

NICODIM

Isabelle Albuquerque

Sextet

Los Angeles

September 12 – October 17, 2020



Isabelle Albuquerque, *Orgy for 10 People in One Body: 5*, 2020

"Inside my head I wished for years that I could separate into ten different people to give each person I loved a part of myself forever and also have some left over to drift across landscapes and maybe even go into death or areas that were deadly and have enough of me to survive the death of one or two of me—this was what I thought appropriate for all my desires and I never figured out how to rearrange it all and now I'm in danger of losing the only one of me that is around." — David Wojnarowicz, *In the Shadow of the American Dream: The Diaries of David Wojnarowicz*

Isabelle Albuquerque is a dancer. Articulate in movement, she contorts her body into visual expressions of fleeting yet unforgettable waves of emotion, perfect in the moment, then gone. The body, to Albuquerque, is a porous vessel for empathy and individual emotion. It soaks in its surroundings through osmosis—a fight with a lover, a brush with the sublime, a crying child, an uncomfortably wet sock on a frigid evening—and fills itself with experience, only to

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gradually let these moments slip away again in some form, often unrecognizable to the body itself. Each fluctuation of the elbow is a forgotten memory reasserting itself, each curl of the toes is a past life searching for a new home.

Orgy for 10 People in One Body, the series from which *Sextet*, Albuquerque's first solo exhibition is culled, is her attempt to freeze the escape of these unsolvable gestures, these reconfigurations of past experience indefinitely, yet allow them to remain open to currently inaccessible and incalculable contacts and understandings.

In *Sextet*, six headless casts of Albuquerque's body stand, recline, embalm, and birth themselves throughout the gallery. They populate and dominate the space like a self-possessed army, each figure announcing herself in formation: 1 is a musical adaptation of the rape or seduction of the artist casting herself as Leda from Yeats's "Leda and the Swan"; 2 is a perpetual birth and first motherhood by fire, an ourbours of elemental initiations; 3 is diminutive in stature, yet possesses the ecstatic and orgasmic gravity of the sun within her solid walnut form; 4 perches herself on all fours, both fiercely on-guard and prone for a rear mounting; 5 is the artist as a doe on a pillow of grass, her cloven hooves singing of the surfaces and souls with which they've made contact; 6 is a sarcophagus-as-elegy for the shapes and spirits she once possessed and those she will become. They do not diminish the artist's presence through the separation of self, they amplify it, increasing her empathetic interior and surface area, so that we all become instrumental in her symphony of unsolvable gestures.

Isabelle Albuquerque is a Los Angeles-based sculptor and performer. She was a founding member of the music and performance duo Hecuba, and is a co-director of Osk, a collaborative studio that develops artificial and alien intelligence to create and look at art and individual experience through new human and nonhuman perspectives. *Orgy for 10 People in One Body*, Albuquerque's current sculptural journey, involves casting and 3D scanning her own body to create ten headless, human-scaled figures, each composed of a different solitary material. Pieces from the series have been highlighted in Nicodim's group exhibitions *When You Waked Up the Buffalo* (2020), *Skin Stealers* (2019), and *Hollywood Babylon: A Re-Inauguration of the Pleasure Dome* (2020), presented in collaboration with Jeffrey Deitch and AUTRE Magazine. Albuquerque is featured in conversation with Arthur Jafa in AUTRE Magazine's current issue, *The Edge of Chaos*. *Sextet* is her first solo exhibition with the gallery.

