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Gerda's Chandelier: Artist's Statement

Dagmara Rudkin

Dagmara Rudkin, *Gerda's Chandelier* 2018/19, recycled lampshades and textiles, wire, approx. 180 cm high, 90 cm x 90 cm. Photography by Wendy Pye.

This cross between the cornucopia and a Regency chandelier is a visualisation of Angela Carter's tales: baroque, luxurious, fantastical.

Initially, it was created to illustrate the transformation in fairy tales of the female protagonist from a child into a young woman. The metamorphosis is illustrated by upcycled lampshades that grow in size and complexity, from fleshy cells into a lush and sensual apex. The structure resembles corseted female bodies. Reconstructed into overembellished objects, they try to escape from the boudoir into a nature that is sexual and untamed.

Dagmara Rudkin, *Hush, my Fluttering Heart*, 2018/19. Each approx. 90 cm x 60 cm x 40 cm, wire hangers, artificial hair, animal fur, textiles. Part of mixed media and video installation with words by Maria Jastrzebska, read by Rita Suszek, music by Peter Copley. Photography and video by Wendy Pye.

The video projections of fluttering wings (originally projected inside a Victorian meat safe at the Regency Town House in Brighton) and sculptures of bodiless wings refer to the urge of Carteresque heroines to transform and escape into a different realm. Materials used to construct these pieces, including delicate lace and animal fur gloves, symbolise the dual animal-human nature and untamed love that is expressed with both tenderness and violence.

To see a video used for this installation, please visit <http://dagmararudkin.com/hush-my-fluttering-heart>.

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