

Flannery Silva
Tear Drop Trainer
May 26 - June 24, 2018

KIMBERLY-KLARK
788 WOODWARD AVENUE
QUEENS, NY 11385

Your sense of reality can become irreparably perverted, once you learn to flee your body; close your eyes.

The Tear Drop Trainer catches the curve of your back as you jump backwards. It propels your arms to the ground and your feet to flip, supporting you in the motion and speed of a competitive back handspring. There's a moment when none of you touches the ground.

A body worker tells me that the ratio of saltwater to freshwater in the human body is the same as the ratio of salt to fresh on planet Earth. Tears and blood are saline. Cerebrospinal fluid is fresh. Earlier that evening, I watched video compilations of famous gymnastics tragedies. Girls dying from anorexia, exhaustion, and spinal injuries.

The thing I remember about being in the air is how incomparably freeing it felt. The uneven bars were my favorite event, followed by the floor, the vault, and the balance beam. I loved feeling the stretch in my armpits as I flew between bars and the cushion of my palms rebounding on the ground. A natural talent in a humble gym, I was never pressured to compete or get better. It was such a joy though, I can imagine: the force of authorities wanting your success by their standards feeling worth it. I would've abided by my elders, become perfect. Anything to stay in that leotard.

The Klub Gymnastics on a Tuesday afternoon where Flannery Silva and I meet is quiet. There are girls in tracksuits, primary school age but here, sitting in the bleachers. Silva has been taking ice skating lessons. She has a background in ballet.

The Tear Drop Trainer will be the centerpiece of Silva's show at Kimberly Klark, positioned on caucasian peach vinyl gym mats. An erratic light show will be triggered by five recorded cover songs sung by Silva and produced by Chase Ceglie & Filip Olszewski. On the walls, obstructed by plastic ballet barres, will be photographs

referencing the poster girl for *Flesh For Frankenstein*, a 1974 sexploitation film by Paul Morrissey.

Watching *Flesh for Frankenstein*, I have to look away. A mad scientist assembles his vision of a perfect male and female out of corpses. He wants them to copulate, to make a slave race. Baron Von Frankenstein has the authority of education, the privacy, and resources to be left to his own devices. He cums into reanimated blood and organs. His wife, Baroness Katrin Frankenstein, has affairs. She tends to her natural born children as her husband does to his cutup creations. Aggressively grooming her daughter, the Baroness spits: "I always look for beauty. Matter of fact, I insist on it."

Still little girls: romance, longing, pop songs, and sparkling costumes comfort and free you. We love in the beautiful.

Athletics command your attention. Bring you back in. And performance:

When everyone's watching you, no one can touch you. The spotlight's safe by comparison.

- Fiona Alison Duncan

Flannery Silva (b. 1991, Stone Ridge, NY) is a Los Angeles-based artist whose work flirts with crossed sentiments of desirability and control, the benign, erotic, and abject. Silva's work reflects an adoration of material and references straight out of the attic-stored pasts of artists who spent crucially formative years far from IRL. Burrowing deep into commercial and intimate fantasies, Silva creates narratives concerned with childhood Holly-Hobbie energies, a rehearsed language of symbols, and the ways in which damage can translate to gestalt. Recent exhibitions include *Sugaring Off*, Karma International (Zurich, CH), *Electronic Tiger Lilly* with Chloé Maratta, Schloss (Oslo, NO) and *Frozen Jail* with Joshua Abelow, Pretty Days (Miami Beach, FL). Silva is a member of the band Odwalla1221.

Flannery Silva
Tear Drop Trainer
May 26 - June 24, 2018

KIMBERLY-KLARK
788 WOODWARD AVENUE
QUEENS, NY 11385

I'm Wishing
Written by Larry Morey
Vocals by Flannery Silva
Produced by Chase Ceglie

Icy Blue Heart
Written by John Hiatt
Vocals by Flannery Silva
Produced by Chase Ceglie

What Makes You A Slave
Written by Liz Phair
Vocals by Flannery Silva & Filip Olszewski
Produced by Filip Olszewski

Dear John
Written by Taylor Swift
Vocals by Flannery Silva
Produced by Chase Ceglie

Abandoned
Written by Lucinda Williams
Vocals by Flannery Silva
Produced by Filip Olszewski

- ♥ Kimberly Klark
- ♥ Gregory Kalliche
- ♥ Chase Ceglie
- ♥ Filip Olszewski
- ♥ Van Robinson
- ♥ Harry Gould Harvey IV
- ♥ Dicko Chan
- ♥ Alley Dennig
- ♥ Steve Wood
- ♥ Casey & Chris
- ♥ Chloé Elizabeth