

todestrieb [death drive]

Works by Harry Hugo-Little, David Shamie, Deividas Vytautas + Gloria Viktoria, Jack Kennedy & Eelbergine (Wenzhe Li)

Curated by Anastasia Chugunova

Programmed by Amélie Mckee

Private view 10 May 18:00 - 21:00

Performance by Deividas Vytautas + Gloria Viktoria - 19:30

Exhibition 11, 13, 14, 18 May 12:00 - 18:00 & by appointment achug001@gold.ac.uk

Closing Event 18 May 19:00 - 22:00

Performances by Chaney Diao - 19:00 & David Varhegyi - 20:00

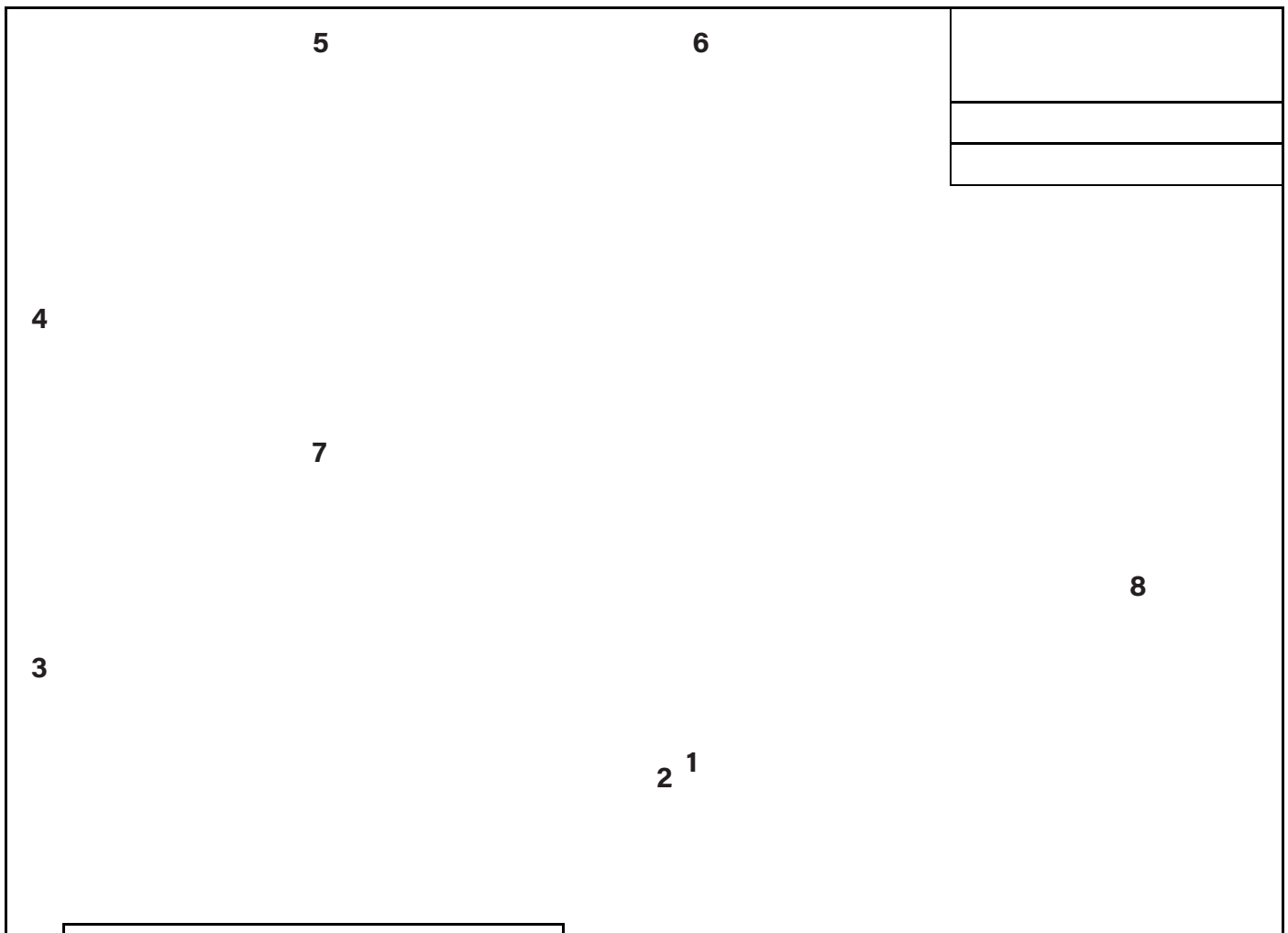
What is wrong with our desire for health and a flawless, beautiful body?

The concept of the death drive, as introduced by Freud in 'Beyond The Pleasure Principle' in 1920, partially answers the question if we consider it in the context of the neoliberal world order. As an innate, destructive instinct, death drive works to restore the living organism into its primordial, inorganic state. According to Freud this distinctive instinct of destruction is tangential with the forces of libido.

In his seminal work built around this concept, Byung-Chul Han observed that late capitalism, in its essence, distracts from any kind of negativity, such as pain or ugliness, in favour of the positivity of wish fulfilment. At the same time, the imminent fear of death is what spurs the individual within the system, allowing for its accelerated proliferation. What is, therefore, at stake is a mental collapse initiated by this displacement and corresponding relentless self-exploitation.

Todestrieb pays homage to Freud's formulation of this idea through an examination of the practices of Jack Kennedy, Deividas Vytautas + Gloria Viktoria, Harry Hugo-Little, David Shamie and Eelbergine (Wenzhe Li), which touch upon desire, destruction, mental issues, violence and labour. Each artist unpacks the notion of 'death drive' in their individual way while reflecting on the broader spectrum of contingent issues this speculative idea generates.

**Generation & Display
Queensrollahouse
18 Trading Estate Road
London NW10 7LU**



1 *Is that a tentacle in your pocket, or are you just happy to see me?*
 Eelbergine (Wenzhe Li)
 Bitumen (flammable), silicone, GG4, stainless steel
 Dimensions variable
 2024

2 *Stallion Chav*
 Eelbergine (Wenzhe Li)
 Bitumen (flammable), brass plated horse hames, collars, rubber, silicone
 Dimensions variable
 2024

3 *Intestines*
 Harry Hugo-Little
 Oil on board
 60 x 51 cm
 2024

4 *Kiss2*
 Harry Hugo-Little
 Oil on board
 117 x 98 cm
 2024

5 *Untitled (Psychic Warfare)*
 Jack Kennedy
 Plywood, Wood stain, Yacht Varnish, T-shirts, Lined Paper, Inkjet Print, Welded Steel Frame, Soil
 Dimensions variable
 2024

6 *Spike1*
 Harry Hugo-Little
 Oil on board
 30 x 30 cm
 2024

7 *Contract and Ritual (Stone Grey and Blush Pink)*
 David Shamie
 Laser-cut frosted acrylic
 150 x 30 x 30 cm
 2024

8 *Sunday*
 Deividas Vytautas + Gloria Viktoria
 Phone mount, tripods, chalk, Evian water bottles, TV monitor, video
 Dimensions variable
 2024