

# ***a balloon that flew***

***by rodrigo costa***

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“I used to sit inside an empty green round plastic tub. I had ropes which were to be used to connect this improvised basket to a balloon. This balloon obviously never flew but I did.”

***a balloon that flew*** is about repressed needs and feelings, those that have been deleted and/or reprogrammed by society. It is about looking for and reawakening our purest, unstained self, through evoking a simpler era, a simpler being – childhood, a child.

Exploring alienation/evasion/obliviousness, pieces take form that exaggerate in scale and momentum childhood gestures and memories. There is not a search for beauty and wonder but for questioning and liberation – how can childhood play inform, extend and disturb a socially-acceptable ‘adult’ and the world it was created in/from?

The exhibition is populated by diverse media (painting, sculpture, video, performance) that combines in overwhelming sets/installations of odd, DIY-like objects/pieces which expand on the artist’s child-like mentality/attitude – always busy, fuzzy, transformative and inventive. These are ‘amateurish’ expressions that incarnate the fastness and fleetness so common to children.

Everything seems to be happening, everything appears to have been created – society exists drenched in utter boredom. We have forgotten the basics, drowned the easiness and killed true will. We have cut the ropes and popped the balloon. Instead, there is a choice to wrongly feed insecurities, rage, hate, egos and depreciation. What this project proposes is a way out, a playful alternative to this reality, the reassembly of a new ‘balloon’.

Should we let our balloons fly?



## **Rodrigo Costa**

(b.1999, Madeira Island)

a Portuguese Fine Art student, currently living and working in Coventry, UK

His work spreads throughout various mediums, however, it primarily develops installation, performance and sculptural pieces. Reflecting on and drawing inspiration from his childhood memories/imagery and personal experience, he researches ways of (re)creating immersive environments for the audience as well as for himself. His oeuvre promotes a journey of self-discovery that dabbles with scale, memory-based ‘reality’, identity and image.

Rodrigo has been studying for a BA in Fine Art at Coventry University since 2017. He recently held an artistic residency at the Museum of Sacred Art of Funchal in Madeira, which developed a set of works that originated from the Museum’s permanent exhibition, and *viewpoint*, a joint pop-up exhibition at FarGo Village in Coventry. This is his first solo exhibition in England.

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