

Pedro Neves Marques

*Autofiction*

24 September – 8 November 2020

The project that Pedro Neves Marques conceived for the exhibition is based on the research he has been doing on advances of reproductive technology, which nowadays is changing incredibly fast. The theme of reproduction and normative bodies is present in many of his films, through the analysis of agricultural seeds, the sexuality of the plants, and relationship between machines and nature. With the project *Becoming Male in the Middle Ages* he started to work on the idea of a fiction, creating a different narration about ovarian transplants and a possible future where men can produce ovules.

Autofiction will continue on this path, it will be a fictional work, but not that far from the research being done on hormonal therapy and transplants.

This imagination is aimed to develop the possibility to think about the power dynamics between genders: who owns reproduction; the history of science and men controlling women's lives; the reduction of the gender "woman" to biology (that is: woman as the human that reproduces); how all of this is in tension with the current normalization of gay culture and how the rise of trans and non-binary lives is change cultural and gender roles.

Lastly, he decides to insert himself and his life, in a mix between reality and fiction, truth and lies, in the work. That's why he chose the title Autofiction. Not biography, but not absolutely fiction too. In his idea, poetry is something that is at the same time the most direct and the least direct way of talking/thinking/feeling about this. Poetry is the space of revelation and non-disclosure; of wittiness and blind spots. It is the practice of detail.

The three installations, made of six-photo each, will build the exhibition, together with a picture of the artist's body. An autofiction of eighteen poetic compositions will show Pedro Neves Marques' research, breaking the apparent repetition of the photos. The smartphone and the artist's hand change into the narrative frame of the digital poems.