



Radiator Gallery is proud to present **I AM KINKY CONCRETE**, a solo exhibition of new works by artist **Julia Standovár**, curated by **Veronika Molnár**.

Opening Friday, June 9, 2023, 6–9 pm

On View: June 9–June 30, 2023

I am Kinky Concrete is the debut exhibition of Brooklyn-based Hungarian artist Júlia Standovár's Kinky Concrete project. A singular, female-driven universe interweaving photography, sculpture, and text, Kinky Concrete maps out Standovár's exploration of human relationships, intimacy, and sexuality through the rigid yet fluid material of concrete.

Standovár began crafting a visual language through concrete in 2018 while working on *Blue Nipple Hills*, a multi-layered book framed around sexual taboos based on the artist's conversations with her mother, Zsuzsanna Bede, a sexual psychologist. The book featured Standovár's sketches, photographs, and sculptures inspired by their dialogues. After the book's publication, the concrete objects took on their own life, and the diverse universe of Kinky Concrete was born.

The earliest works featured in the exhibition carry the tongue-in-cheek tone of *Blue Nipple Hills*. For example, the concrete and crystal “dripping bowls” appear in the archival pigment print *Dripping Ball Bowls* (2018), including a quote related to female orgasm from the publication, while the *Squeezer* (2018) asks the viewer how they evaluate their sexual experiences. Even though many works play with notions of sexuality and physical connection, the body is not brought to the forefront. Instead, Standovár's pieces use evocative forms and playful language—especially in the artwork titles—to leave room for personal interpretation and association.

For her recent body of work, consisting of backlit wall sculptures located in the smaller gallery, Standovár has reversed her usual creative practice. Instead of creating concrete sculptures and photographing them in different settings, which later become prints to be exhibited alongside the objects, she takes the photographs first and then incorporates them into concrete. For works such as *Hidden Jewel* and *I am hiding but I want you to find me* (2022), the artist moved away from her narrative, whimsical approach and experimented with a more abstract, poetic visual language that seeks to express feelings of longing and desire through photographing the natural environment. In these works, the photograph's character dictates the concrete's form and not vice versa.

Most recently, Standovár created a wearable concrete accessory series (2023)—photographing it on both models and classical sculptures as fetish wear—thus giving birth to the latest body of work inside the Kinky Concrete universe. Transgressing the boundaries of photography and sculpture, artwork and apparel, the heterogenous lines of Kinky Concrete mirror our disparate

relationships to sexuality: *I am Kinky Concrete* is a declaration that “kinky” can look and feel different to everyone.

About the Curator:

Veronika Molnár is a Budapest-based curator and writer. She is the director of Liget Gallery, one of Budapest's longest-standing nonprofit galleries. Molnár received her MA in Art History from Hunter College, the City University of New York, in 2021 with the support of a Fulbright grant. Her research interests lie at the intersection of artistic activism and environmental justice, and her writing and curatorial practice aims to amplify the voices of underrepresented artists from Central and Eastern Europe. She has held curatorial positions at The Museum of Modern Art, carriage trade gallery, Edward Ressel Gallery, Faur Zsófi Gallery, FERi Gallery, and Budapest Photo Festival. Her essays, reviews, and interviews have appeared in the *Brooklyn Rail*, *Hyperallergic*, and *MoMA Magazine*