

PARADICE PALASE

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For immediate release:

PARADICE PALASE is pleased to host ***Your Body to Places***, a solo exhibition of paintings and drawings by **Kate Alboreo**, curated by **Luke Lunsford**, whose subject matter ranges from otherworldly botanical beasts to professional wrestlers. *Your Body to Places* represents poetic psychological musings on the authentic vs. the fabricated, the forbidden vs. the vulnerable, as well as interrogations of femininity and masculinity. The exhibition is presented in our gallery at 1260 Broadway, BK and is on view 12/04 - 12/19 with gallery hours Saturdays 1-5pm and by appointment. The opening reception is Friday 12/10, 6-9pm.

Curatorial Statement by Luke Lunsford:

Kate Alboreo is fascinated with the parallels between survival tactics in plants and extreme displays of strength found in humanity... particularly in professional wrestling. For Alboreo, nature is an early inspiration and muse. For a number of years she worked directly from her own photographs of Ohio forests and Florida wetlands. Over time, she began to abstract the landscape, employing fantastical color and an imaginative use of line and symbology. While keeping nature as a formal reference point, her work has grown increasingly more personal. Her latest work represents poetic psychological musings on the authentic vs. the fabricated, the forbidden vs. the vulnerable, as well as interrogations of femininity and masculinity. In some works, figures lifted from screen grabs from professional wrestling shows have entered the ring. In others, vines, limbs, and bodies simultaneously plant and human, crisscross in front of a void or entrance of some kind. These works beg the question, what do we wish to seal away in the darkness?

In nature, we witness a tree's resilience when it grows sideways after being blown over by a hurricane. We see a bulging knot forming around what was once a wound. Professional wrestling is also an overt display of strength, vigor and survivalism. However not only are the stunts fake, it is a total invention of the patriarchy. Despite the fact a small handful of powerful businessmen are to thank for this flamboyant display of human power and violent competition, the artist still finds enjoyment and inspiration in the hyperbolic tropes of masculinity, unintended homoeroticism, and relatively equal status the female athletes share with their male counterparts.

Growing up, Alboreo learned survivalism through a patriarchal framework. She says she learned to deal with trauma and emotional wounds by ignoring them, hoping they would callus-over like a wound in a tree. She is reminded of a quote from Vince McMahon, CEO of WWE Inc., and an architect of modern day wrestling, "I have a facility to get rid of negatives very quickly. And if something hurts me, I get rid of it." Somewhere along the line Kate discovered this mindset might work well in nature but it does not serve her. Through personal discovery and coming into herself as a queer woman, she has found more useful coping strategies in life and in art.

Alboreo's strength as an artist comes from her ability to present eclectic metaphors from her own personal experience. Right now, plants and wrestling intertwine under the umbrella of her creative practice, but over time, new connections and parallels will undoubtedly be discovered.

Kate Alboreo is an artist living and working in Brooklyn, NY. This is her first solo exhibition in NYC. She received her BFA from University of Akron in 2010, and her MFA from University of South Florida in 2017. Alboreo's work has been the subject of several solo and two-person exhibitions including most recently, "Vague Limbs," with artist, Brandon Geurts, at Rhizome Gallery in Washington, D.C. in 2019. Alboreo's work has also been included in many group exhibitions including "Breeding the Unfamiliar" at QUAID in Tampa, FL in 2020, "American Wilderness" at Art Lab Tokyo, in Tokyo, Japan in 2019, "Anthropocene Blues" at Wayfarers in Brooklyn, NY in 2019, "Watch it Burn" at Trestle Projects in Brooklyn, NY in 2018, and "I See an Omen" at Benaco Arte in Sirmione, Italy in 2018.