

ELENI IERMIA's practice is rooted in the social structures and material patterns that surround her, and in the unspoken narratives embedded within them. Her investigative practice has led her through various forms of expressions, and to material-based works such as ceramic sculptures and drawings, as well as video.

Drawing inspiration from everyday life, Ieremia focuses on subtle architectural details and workplace rituals. Her art has evolved alongside her experience balancing her artistic practice with part-time work in the hospitality industry, a dual engagement that has deepened her fascination with the interplay between labor and rest. In her work, she investigates the intersections of production, rest, and the power dynamics that underpin these states.

Ieremia holds a BA in Art History from Uppsala University, a Master of Fine Art from the University of Bergen's Faculty of Fine Art, Music and Design (KMD), and a BA in Contemporary Art from Tromsø Art Academy. She has exhibited her work at venues including Studio K, Kurant Visningsrom, Nonneseter Chapel & Fortidsminneforeningen, Isotop Project Space, and others.

VICTORIA DURNAK is a writer, critic and artist living in Askim, Norway. She has published two collections of poetry and six novels, her latest being *Kometjenta* ('Comet Girl', Flamme Forlag, 2024).

RUBY ELEFTherIoTIS is a Greek-Scottish curator and writer currently based in Bergen, Norway. She holds an MA in Art History and Film Studies from the University of St Andrews, and an MLitt in Curatorial Practice (Contemporary Art) from the Glasgow School of Art.

In her curatorial practice, Eleftheriotis explores liminal spaces and the porosity within environments through site-embedded readings of place. Her work is driven by questions of how time is woven together, how spaces can be co-inhabited, and how collective learning methods can emerge from a place of curiosity. Eleftheriotis currently co-runs *aerial*, a small studio and project space in Bergen dedicated to facilitating socially engaged practices and programming.

*RUMOURS & MURMURS: An Archive Project* is a curatorial project initiated by curator and writer Ruby Eleftheriotis, developed in collaboration with Hordaland Kunstsenter. In this project Bergen-based artists are invited to explore and engage with HKS's public archives, a process that culminates in solo exhibitions in conversation with existing archival material, or with the structures of the archive itself.

Taking from Ursula K. Le Guin's *Carrier Bag Theory of Fiction*, Eleftheriotis approaches the archive like a vessel: an ever-evolving container that holds "a womb of things to be, a tomb of things that were", where residues of what was deemed important before and fissures of potentiality mingle.

By reactivating the archive, *RUMOURS & MURMURS* creates space for a multiplicity of voices, opening pathways for re-imagining, re-reading, and re-organizing knowledge. To borrow words from Walter Benjamin, *RUMOURS & MURMURS* works to transform static records into "fluid constellations", inviting alternative readings and modes of play.

#### THANK YOU:

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# Eleni Ieremia

## *We Would Be Millionaires If We Could Sell Dust*

22.11–22.12.2024

Curated by Ruby Eleftheriotis, as part of *RUMOURS & MURMURS: An Archive Project*

*We Would Be Millionaires If We Could Sell Dust* is a solo exhibition by Eleni Ieremia held in Hordaland Kunstsenter's Project Room, consisting of a trio of films that unfold across nail salons in Bergen (Norway) and Athens (Greece), and the moon. Through documenting and observing the interiors and rituals of nail salons, Eleni Ieremia's work reflects upon intimacy, transactional relationships and their spaces, interconnection and labour politics - blurring fictive and real worlds.

In *DESSI* we meet the eponymous protagonist Dessi Draganova, who runs and works in a nail salon in Athens, where she reflects upon her artistic practice as a nail technician, the relationships between her clients and the rhythms of her daily labour and creativity.

Peeking behind the scenes of Nails For You, a Bergen salon, the video work *We Would Be Millionaires If We Could Sell Dust* eavesdrops into the usually invisible and often intensive labour that accompanies the intimacy of pedicures and manicures. Piles of dust from filed nails are swept away and the space is reset for another day.

