

timespan

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The Moon, The Sea & The Matriarch
Milly Thompson
Opening Friday 5th July
06.07.19 - 22.09.19



Timespan presents Milly Thompson's *The Moon, The Sea & The Matriarch*, a celebration of the pleasures, woes, cellulite, stretch marks and desires of older and middle aged women.

Lavish in orange blossom, salty hair, moist thighs, disco skies, heavy lashes and hot breezes; shrug off the manufactured crack of youth and beauty and laugh with collective sisterly joy at the neuroses and anxieties fabricated to sell you a lifestyle which gives you migraines. Glow up and spurn the role of the neutered, invisible older woman and embrace that liberation comes from a transformative and unified women's joy, not playing a constrained, soporific Stepford Wife.

The Moon, The Sea & The Matriarch includes a solo exhibition of Milly's *Cougar* paintings, luscious portraits of older women indulging and enjoying themselves, soundtracked by *My body temperature is feeling good*, a song in three parts tracing an older woman on a solo beach holiday, solitary,

gregarious and rampant; *Still Same Sexy, Morning Light; Still Same Sexy, Afternoon Heat and Still Same Sexy, Night-Club*.

The Moon, The Sea & The Matriarch will command the whole of the village - banners will be raised on the lamposts; the Timespan building turned luminous gorse yellow; our geology garden revamped in crystal and *Call to the Sea* posters flyposted each week. *FACE THE HILLS* will be painted onto the harbour with a view looking out to sea, and directly opposite this *FACE THE SEA* towards the hills, forming a psychological trap, echoing a sometimes dark and imprisoning anguish of a woman's enclosure.

Milly has worked with herbalists and perfumer Eliza Douglas to produce a collection of three perfumes: *SHATAVARI: INVISIBLE; PROPOSITION* and *VOLATILE*. Each has Shatavari as its base note*, a herb known as *Queen with a Thousand Kings* which has been used for thousands of years in herbal medicine, refreshing parts of the female body that other medicines haven't reached. The perfumes will be available to buy from Timespan as a set, or individually depending on which mood you'd like to evoke - solitude, seduction or power.

INVISIBLE: giving you a sense of privacy and centred solitude as you move through the world, soft, velvety and comforting. *Hedione* produces trust in oneself whilst *ISO E Super* provides a mirroring glow. *Floral ozone* is a feeling of expansiveness and the rare natural green note of *Violet Leaf Absolute* urges tranquility.

PROPOSITION: is feeling tough! A powerful aura surrounds you, promoting purpose and presence. *PROPOSITION* contains *Buddha wood*, an unusual woody note that grounds with elements of rose and smoke. *Peru Balsam* provides warmth and openness with notes of vanilla, cinnamon and clove, whilst an amber base keeps you in your groove.

VOLATILE: *Jasmine* beguiles, with an undertow of animal attraction. It celebrates lunar swings and primal bodies. *Sandalwood* is present for sensuality and softness whilst *Beeswax Absolute* does what it says on the tin; it's enticing, floral and honey sweet.

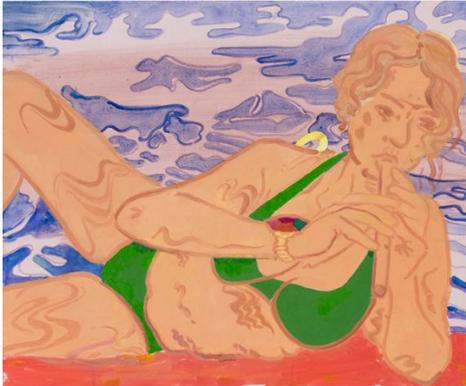
During the project, Timespan will be running an alternative wellbeing and pampering clinic. We're swerving the lucrative industry of wellness, so NO to feelgood individualism, yoga face exercises and spirals courgettes, these will be colourful, beautiful and funny - donut making, cocktails and karaoke, a Barbara Cartland pop-up restaurant, an artist-spoof wellbeing workshop, chicklit writing, perfume making, herbalist teachings and pampering sessions. The battleground of anxiety, stress, unhappiness and sickness is a societal not a personal problem, and donuts, herbal healing and cocktails are the language of this rebellion.

To launch Milly's project, an all woman local choir wearing the colours of a sunset will sing sea shanties and fisherwomen lullabies on a boat procession down the Helmsdale river and out to sea into twilight.

* none of the perfumes contain a medical dose of shatavari.

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NOTES TO EDITORS
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Milly Thompson



Milly Thompson uses a variety of different media including wall-sculpture/painting, print, text, digital and performance to imagine the correlation between commodity and pleasure, the rational and the irrational, hyperbole and tropes of truth or meaning. Her research has developed to include an interest in the public image of older and post-menopausal women. Juggling these concepts through various forms, enables her to build a set of visual manifestations for living and understanding.

Recent group exhibitions include Naming Rights at Thomas Dane, Thomas Dane Gallery (2017), The Peculiar People, Focal Point Gallery, Southend-on-Sea (2016); THE GEO POLITICS OF MONETIZED AIRSPACE Come Fly with Me, I Meet You by the Airside Gucci Concession at 4, Fox Fur Hat, Midway Contemporary Art, Minneapolis (2016). Solo projects include Akerman Daly, 'Artist in Residence', akermantasy.com (2017); Merchandise and Accessories, Naming Rights Gallery, London (2017) and Cougar, Westminster Waste gallery, London (2016). Milly was in artists' collective BANK from 1994 to 2003, and created work for solo and group exhibitions at galleries including Tate Modern, ICA and Whitechapel Gallery.

<https://millythompson.co.uk/>

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Timespan is a cultural organisation in Helmsdale, a village in the very north east of the Scottish Highlands, with local, global and planetary ambitions to weaponise culture for social change.

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