared culture - and how we perceive, translate and transmit this information to the world. She builds connections – between here and there, past and future, analog and digital and ultimately between herself and others – in search of the smallest common denominators that unite us through time and space in the human experience.

# BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1981 in Greece, Esmeralda Kosmatopoulos lives and works between Paris and Cairo.

## AWARDS / RESIDENCIES

### 2023

Finalist Bourse Transverse DAGP, FR

### 2022

Residency - Fondation Boghossian, Bruxelles, BE

### 2020

Grant - Warehouse 421, Dubai, EAU

Grant - Foundation for Contemporary Art, New York, USA

### 2019

Residency - Townhouse, Le Caire, EG

Grant - European Cultural Foundation, BE

Residency - Le 18, Marrakech, MAR

### 2018

Residency - Chinatown Soup, New York, USA

### 2017

Residency - KAAF Institute, Téhéran, IR

Grant - Fondation for Contemporary Art, New York, USA

Grant - Victoria Square Project, Athènes, GR Résidence - BAR, Beyrouth, LB

### 2016

Residency - MASS MOCA, North Adams, USA

Grant - Harvest works, New York, USA

Residency - Kooshk, Téhéran, IR

### 2015

Commission - Louis Braille Museum with the support of Fondation Givaudan, Coupvray, FR

### 2014

Finalist au 1er Festival International de Littérature Electronique, Naples, IT

Finalist 8th Arte Laguna Prize, Venice, IT

Grant- LMCC, New York, USA

Winner of the 4th prize of New Media writtinh,ournemouth, RU

Grant- Jerome Fondation Jerome, New York, USA

## SOLO SHOWS

### 2023

*Mother !*, Galerie Dix9 Hélène Lacharmoise, Paris, FR  
*ik-HORUS*, Art d'Egypte, Cairo, EG

### 2021

*Caressing walls*, Apick gallery, Turin, IT

### 2020

*Si le nez de Cléopâtre*, DARB 1718, Cairo, EG

### 2018

*+--+*, performance, curator Azad Asifovich, musée

Zadkine, Paris, FR

Contemporary Istanbul, with Galerie Dix9, Istanbul, TR

*Libro d'Oro*, curator Nicolas Vamvouklis, Gallerie delle

Prigioni, Luciano Benetton collections, Trévise, IT

*/ \_\_\_\_\_ /*, curator Azad Asifovich, galerie Mansart,

Paris, FR

*Chez Naussica*, curator Ifigenia Papamikroulea, Institut

Français, Athènes, GR

### 2017

*What I always wanted to tell you but never dared*,

curator Clémence Mailly, Parasol Projects, New York,

USA

*SIRI & me*, VISIONAIRS Gallery, Singapour, SG

*L'amour de loin*, BAR, Beyrouth, LB

### 2016

*Dessine moi un arc-en-ciel*, The Institute for Art and

Olfaction, Los Angeles, USA

*Fifteen Pairs of Mouths*, Musée de l'Ecole des Mines

de Paris, Paris, FR

*Comment peut-on être #Persan*, Mohsen Gallery,

Teheran, IR

*Mastering the Art of Contemporary Art*, collaboration

with Sean Naftel, Kunsthall Aarhus, DK

*MHOAUNTDH*, curator Amanda Uribe and Che

Morales, SPRING - BREAK, New York, USA

### 2015

*Dessine moi un arc-en-ciel*, Musée Louis Braille,

Couvray, FR

## GROUP SHOWS (recent)

### 2023

*Rose(s), c'est la vie*, Galerie Dix9, Paris, FR

*Pause!* curators Jon Uriarte, Elisa Medde et Luis

Juares, Getxophoto Festival, Gexto, ES

*Motherhood*, curator Ifigenia Papamikroulea, TAF

Foundation, Athènes, GR

*Koun*, Art Hub Gallery, Le Caire, EG

### 2022

*Collecting policy*, curators Christina Penetsdorfer, Thorsten Sadowsky, Salzburg Museum der Moderne, Autriche, AU

*Visions of ancient Egypt*, curators Ben Hinson et Anna Ferrari Sainsbury center, Norwich, RU

*Hooked*, curator Hannah Redler, Emory University Science gallery, Atlanta, USA

*Salo X*, curator Laurent Quenehen, Les Salaisons, Romainville, FR

*Body frame*, Apick gallery, Turin, IT

*Laniakea #2*, curators Marie Deparis-Yafil and Bogdan Pavlovic, Fondation La Ruche Seydoux, Paris, FR

### 2021

*Trecciento*, curator Azad Asifovich, Galerie Italienne, Paris, FR

*Tangled stuctures*, The factory, Cairo, EG

*Le goût des autres*, FRAC Bretagne, Rennes, FR

### 2020

*Cookbook China*, curators Nicolas Bourriaud and

Andrea Petrini, Today art museum, Pékin, CH

*Beacon*, curator CM Turner, The Alice & Harris K Weston art gallery, Cincinatti

*From scratch to scratch*, curators Sofia Yanis Stefanou and Vincent van Laeke, Kunsthall Gent, BE

