

(Under) Black Earth

Bea Bonafini

19th June – 20th July 2023

Hydra

Wilhelmina's Art Gallery is opening on Mandraki Bay with a solo exhibition by Bea Bonafini. *(Under) Black Earth* will immerse the viewer in a dreamlike dance between genres, histories and mythologies. Her works have been described as “*swirling scenarios that are fragmented and multi-layered, optimistic and tender.*” The title of this exhibition, borrowed from Sappho, alludes elegantly to these qualities and more.

Bea Bonafini (born. 1990) is an Italian artist, based between London and Barcelona. She graduated from the Royal College of Art (London) in 2016 and has participated in international exhibitions and residencies. She is currently represented by the prestigious galleries Setareh (Berlin and Düsseldorf) and Renata Fabbri (Milan.)

(Under) Black Earth is an archaeological fantasy, a collection of fictional artifacts that point to the mythology of primeval worlds. Bonafini's interest in these themes developed after visits to Mount Etna in Sicily and a residency at Alkinois in Athens in 2022. Works like *Scissors Roman* and *Scissors Roman IV* made from vulcan stoneware or *Plinial Fire* and *Alluvial* named after volcanic eruptions highlight these connections. Bonafini's work elevates traditional craftsmanship from carpet to painting on engraved cork through the intricacies of the material's metamorphic qualities. The form and the content together allude to humankind's aspirations, the fall, our fascination with the abyss and the need to make sense of the world through the making of art. This combination of rawness, fantasy and timelessness make Mandraki Bay on Hydra the perfect setting for this exhibition.

The show features three works made in collaboration with Electra Soutzoglou's *Art Rug Projects* in Athens. This marks the historic return of the Soutzoglou family's carpet-making activities to Hydra, further highlighted by Bonafini's residency at The Old Carpet Factory to explore carpet production and the Asia Minor diaspora on the island.

Collectors, curators and art lovers are invited to meet the artist at the opening of the exhibition which will be held all day on the 19th June until 6pm.

Practical information

OPENING 19TH JUNE 11AM – 6PM

Location:

Wilhelmina's Art Gallery
Mandraki Bay, Hydra, 180 40

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