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PRESSBOOK

THE OTHER STUDIO

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TESS DUMON



Stabat Mater (Lorasifar, Depakin, Tegretol & Circadin), 2014

If there were ever to be any wild horses in London that could drag you off the street and into the gallery, it would be these. Floating above the viewers in a six storey open space, Lorasifar, Depakin, Tegretol & Circadin are four horses that you definitely don't want to miss. I met the Swiss CSM graduate, Tess Dumon, about the ideas behind her work.

Where has the love for horses come from?

My brother is autistic and did a lot of horse therapy. Horses have a certain kind of sensitivity and it helped my brother grow more confident in communicating. First, he grew more confident in communicating with horses and then with people. It was very nice to see.



Is there a key message behind the sculptures?

They are a metaphor for an epilepsy crisis that I witnessed when I was 12. My family was having breakfast in the kitchen, when my brother suffered an epilepsy crisis. It made him convulse, distort, fall and drool. He didn't respond to our calls or taps as we tried to wake him up. At that moment, it felt as if time had stopped. My sister hid under the table with the dog and sobbed. My father seemed, as usual, very calm and very cold whilst my mother held my brother's head, kissing and lulling it.

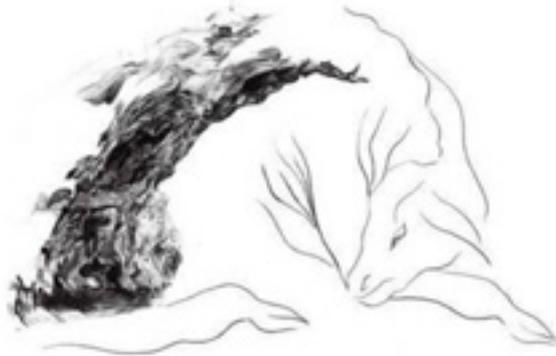
And across the table, there were valium syringes and anti-epileptic medicine boxes. Lorasifar, Depakin, Tegretol & Circadin. These names on the boxes grew into four wild horses. And here they are.



Stabat Mater (Lorasifar, Depakin, Tegretol & Circadin), 2014

What are the key themes that run through your work?

My practice has mainly focussed on selective memory. I am interested in how we consciously or unconsciously edit our memories. We select, reject and assimilate our past experiences until they eventually become a multitude of symbols and allegories. I am fascinated by this process. For the degree show, I wanted to make something that would turn the bad things that I saw into something good.



What are you trying to achieve with your work?

I would like people to experience a feeling that they have never felt before. I hope my work helps people to take a break from their daily lives and forget the world for at least one moment. It's like when you go to church. The atmosphere can be so powerful that you forget the world outside and when you come out it feels like you have been doing something very special.



Sabat Mater (Lorasifar, Depakin, Tegretol & Circadin), 2014

I'm taking a holiday! After that, I will be making new sculptures for some commissions. And next year, I will be doing my Masters at RCA!

As for the horses, they will be moving out of the crowded degree show and into their very own home. Like the artist herself, they are set to stay in London.

For more works by Tess, check out: <http://tessilda.tumblr.com/>