### 2019

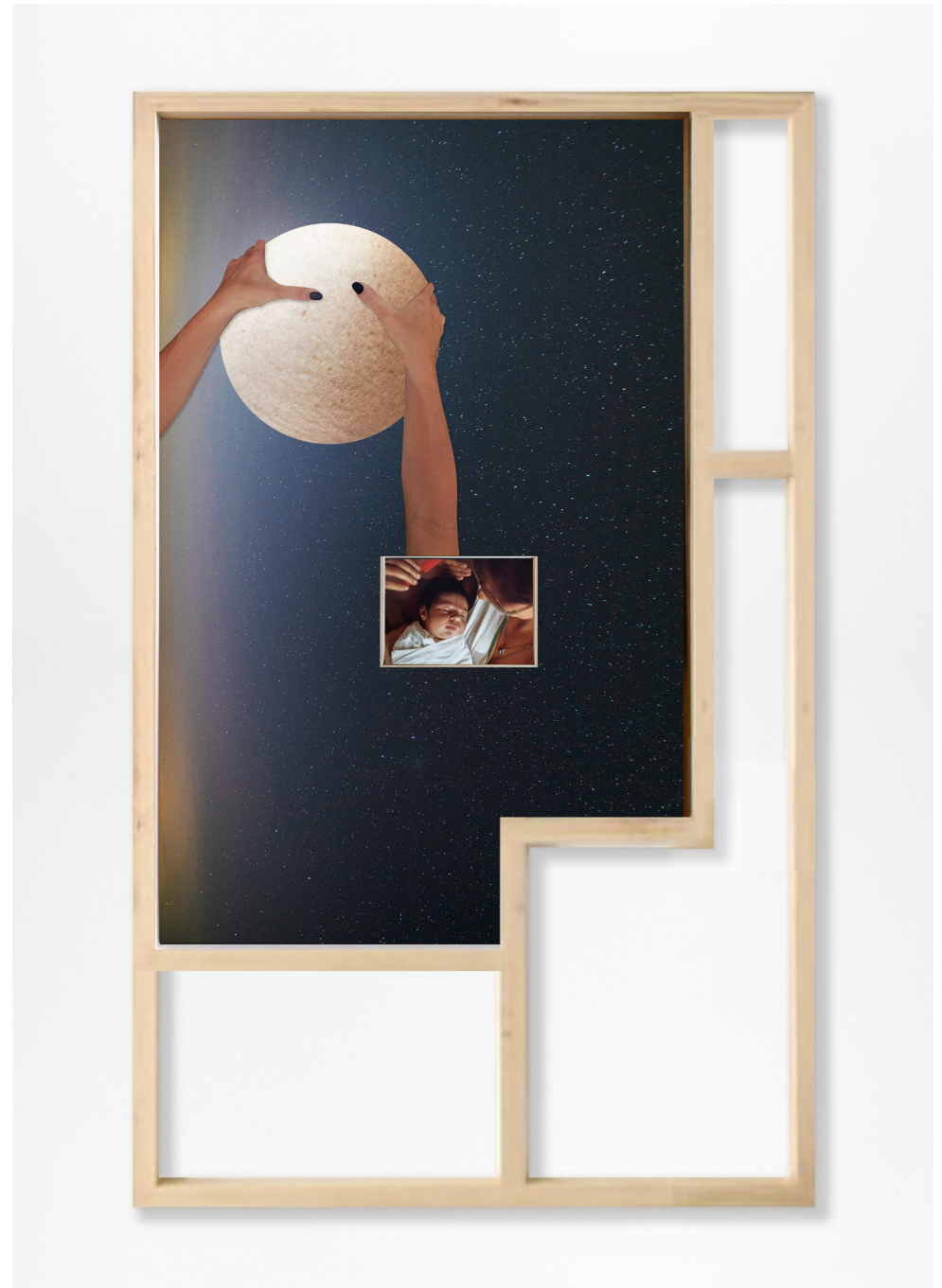
*Cookbook 2019*, curators Nicolas Bourriaud and

Andrea Petrini, MOCO - La Panacée, Montpellier, FR

*Material Insanity*, curators Meriem Berrada and Janine Gaele Dieudji, MACAAL Museum of African Contemporary Art Al Maaden, Marrakech, MA

