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# AMALIA ULMAN

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Amalia Ulman is an Argentinean-born, predominantly Spanish-raised artist based between the cities of Los Angeles and Gijón. A self-described transatlantic expat, a spirit of national nomadism and outsider cultural inquisitiveness inform her practice.

Her works are primarily voiced in the first person, often blurring the distinction between the artist and object of study. The aesthetic is clean, minimal and translucent. The recurring imagery - pearls, butterflies, hearts, coffee art, household ornamentation, and motivational slogans— a montage of mundane prosaicness— evoke the iconography of a coming-of-age femininity and the language of relationship advice columns, with their undertones of possession, seduction, anxiety and insecurity. Ubiquitous, everyday objects are observed as unearthed treasures concealing exotic truths, viewed from a furtive, almost voyeuristic vantage point. In a multidisciplinary manner, she charts a soft-toned exploration of the relationships between consumerism and identity, class imitation and social deception, altruism and orientalism, with a particular focus on the idea of “cute” and “pretty”.

The idea of ‘prettiness’ is central to Ulman’s practice broadly: it is what gives her work this light touch that is so difficult to read. She uses the aesthetic languages of the middle, its ‘sublime ordinariness’, as a mechanism to explore the intersection of class and aesthetics at its most salient point: taste.

It is the finger-pointing and moralizing of ‘pretty’, which Bourdieu identifies, and its ties to a particular class position, that perhaps allows us to see that Ulman’s work is remarkable in that its reception is marked by a conflicted sense of pleasure and unease and even shame and hypocrisy.

Such ideas are expanded in her work, whose light touch asks not only how aesthetic consumption aligns one to a particular class position, but also, how a position of criticality is itself a space of privilege.

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## SELECTED

### ART

#### CURRICULUM VITAE

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*Amalia Ulman (1989, Argentina) lives and works between Los Angeles (USA) and Gijón (Spain).*

*The main focus of her research are class differences and how they affect social interactions, emotions and human relations.*

*Her work analyses social stratification, cultural capital, class imitation and seduction. Her aim is to scrutinize matters such as hierarchies, power relations, charity and empathy.*

*She graduated from the Central Saint Martins School of Art and Design (London) in 2011.*

*Recent exhibitions include solo shows Moist Forever at Future Gallery (Berlin), Promise a Future at Marbriers4 (Geneva) and Used & New at LTD (Los Angeles)*

*She designed the app ETHIRA (available to download on Apple App Store).*

*She is the founder and curator MAWULISA (mawu-lisa.com) and was one of the panel members of 89+ curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist and Simon Castets for the DLD13 Conference (Munich).*

*She designed the stage of the 89+ marathon at the new Serpentine Gallery’s Zaha Hadid Building.*

*She is a feminist.*

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## Education

2008-2011 ~ Central Saint Martins (UK) BA (HONS) Fine Art  
2005-2007 ~ INTRA - Universidad Laboral (Spain) A-Levels (Art)

## Selected Solo & Duo Shows

- ✓ 2014 Used & New @ LTD, Los Angeles
- ✓ 2014 Delicious Works @ Smart Objects, Los Angeles
- ✓ 2013 Promise a Future @ Marbriers4, Geneva
- ✓ 2013 Moist Forever @ Future Gallery, Berlin
- ✓ 2013 Immune Stability I | s @ Steve Turner, Los Angeles
- ✓ 2012 Savings & Shelves @ Headquarters, Zurich
- ✓ 2012 Overcome, cleanse @ Galeria Adriana Suarez, Spain
- ✓ 2012 Profit | Decay (w/ Katja Novitskova) @ Arcadia Missa,

## Selected Collective Shows

- ✓ 2014 DISOWN @ RedBull Studios (NY)
- ✓ 2014 Poetry Will be made by all @ LUMA FOUNDATION (Zurich)
- ✓ 2014 Surplus Living @ KM Temporaer (Berlin)
- ✓ 2014 Significant Others @ High Art (Paris)
- ✓ 2013 Current Model Like New (curated by hotelart.us) (NY)
- ✓ 2013 Lonely Girl (curated by Asher Penn) @ Martos Gallery (NY)
- ✓ 2013 Draft Urbanism @ Biennial Of The Americas (Denver)
- ✓ 2013 It takes a muscle to fall in love @ 55 Sydenham Rd (Sydney)
- ✓ 2013 Savoir Murir @ Sandy Brown (Berlin)
- ✓ 2013 Guide to the Galaxy @ Gloria Maria Gallery (Italy)

## Other Activities

- ✓ 2013 Designer of the app ETHIRA (Available on the Apple App Store)
- ✓ 2013 Stage Design 89+ Marathon Frieze @ Serpentine Gallery (London)
- ✓ 2013 Curator of MAWU-LISA II [www.mawu-lisa.com](http://www.mawu-lisa.com) @ Courtney Blades (Chicago)

## Talks

- ✓ 2014 NeoImpressionism Workshop (curated by M.Manetas) @ Swiss Institute
- ✓ 2014 89+ Marathon of the Americas @ Fundación JUMEX (Mexico)
- ✓ 2013 Miami Basel @ KM Temporaer (Berlin)

## Essays

- ✓ 2013 Being Cautious
- ✓ 2013 Buyer, Walker, Rover Video essay for Reg Archives Gothenburg, Sweden
- ✓ 2012 F/F (Essay) Published by Pool (USA) and HTSF (UK)

## Selected Press

- Rhizome's Artist Profile  
[CLICK HERE](#)

- Hans Ulrich Obrist & Simon Castets interview for Kaleidoscope Issue 18 (Summer 2013)  
[CLICK HERE](#)

-Celebrate Commerce with Amalia Ulman (Interview for Dazed & Confused online) Summer 2013  
[CLICK HERE](#)

-Lonely Girl interview by Asher Penn (SEX MAGAZINE)  
[CLICK HERE](#)

-In conversation with Rozsa Farkas (ARCADIA MISSA)  
[CLICK HERE](#)



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