



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Art Rug Projects by Soutzoglou x Bea Bonafini**

*A Monstrous Fruit*

Setareh Gallery, Berlin

*A Monstrous Fruit* is Bea Bonafini's first solo show in Germany and the second artist collaboration of Art Rug Projects.



For this exhibition taking place at Setareh Gallery in Berlin, Bea works with new interdisciplinary techniques, developed to achieve a labyrinthine body of new work, embracing engraved paintings on cork, hand-tufted tapestries and pastel drawings. The succulent imagery that emerges takes the viewer on a winding path into the familiar and the uncharted. At times articulated with anatomical precision and others with explosive emotional charge, *A Monstrous Fruit* is the result of the artist's reflection on physical and mental confinement during a time of collective grief and reinvention.



## **ART RUG PROJECTS x BEA BONAFINI**

### *Alluvial and Plinian Fire*

Expanding the artist's interest in tapestries and carpets, *Alluvial* and *Plinian Fire* are two works that are the fruit of a new collaboration between Bea Bonafini and Art Rug Projects by Soutzoglou. Experimenting with the transition of materiality from soft pastel drawings to large scale textile works, they mark a new direction in the artist's practice. Both works are hand-tufted in bamboo silk and play with altering pile heights and carving. They maintain some aspects of the artist's carpet inlays while exploring the technical possibilities that hand-tufting offers.

**Bea Bonafini** (1990, Bonn, Germany) lives and works between London, Rome and Paris. In 2014 she received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Slade School of Fine Art and in 2016 a Master of Fine Arts in painting from the Royal College of Art, London. Bonafini's work expands the possibilities of painting, tapestry and sculpture and their interrelationships. Her interdisciplinary practice draws from oneiric visions, overlapping personal and ancient mythologies.

Bea is the recipient of the Abbey Scholarship, British School at Rome (BSR), Italy, 2019-2021, which she has recently concluded. She has been the recipient of many awards and residencies including La Berlugane-Maleki Residency and Commission, Beaulieu-sur-Mer, France, 2019; FIBRA Artist Residency, Colombia, curated and co-produced with Mia Pfeifer, 2018; the Villa Lena Residency, Tuscany, Italy, 2016, and many others.

### **Art Rug Projects**

Art Rug Projects was initiated by Electra Soutzoglou, bringing together her family's 120-year expertise in handmade carpets and her background in contemporary art. Collaborations offer contemporary artists the possibility to explore a new medium and technique to create textile artworks, expanding their practice in new ways. Carpet making is linked with the tradition of the past, whereas contemporary art is an expression of the present. By adapting age-old traditions in a modern context, Art Rug Projects "weaves" heritage, history, and artisanal practices with contemporary art.

### **Exhibition Info**

*A Monstrous Fruit*

Opening February 10, 2022

February 11 – March 10, 2022

Setareh Gallery, Berlin

Schöneberger Ufer 71, 10785 Berlin, Germany