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ARTWORK LIST



Isabelle Albuquerque
Orgy for 10 People in One Body: 5, 2020
flocked resin, ebony Gaboon, wedding ring
50.80h x 60.96w x 121.92d cm
20h x 24w x 48d in
Edition 1/3 + AP



Isabelle Albuquerque
Orgy for 10 People in One Body: 6, 2020
resin, mica-laced Lexus auto body paint
45.72h x 45.72w x 165.10d cm
18h x 18w x 65d in
Edition 1/3 + AP



Isabelle Albuquerque
Orgy For Ten People In One Body: 3, 2020
walnut
77.29h x 21.62w x 14.83d cm
30.43h x 8.51w x 5.84d in
Edition 1/3 + AP



Isabelle Albuquerque
Orgy For Ten People In One Body: 4, 2020
rubber
55.88h x 55.88w x 109.22d cm
22h x 22w x 43d in
Edition 1/3 + AP



Isabelle Albuquerque
Orgy For Ten People In One Body: 1, 2019
cast bronze and saxophone
106.68h x 101.60w x 203.20d cm
42h x 40w x 80d in
Ed. 1 of 3 + AP

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Isabelle Albuquerque
Orgy For Ten People In One Body: 2, 2020
cast resin, mattress, candle
mattress plinth
15.8 x 38 x 75 in
40 x 96.5 x 190.5 cm

sculpture:
22.97 x 25.68 x 28.16 in
58.34 x 65.23 x 75 cm
Ed. 2 of 3

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Isabelle Albuquerque

° Born 1981, Los Angeles, CA
Lives and works in Los Angeles, CA

Education

2003 Barnard College, New York, NY

Selected Exhibitions and Performances

- 2020 *Sextet* (solo exhibition), Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
When You Waked Up the Buffalo, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
By Appointment, Artist Curated Projects, Los Angeles, CA
Hollywood Babylon, Nicodim Gallery, Jeffrey Deitch, and AUTRE Magazine, Los Angeles, CA
- 2019 *Skin Stealers*, Nicodim Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 *(Arthur Jafa) A Series of Utterly Improbable, Yet Extraordinary Renditions*, Stoschek Foundation, Berlin, Germany
- 2017 *(Arthur Jafa) A Series of Utterly Improbable, Yet Extraordinary Renditions*, Serpentine Gallery, London, United Kingdom
- 2016 *Wind Grove Mind Alone*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN
Enter The Cave, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA
Femmebit, Human Resources, Los Angeles, CA
- 2015 *Heaven*, curated by Marina Abramovic, The Art of Elysium, Los Angeles CA
Memory Presents: The Elements of Human Physical Communication No 2, The Silent Movie Theater, Los Angeles, CA
- 2014 *Wading Games*, Miami Beach Art Basel, Mama Gallery, Miami, Florida
- 2013 *Crime / Fading Horizon*, Human Resources, Los Angeles, CA
Modern, MOCA TV, Los Angeles CA
- 2012 *Another Thought*, Uebel & Gefährlich, Hamburg, Germany
Paradise, Musiques-Volantes, Metz, France
- 2011 *La Migra*, curated by Devendra Banhart, Vice Gallery, Mexico City, MX
- 2009 *(Wu Tsang) Wildness*, The Silver Platter, Los Angeles, CA
Parallelograms, REDCAT, Los Angeles, CA
Paradise, Postbahnhof, Berlin, Germany
- 2008 *In Hades*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA
Triple Canopy, Site LA, Los Angeles
Dublab Music: Vision Version, The Silent Movie Theater, Los Angeles, CA

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2006 *(Sarah Cain) Show and Tell*, SFMOMA, San Francisco, CA

Selected Talks and Presentations

2018 *Mirrorworld* co-hosted by Serpentine Galleries and Google Arts & Culture's Artists + Machine Intelligence program, Sci Arc, Los Angeles CA

2017 *A Series of Utterly Improbable, Yet Extraordinary Renditions* – Conversation with Arthur Jafa, Hans Ulrich Obrist, Tina Compt, Greg Tate and Yana Peel, Gavin Brown Enterprise, New York, NY

2014 *DMA Lecture Series: Osk*, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA

Selected Press

2020 'The Edge is Bleeding: Isabelle Albuquerque and Arthur Jafa in Conversation,' *AUTRE Magazine*, Issue 10, p. 120-126

2019 'In Dialogue with Isabelle Albuquerque,' *MAIMOUN*, Sept. 17