Frances Goodman

FEBRUARY 27 - APRIL 16, 2016

RAPACIOUSLY YOURS

OPENING FEBRUARY 26, 6-8PM



Skin on Skin, 2012. Faux pearl earrings, found leather car seat, glue, $53.9 \times 48.8 \times 3.9$ in. (137 x 124 x 10 cm).

Richard Taittinger Gallery is honored to present *Rapaciously Yours*, the first major solo exhibition of works by South African artist Frances Goodman in the United States.

"Rapacious" is defined as inordinately greedy, ravenous, and predatory. For Goodman, the term represents attributes that are only criticized in women, not men. With the spite of a sarcastic closing greeting, *Rapaciously Yours* explores the complexities within the feminist pursuit of feeling at once powerful, self-satisfied, and desirable.

In creating sculptural works with acrylic nails, Goodman defies the presumed superficiality of objects commonly associated with female identity. Works such as *Violaceous* (2015), made from an accumulation of false nails, evoke anatomical growths or scaled creatures. Their simultaneously alluring and repulsive qualities examine how self-ornamentation can act as a mode of empowerment. Goodman's enlarged talon-shaped nail sculptures, titled and patterned with designs from actual fake nail catalogues, further encapsulate their protective, totemic properties.

Goodman also employs text to capture the voices frequently subdued into silence. Car seats feature

accounts from women, mostly sex workers, speaking about their loss of innocence and gaining of sexual power through experience. Feminine items that are often lost – pearls, necklaces, and earrings – transcribe their feelings of secret satisfaction, disappointment, or resignation.

Meanwhile, the in situ installation *The Dream* (2016) explores the social expectation of women to marry. Constructed from dozens of once-worn wedding dresses and wedding dress fabrics, the work includes audio recordings from interviews with women divulging anxieties about how their true desires compare with the norm.

Between prostitute and bride, *Rapaciously Yours* explores the lack of socially acceptable ways for women to honor their innermost desires and ambitions.

On view through April 16.

ABOUT FRANCES GOODMAN

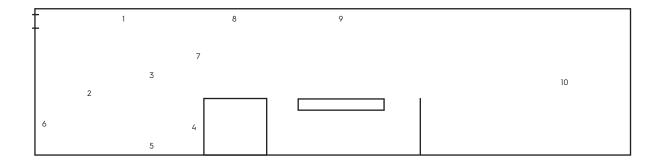
Frances Goodman (b. 1975) is a multimedia artist born in Johannesburg, South Africa. Working with objects commonly associated with female identity, such as acrylic nails, false eyelashes, and jewelry, Goodman explores how beauty regimes and perfectionism creates obsession and neuroses. In her examination of beauty conventions, marriage traditions, and common material possessions, Goodman reveals both the self-imposed and external pressures of women to conform to societal expectation. Her work is included in several major international collections, including Sindika Dokolo Collection, Angola and UNISA, South Africa.

FOR PRESS INQUIRIES

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RAPACIOUSLY YOURS



- 1 Lick It 2016 Acrylic nails, resin, foam 66.1 x 31.5 x 22.6 in. / 168 x 80 x 65 cm
- Lick my Lollipop
 2016
 Resin, fiberglass, metal, enamel
 80.7 x 27.6 x 15.8 in. / 205 x 70 x 40 cm
- 3 That's Hot! Pink 2016 Resin, fiberglass, metal, enamel 80.7 x 27.6 x 15.8 in. / 205 x 70 x 40 cm
- 4 Medusa 2013-2014 Acrylic nails, foam, metal 63 x 39.4 x 27.6 in. / 160 x 100 x 70 cm
- 6 Bite your Nail
 2014
 Reflective vinyl on Plexiglas with Swarovski crystals
 39.4 x 39.4 in. / 100 x 100 cm
 Edition of 5

- 7 Spit/Swallow Red-Blue 2016 Neon 44 x 66.5 in. / 111.8 x 168.9 cm Edition of 3
- Easy Come, Easy Go
 2013
 Car seat, earrings
 Artwork Size:
 57.5 x 53.5 x 2.8 in. / 146 x 136 x 7 cm
 Framed Size:
 79.5 x 69.75 x 6.5 in. / 201.9 x 177.2 x 16.5 cm
- 10 The Dream
 2010-2016
 Silk, lace, organza, satin, beads, embroidery
 thread, wedding dresses, sound installation
 Dimensions variable