



A Solo Exhibition Presented by The Untitled Space

GIULIA GRILLO AKA PETTITE DOLL

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The Untitled Space is pleased to present the debut U.S. solo exhibition of Italian photographic artist Giulia Grillo aka Petite Doll, opening on November 4th and on view through November 19th, 2022. Curated by Indira Cesarine, the self-titled exhibition showcases a range of artworks that highlight the artist's surreal performance-based photography. A number of works from Grillo's ongoing series The Crab Girl will premiere in the exhibition, as well as a selection from her latest mixed-media project, In the Name of Perpetual Connection. The unconventional intricacies that characterize a Petite Doll image, whether still photograph or video, reflect a contemplation of the familiar, which Grillo warps and expands into fully-realized characters that forgo traditional beauty standards in favor of the bizarre. Petite Doll seeks to take photography out of its conventional, comfortable, and objective role, manifesting and distorting intricate concepts in her work, from the unsettling to the cute, holding a mirror to contemporary society and its underlying fears and desires. Using a wide array of symbolic objects, from elaborate sculptures to everyday objects, she transforms herself into distinct characters. Her sculptural molds made of polymer clay, SFX prosthetics, resin, and plaster, along with her distinctive makeup, costumes, and sets that she creates herself, build a bridge between the physical and digital worlds. Each carefully crafted scene she presents puts her preference for practical effects over digital manipulation on full display, often including intricate prosthetics to manifest darkly fantastical worlds that are nothing short of cinematic in their scale. Featuring photographs, videos, and behind-the-scenes archives spanning her artistic career, Giulia Grillo aka Petite Doll introduces an artist whose surrealism has a sardonic taste for the gorgeous and the grotesque in equal parts.



99% cotton 1% soul, 2020
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



100% fresh meat, 2019
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



Accept Cookies To View the Content, 2020
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



Brain Tea, 2020
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



Butterflies in the Stomach, 2019

Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



Can't believe my eyes, 2021

Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



CCTV is in operation, 2020
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



Cherries on Top, 2021

Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



Dig out negativity from your mind, 2020
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



Emotional Baggage, 2021
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



Enjoy your meal, 2022
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



Glazed Look, 2021

Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



In a Parallel Universe, 2021

Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
30 x 20 in



Insomnia, 2021
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



My Favourite Music, 2022
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print,
Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
20 x 30 in



No Signal, 2019
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



Perpetual Connection, 2021
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print,
Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
20 x 30 in



Precarious Affection, 2020
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
30 x 20 in



She's Magnetic, 2021

Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



Sickly Sweet, 2021
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print,
Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
16 x 24 in



Skin Hunger, 2021
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



Speak from the Heart, 2019

Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



Sweet Tooth, 2021

Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



Take Me Back, 2020

Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
30 x 20 in



Tasty Dreams, 2022
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print,
Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
16 x 24 in



The Baking of a Cake, 2019
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



The Crab Girl, 2019

Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
30 x 20 in



The Crab Girl Escaped from the Freak Show, 2022
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in or 18 x 12 in



The Endless Game, 2020
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print,
Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
16 x 24 in



The Golden Egg, 2021
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print,
Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
16 x 24 in



The Origin of Ideas, 2021
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print,
Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
16 x 24 in



The Reflection of Yourself, 2021
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



The Sweetest Piece, 2021
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



Triple Smell, 2021
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



Triple Taste, 2019
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



Wash your hands, 2020
Aluminium Dibond Mounted Print, Giclée Fuji Metallic Paper, High Gloss Lamination
24 x 16 in



“GIULIA GRILLO AKA PETITE DOLL” Solo Exhibition
The Untitled Space



ARTIST STATEMENT

“Under the moniker ‘Petite Doll,’ I use my own figure to impersonate abstracted feelings and compelling themes. Each work is a manifestation of an intricate concept that whips from the unsettling to the cute and reflects contemporary society and its underlying fears and desires. Using a wide array of symbolic objects, from elaborate sculptures to everyday things, I distort and bend the idea of beauty, fusing it with a sense of the grotesque.

In my self-portraits, I try to simulate the appearance of a doll in order to create a dreamlike dimension that raises questions about what is real and what is not. I combine surrealism with photography, transforming myself into different grotesque characters. Each work carries a manifestation of intricate concepts, from the unsettling to the cute, and pushes the boundaries of what is possible.

Creating props and looks for my photoshoots is one of the most important parts of the process. It’s when I challenge my creativity to bring ideas to life. I use different mediums and techniques, such as polymer clay, SFX prosthetics, resin, plaster, etc. Sometimes it seems that there’s a lot of Photoshop work going on, but I always use real objects, as they give a sense of materiality that is not always achievable digitally.

My images are full of metaphors and symbolism. I like to turn familiar situations into something extraordinary, as it actively stimulates the imagination of the viewer. The visual paradox is one of the most symbolic elements of my work. If you look closely at my art, you’ll see that everything creates contrast, even the way I use colors. I create a visual balance between opposites: Beautiful and grotesque, rational and irrational, desire and repulsion, delicacy and brutality, reality and dreams.” – Giulia Grillo, aka Petite Doll

Since beginning her career under the “Petite Doll” moniker, Grillo’s art has been exhibited internationally and was previously featured in The Untitled Space’s “INNOVATE” and “REBEL” exhibitions. She completed a degree in Graphic Design in Italy before moving to London to pursue a Master of Arts in Photography from the University of the Arts London. Since her relocation to the UK, she has been featured in exhibitions including The Brick Lane Gallery’s “Photography Now” (2017), Boomer Gallery’s “Icon” (2022) with Image Nation Milan, 2022, and The Other Art Fair, London, 2022. Grillo credits her first years in London as essential to the development of Petite Doll’s artistic style. The Girl With Lobster Hands, the human-crustacean hybrid first created in 2019 and Grillo’s “most representative character,” continues to be a signature representation of the artist’s beautifully bizarre surrealism and satire. Recently, she has expanded beyond still photography and into video art and NFTs, adding new dimensions to her uniquely realized world. Her debut solo show at The Untitled Space marks her first exhibition as a represented artist of the gallery.

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