

OLYMPIA POLYMENI

ANOREXINEIA

The sculptures here exhibited are the first works of the *Anorexineia* series, the new project of the Greek born, London based artist Olympia Polymeni.

Anorexia (*Anorexia nervosa*), whose Greek etymology means “without desire”, is a disease that induces people to exercise an excessive control over their own body weight.

While this is generally meant by the affected person as a way to sculpt his/her own figure into a perceived “perfect” shape, the long-term results are emaciated and gaunt bodies, unable to sustain themselves and ultimately to survive.

This shift of perception is here re-proposed by the artist, as she conveys her on-going interest in the female body’s depiction to a broader discourse on Greece’s current political situation.

Through a sophisticate word game, incomprehensible to the non-natives, the wax sculptures are linked to the Elgin marbles, known by the Greek people as *Elgineia* (“of Elgin”) and object of an international dispute between Greece and UK.

If imagined as devoid of any human shape, the *Wax Doll* works recall the formal beauty and exquisite draperies of Hellenic classical sculptures.

Seen in a closer perspective, the material’s softness and its off-white colour hint to the frailty of bones that doesn’t receive enough food sustainment to fulfil their physiological function.

As an anorexic body, Greece, deprived of its ancient cultural prowess, is now preying on its own flesh. Suffering the outburst of a deadly sickness, the country needs nourishment to reinforce its bones and get through this challenging period.



Wax Doll I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, Anorexineia series, studio view installation, wax, various dimensions, 2012



Wax Doll III, Anorexineia series, wax, h 8,5cm x w 16cm x d 7cm, 2012



Wax Doll VII, *Anorexineia* series, wax, h 22cm x w 20cm x d 15cm, 2012

OLYMPIA POLYMENI

www.olympiapolymeni.blogspot.co.uk

BIOGRAPHY

Born in Preveza, Greece in 1975.

After graduating in philosophy, she studied painting at Athens School of Fine Arts and moved to London in 2009 to pursue her studies, earning an MA in Fine Art from Central St. Martins College in 2010.

She lives and works in London.

SOLO SHOWS

2012: *Peripatos*, Ort Gallery, Birmingham

2011: *Tasseography*, Sartorial Contemporary Art,
London

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Wax Doll V, *Anorexineia* series, wax, h 13cm x w 17cm x d 14cm, 2012