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## Monika Grabuschnigg's 'What Satisfaction Could You Possibly Have' at Carbon 12, Dubai

<http://www.blouinartinfo.com/news/story/3047112/monika-grabuschniggs-what-satisfaction-could-you-possibly>



Carbon 12, Dubai, is showcasing a combination of large-scale clay reliefs and drawings for Monika Grabuschnigg's first solo exhibition "What Satisfaction Could You Possibly Have," exploring the dislocated intimacies and disembodied desires of humans living in highly digitized societies.

Through this exhibition, the artist poses the questions as how we search for and connect with others, how we long for flirting and fantasize together are changing dramatically. The apps and websites we turn to seem to offer direct portals to other lives – immediate and intimate interactions that can lead to in-the-flesh satisfactions. But there is no unmediated exchange: we are subject to and encouraged to impose self-censorship, self-exploitation. Our loves and loneliness are mined for profit and each of us put to work as blister-thumbed miner.

The gallery says, "Both the reliefs and the drawings in the show take reference of the ever-present screens through which this happens. Seen everyday, the fractured and repaired bodies morphing into one another; cropped and cracked identities exaggerated and engorged by algorithmic bias; character-limited emotions congealing into searching limbs, messy embraces, visceral gazes. Materially vulnerable, tonally fleshy, the inch-thick, flat-to-the-wall

reliefs feel like substantial moments captured through a haze of distortion: the analog and the digital worlds clashing head-on. The forms in the drawings are more of-this-worldly, but more deeply mired in dream-states. Created after (rather than as sketches for) the reliefs they feel like moments of surveillance: evidence gathered from tapping the data flows between the babbling ceramic."

"The works are also intensely human – or human-ish as no easy, singular narrative can describe the works. Instead the viewers are confronted with an insistent, information-rich polyphony: a polyamory of meaning," adds the gallery.

The gallery quotes Grabuschnigg describing her studio practice as a "near manic state, a kind of intense dancing in which I test & exploit my materials' limits, try to trick them into doing something new."

Grabuschnigg completed her M.A. at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna, and studied as an exchange student at the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design in Jerusalem, and in Santiago at the Universidad Catolica de Chile. In 2016, she received the most promising young artist award from the Federal State Government of Vorarlberg, Austria. Her works have been collected in the State Museum Vorarlberg, the Federal Artothek in Vienna, and the Graphic Collection of the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna.