

good behaviour.

Lena Long

From February 29th to March 30th, 2024, pal project presents 'Good Behaviour'. Following an exhibition in 2022 at the Fondation Pernod Ricard, Lena Long unveils her first solo show. Her work examines the study of forms of power and their symbols. Her pieces explore the performativity of images and their influence on bodies and mindsets, through conflicted scenes: settings, attitudes, branding ?

GOOD BEHAVIOUR.

On the floor, a drop of milk glistens, protruding and rejoicing in a relentless limbo: ODOURLESS, FROZEN, NO NUTRIENTS, NO PROTEIN NOR CALCIUM, AND MUCH LESS BREASTMILK, covered by a CLINICAL WHITE FILM — a nourishing milk that doesn't feed.

The artworks are authored by Lena Long. Some of them exhibit a few discreet trinkets, standing as subtle symbols more than actual clutter. In her practice, painting almost seems to stand for sculpture (or the other way around) as a carefully picked medium that rarely gives birth to a series but serves as a common thread, an overarching theme that bonds the pieces together. It sometimes becomes a backdrop, a theater flat: a wood-painted trompe-l'oeil barricade prevents the half-alive foal from escaping its gleaming pen.

'L for Loser', once a grounded pedestal, recalls the emotional security that geometric and symmetrical shapes can provide. Its surface, made of linoleum and oak veneer, bestows illusion but never releases the same scent — one we might mistake for sap and myrrh.

I turn my head away, 'Dolly123' stands still in the corner of the room. She's wearing gray leopard socks, all wrapped in polyester. Her gaze is empty, but her studded bracelet tries to tell us something: that she belongs to a special aesthetic or emotional category. She's a young teenager with character. I move around her to see what she is concealing from behind: just as I thought, her hair is braided with a ribbon. When I couldn't imagine a more fitting coincidence, a song by Patience & Prudence echoes in the half-empty space. Dolly won't ever honor us with a smile.

*... So I'll be special and I'll be rare.
I'll be something beyond compare.
I'll be noticed because I'll wear a smile and a ribbon in my hair.*

Emma Bombail

THE ARTIST

Born in Lyon in 1997, Lena Long is a French painter who currently lives and works in Paris. She graduated from the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Paris in 2023, after studying at the Beaux-Arts in Lyon and Cergy. Lena Long also exhibited at the Fondation Pernod Ricard in 2022.

Lena Long invites us to revisit childhood or somehow relive our early teenage years through her paintings. However, there is no nostalgia or idealism apparent in her works. They are always composite images that the artist constructs from images found on the internet. By summoning objects or images specific to those years, Lena Long allows everyone to appropriate the represented image. In an era of identity construction, a transitional and ephemeral period, the artist fully embodies objects that represent her.

«These ultra-transformed objects are linked to a regression into the world of 'signs of the very known' - well known by the children of late capitalism. The pieces will come to question, with a touch of humor, the weight of these fictions.»

THE GALLERY

Established in 2020, pal project is an emerging art gallery located in the 7th arrondissement of Paris. Purposefully free and experimental, the gallery's program offers strong and ambitious projects accompanied by publishing efforts to extend and perpetuate the developed themes.

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press release



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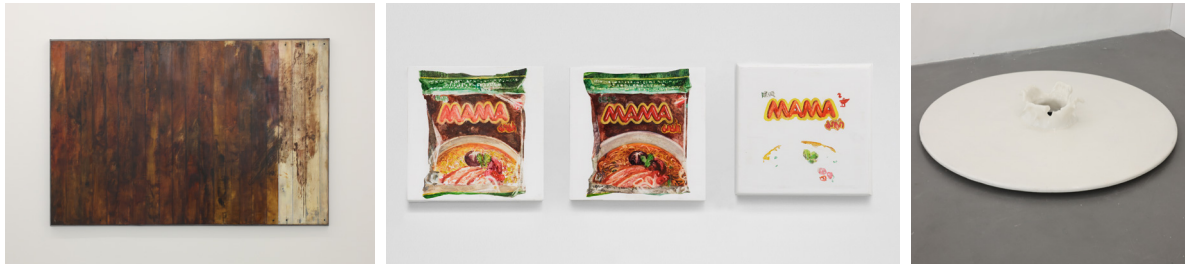


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1. Lena Long, *Ciggies*, 2024, textile (thick tartan, oilcloth, polyester stuffing), 95 × 7 cm
2. Lena Long, *Bambi*, 2023, cut-out in painted and lacquered wood, H&M sweatshirt, 246 × 180 cm
3. Lena Long, *H&C Slumber (Hoodie and cigarettes)*, 2024, textile (acrylic sweatshirt), mechanism (arduino dicimile, ultrasonic presence sensor, cables, portable battery, PLA box) 67 × 20 cm
4. Lena Long, *K.I.N.D.er*, 2023, wood, mat acrylic paint, 130 × 130 × 40 cm
5. Lena Long, *X (4)*, 2024, wood, oil painting, blacksmith nail, 23 × 23 cm
6. Lena Long, *X(2)*, 2024, oilcloth, stuffing and wood, 23 × 23 cm
7. Lena Long, *Ciggies*, 2024, textile (thick tartan, oilcloth, polyester stuffing), 36 × 7 cm
8. Lena Long, *Boundaries*, 2024, wood, oil painting, 246 × 180 cm
9. Lena Long, *MAMA'S*, 2023, oil on wood, 20 × 20 cm
10. Lena Long, *The Ultimate Drop*, 2023, silicone, MDF, 130 cm
11. Lena Long, *L for LOOSER*, 2023, plywood, linoleum, stainless-steel strip, 261 × 79 × 139 cm
12. Lena Long, *DOLLY123*, 2023, polymer paste, natural hair, cardboard, fabric, 137 cm
13. Lena Long, *X*, 2024, plywood, linoleum, 23 × 23 cm