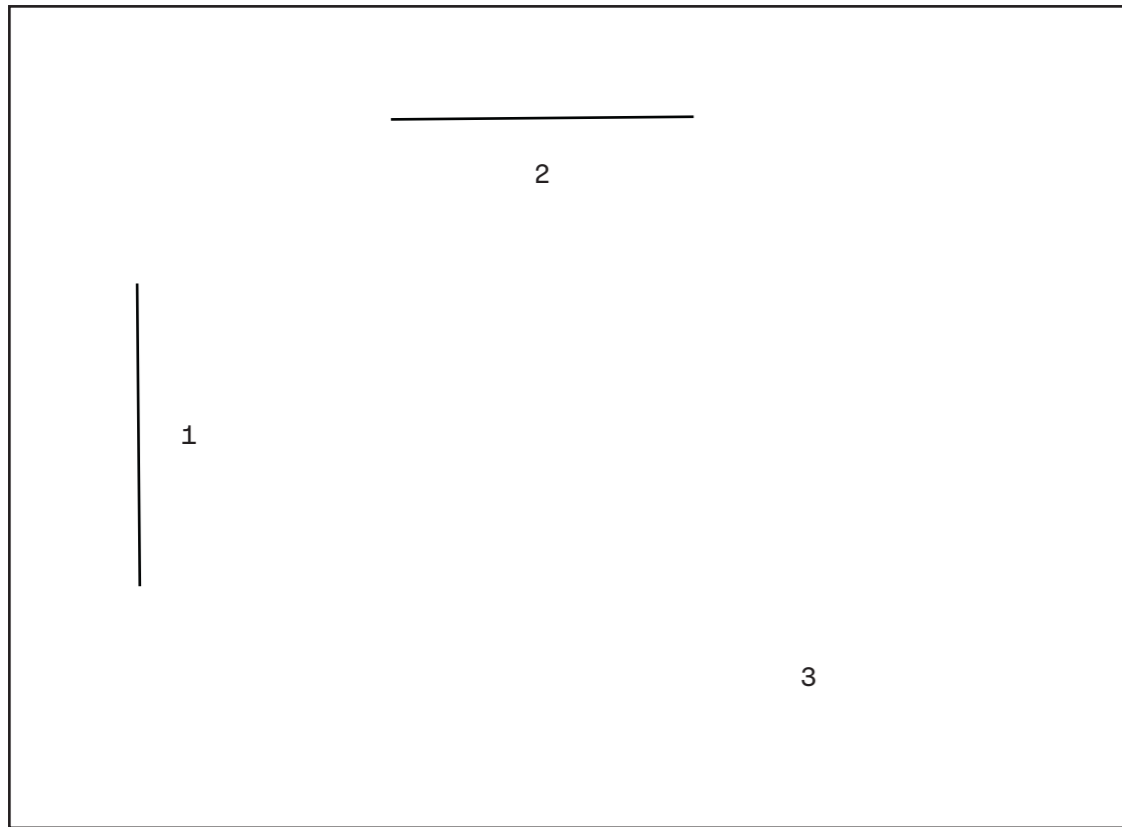
The dust filed from our nails is the same dust that hides under our beds, the same dust that forms a thin layer on the surface of the moon. The bed of a nail, with its half moon shape, was once used to predict our futures. Moving from the real, tangible spaces of the nail salons, we encounter a semi-fictional nail moon goddess in *Her Darkness*, who monologues about the mysterious, the beyond and our interconnectedness, to superstition.

These three films work together to capture the small intimacies, quiet labour and rituals that hum under the surface of the nail salons and beneath the transactional services.

Eleni Ieremia's exhibition is part of *RUMOURS & MURMURS: An Archive Project* - a project initiated by Ruby Eleftheriotis in collaboration with HKS. This programme invites Bergen-based artists to explore HKS's public archives, resulting in a solo exhibition that exists in relation to the archives - embedded within the pages of HKS' history.

Victoria Durnak's 2015 exhibition *Hemmelig Venn* ("Secret Friend") serves as the entry-point and connection to the archive and Ieremia's current exhibition. *Hemmelig Venn* explored intimacy, friendship, and imagined community - themes that echo in Ieremia's exploration of connection and community in the salon setting.

Having encountered Durnak's exhibition in the archives, Ieremia reached out to Durnak, sparking an exchange of emails and shared drawings. Together, the two artists mapped connections between friendship, the spaces where social ties are cultivated and the silent exchanges embedded in both their practices. These conversations culminated in a collaborative drawing which can be found by the HKS archives, and a publication blending reflections from curator and writer Ruby Eleftheriotis, stills from Ieremia's films, Durnak and Ieremia's email exchanges, and scattered fragments from the archives.



- 1 *DESSI (2024)*  
15'26"  
Nail designer: Dessi Draganova who runs The Beauty Holic School in Athens, where students learn manicure, pedicure, and artificial nails using the three materials: gel, acrylic gel, and acrylic  
Sound collaborator: Kaja Haven  
Location: The Beauty Holic School (Athens)
- 2 *Her Darkness (2023-24)*  
07'16"  
Animation collaborator: Qi Tan  
Sound collaborator: Kaja Haven, Andreas Thomsen  
Actor: Frances A. Korpala  
Location: Nails For You (Bergen)
- 3 *We Would Be Millionaires If We Could Sell Dust (2024)*  
07'30"  
Nail designers: Avrora Lozanova, Maya Abbedissen, Feri Arifova, Anna Yakimova  
Location: Nails For You (Bergen)

*Project Room, 2nd floor*

On Thursday 19 December there will be a Kitchen Dinner with Eleni Ieremia and Ruby Eleftheriotis. More information and a link to sign up will be made available on our website ([kunstsender.no](http://kunstsender.no)) and our other digital channels.

The publication with contributions by Ieremia, Eleftheriotis and Victoria Durnak will be launched towards the end of the exhibition.