# LIST OF WORKS

From her to the moon #1  
C-print, wood, rubber, 160 x 110 x 60 cm, 2022-2023

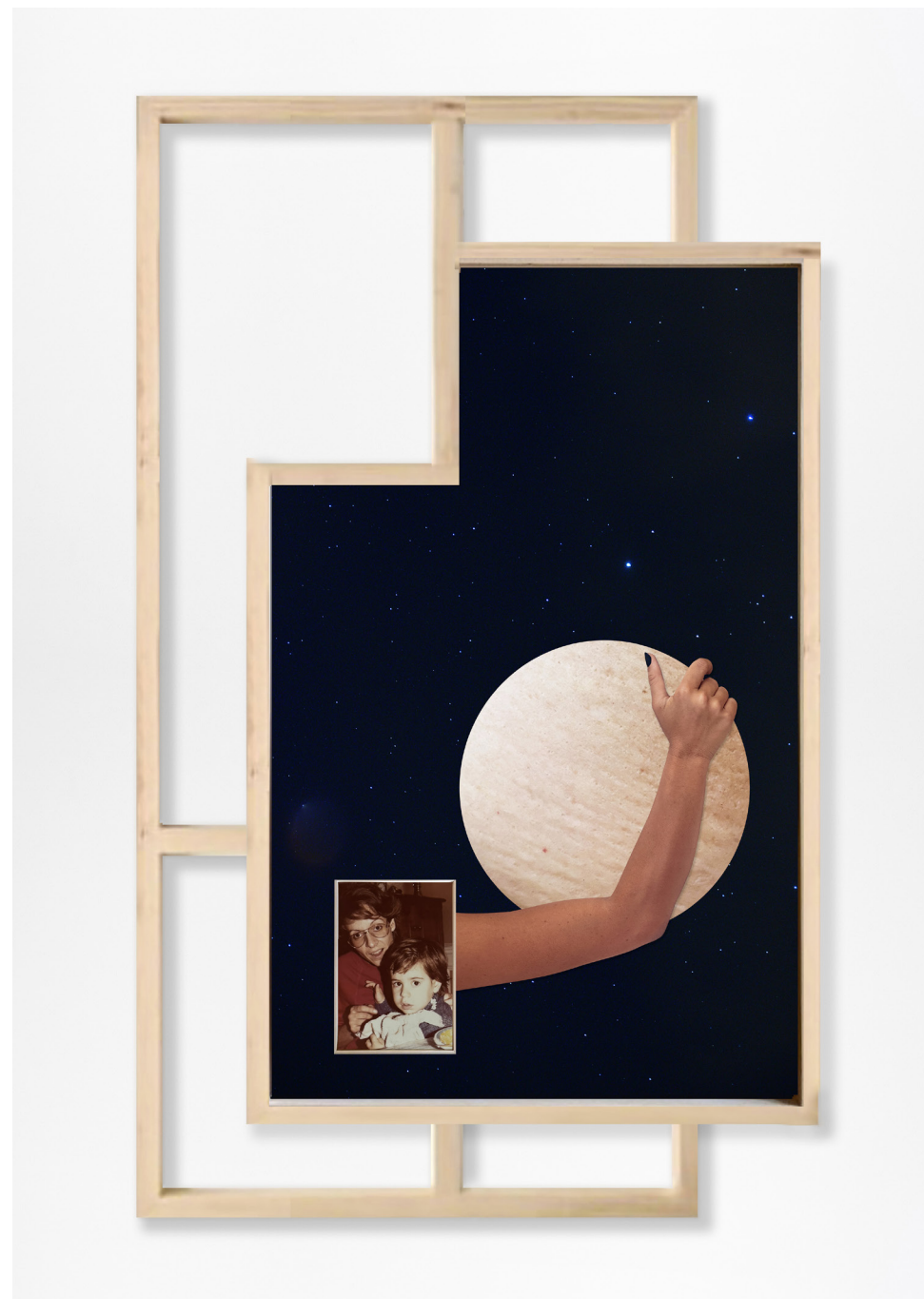






From her to the moon #2  
C-print, wood, rubber, 160 x 110 x 60 cm, 2022-2023

From her to the moon #4  
C-print, wood, rubber, 160 x 110 x 60 cm, 2022-2023







From her to the moon #5  
C-print, wood, rubber, 160 x 110 x 60 cm, 2022-2023

From her to the moon #7  
C-print, wood, rubber, 160 x 110 x 60 cm, 2022-2023





From her to the moon #8  
C-print, wood, rubber, 160 x 110 x 60 cm, 2022-2023



CHIMERA - CHAPITRE 1  
référence: Pline l'Ancien, *Histoire naturelle*, Livre II, V, 26  
Fabric, embroidery, 350 x 289 cm, 2023





CHIMERA - CHAPITRE 2  
référence: Hésiode, *Théogonie*, Vers 318  
Fabric, embroidery, 350 x 289 cm, 2023

CHIMERA - CHAPITRE 3  
référence: Apollodore, *La Bibliothèque*, Livre II, III, 1  
Fabric, embroidery, 350 x 289 cm, 2023







#### CHIMERA - CHAPITRE 4

référence: Platon, *La République*, Livre IX, 588c

Fabric, embroidery, 350 x 289 cm, 2023

CHIMERA - CHAPITRE 5  
référence: Platon, *La République*, Livre IX, 588d  
Fabric, embroidery, 350 x 289 cm, 2023





CHIMERA - CHAPITRE 6

référence: Platon, *La République*, Livre IX, 589a

Fabric, embroidery, 350 x 289 cm, 2023



CHIMERA - CHAPTER 7  
référence: Platon, *La République*, Livre IX, 589a  
Fabric, embroidery, 350 x 289 cm, 2023





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