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PAULINE CURNIER JARDIN
Viola Melon, Baiser Melocoton

Opening: November 2nd, 2013. 6 – 9 pm
Duration: November 5 – December 14, 2013

*Melons melons, surgis de la Terre
renversent les cerveaux et parfois je m'y mêle
partons partons, roulons dans les sillons
la Dame arrive, violette et velours
nous mets sous sa jupe, elle nous fait peur
partons partons, roulons dans les sillons*

Salvatore Donofrio pour Violette Euphoria

PSM is excited to announce our first solo-exhibition with French filmmaker **Pauline Curnier Jardin**. The exhibition *Viola Melon, Baiser Melocoton* simultaneously marks the opening of her new film *Violette Euphoria* as well as the inauguration of the theatrical stage installation: *Femme Salon Cinéma*.

The movie Violette Euphoria takes place in the end of summer in south of France, where two young girls talk about the damages of alcohol amongst teenagers in a field with rotten melons. In ironic opposition to their appearance, their speech is at first very formal. Whilst rolling in the mud, playing with the overripe fruit, their language shifts until they slowly start speaking in tongues. Suddenly, a giant velvet purple Demeter appears - the goddess of the Earth and it's products. The girls step up to her, hiding themselves in the soft folds of her body. They listen to her advice until they fall asleep. While they sleep, the goddess turns their livers into colorful meringues. When they wake up, velvet Demeter has disappeared. A guy in a white car is coming towards the two girls. The girls get off the ground where they were creeping and sleeping and start dancing like goddesses.

The story of the film *Violette Euphoria* is a surreal mix of ancient Greek myths - Demeter and Prometheus, who had his liver eaten by an eagle - and contemporary culture - from lost techno-rave parties in the open field to contemporary sex-symbols, like Beyoncé.

As the sensuality of the bodies at first is clearly opposing to the moral speech of the two girls, the whole movie turns into a psychedelic vision criticizing any kind of moral - from contemporary beliefs to ancient ideas of the Greek agenda. The teenagers' Rites of Passage (drinking alcohol until being on the floor, rolling on the dirt) in comparison to the transformation the real goddess inflicts upon them: their livers, the organ which turns Alcohol into sugar, are turned into their own by-product. The surrealistic part of the movie is based on several stories of ancient origin and aesthetics of diverse cultures.

"Two things there are, young prince, that hold first rank among men, the goddess Demeter, that is, the earth, — call her which name though please; she it is that feed men with solid food; and as her counterpart 1 came this god, the son of Semele, who discovered the juice of the grape and introduced it to mankind, stilling thereby each grief that mortals suffer from, soon they are filled with the juice of the vine; and sleep also he gives, sleep that brings forgetfulness of daily illness, the sovereign charm for all our wounds. God 2 though he is, he serves all other gods for libations, so that through him mankind is blessed."

Theiresias in Les Bacchantes (vers 279-285). Euripide. EDWARD P. COLERIDGE, B.A. ORIEL COLLEGE, OXFORD- VOL. II.

Pauline Curnier Jardin, born 1980 in Pertuis, France, lives and works in Paris. Her works have been on display in Paris at Centre Georges Pompidou, Musée d'Art Modern de la Ville de Paris and Palais de Tokyo and in Germany at ZKM, Karlsruhe. A solo show at MIT Cambridge is scheduled for 2014.