

Art Projects Ibiza + Lune Rouge are pleased to present *An Insane Desire For You* by British artist Tracey Emin. In collaboration with Xavier Hufkens, the exhibition is installed across both spaces and is comprised of twenty-four new artworks including paintings, works on paper and neon. Fueled with sexual eroticism and unresolved desire, Emin questions fundamental ideas of love, loss and affection as she wrote in the poem conceived as her statement for the exhibition:

And there is nothing else in my mind but you.

Smashing and crashing like some insane volcano.

I can feel you.

I'm touching you like I'm touching the centre of the Earth.

I burn and disappear loving you.

Emin's intensely personal, self-confessional practice acquires a new temperament in this exhibition, delving on fundamental themes of human relations such as affection, love, longing and sexuality through episodes of passionate obsession.

Throughout the exhibition the artist has used text, whether in neon or painted directly on to the canvas. The use of text on the paintings is unapologetic, gestural and applied with immediacy, the words employed evoke desperation as the densely worked layers of paint drip violently down the canvas. Denoting a certain vulnerability, this new body of work is both tender and nostalgic yet powerfully sexual.

"An Insane Desire For You" glows brightly in neon at the entrance to both spaces. Visible from the street, the soft pink and red hues catch the attention of the people passing by, setting a tone for the rest of the exhibition.

In the first space the viewer is confronted with an ensemble of large-scale paintings on canvas. A lone female form is repeated, her breasts and pelvis are exaggerated, yet her face lacks any features or expression, the paint drips down from her body. Although this recurring female figure is not recognizable, the use of the first person in the accompanying texts suggests these are self-portraits.

One canvas populated by painted words reads: "I thought about you, I thought about making love to you. I am so confused, I am so complicated, my idea of love and affection hurts. I have now given up on almost everything that is human. I dream now as someone dead –no longer here- because I live without love" while an amber neon states "It's different when you are in love".

In the second gallery the presence of a meaningful male partner becomes more persistent, both represented in form and text. In this room, Emin seems to revisit her memories of a relationship now vanished. The presence of a male figure is depicted in the majority of works, and titles such as "As love disappears" and "I invented time for us" reference a mutual past with a significant other that today draws the artist to pain and sorrow. The neon "I thought about fucking the inside of your mind" is reminiscent of the still existing desire and longing for that physicality, but she also wants more, as she fantasizes with an intellectual connection.

The artist forces her memories and desires out on to the canvas, resulting in works that are intrinsically personal, "Art is a cathartic act for me" she has said. The works are reminiscent of her inner truth, but they also provide an empathetic catalyst to universal sensitivities, thus creating a dialogue between herself and the spectator through confessions of love and fantasy.

In collaboration with
Xavier Hufkens