



Claudia Ross &lt;claudia@darrowcontemporary.com&gt;

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**Fwd: The Armory Show | Dreamsong Preview | Ilana Harris-Babou**

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**Grace Walters** <grace@darrowcontemporary.com>  
To: Claudia Ross <claudia@darrowcontemporary.com>

Thu, Aug 22, 2024 at 9:31 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rebecca Heidenberg** <rebecca@dreamsong.art>  
Date: Thu, Aug 22, 2024 at 8:18AM  
Subject: The Armory Show | Dreamsong Preview | Ilana Harris-Babou  
To: <grace@darrowcontemporary.com>

Dear Grace,

Dreamsong is pleased to share our preview for [The Armory Show \(Booth #P28\)](#) featuring a solo presentation of new work by **Ilana Harris-Babou** (b. 1991, Brooklyn), an interdisciplinary artist working across sculpture, video, and installation. Please keep reading for details on the presentation. I have included selected works below and attached a PDF with the full preview.

Scrutinizing interior design trends and smart devices, Harris-Babou locates an inherent tension between the sleek refinement of Instagram-worthy spaces and the messy realities of our bodies. The artist's wall reliefs juxtapose sumptuously glazed tile with handmade representations of fingerprints and the ubiquitous 'swipe' gesture used to operate digital touchscreens. Recalling traveling through Penn Station during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and staring warily at a wayfinding screen covered in fingerprints, Harris-Babou adopted its shape and scale for two large-scale reliefs laboriously inlaid with mosaic tiles, poured resin and glazed ceramic objects. Tactile, bulbous, and slightly unsettling, they consider the myriad ways that touch structures our daily interactions and the multiple meanings — connection, recoilment, intimacy, infection — it has accrued.

Smaller wall reliefs inspired by bathroom design trends hone in on the industry's core paradox: the desire for a frictionless, clean, and glamorous space in an environment designed to accommodate the smudged, unruly realities of our corporeal needs. This paradox is further explored in the artist's video works. Presented on custom displays resembling medicine cabinets, Harris-Babou co-opted the technology of smart workout mirrors to layer the viewer's reflection with videos of foamy substances that recall oozing, dripping expectorate or expelled breastmilk.

Harris-Babou's presentation at the Armory serves as a potent reminder that the aspiration for a frictionless, streamlined life necessarily represses the intimate, shared and fascinating humanness of day-to-day existence. These complications of desire and repression are apparent in the artist's tabletop installations. Displayed on occasional tables, the artist's ceramic sculptures are based on Kong toys — a type of dog toy built to conceal a treat — whose swollen shape alludes to modernist forms. Glazed primarily with fleshy tones and variously whole, torn, and deflated, they are corporeal containers built to conceal our desires.

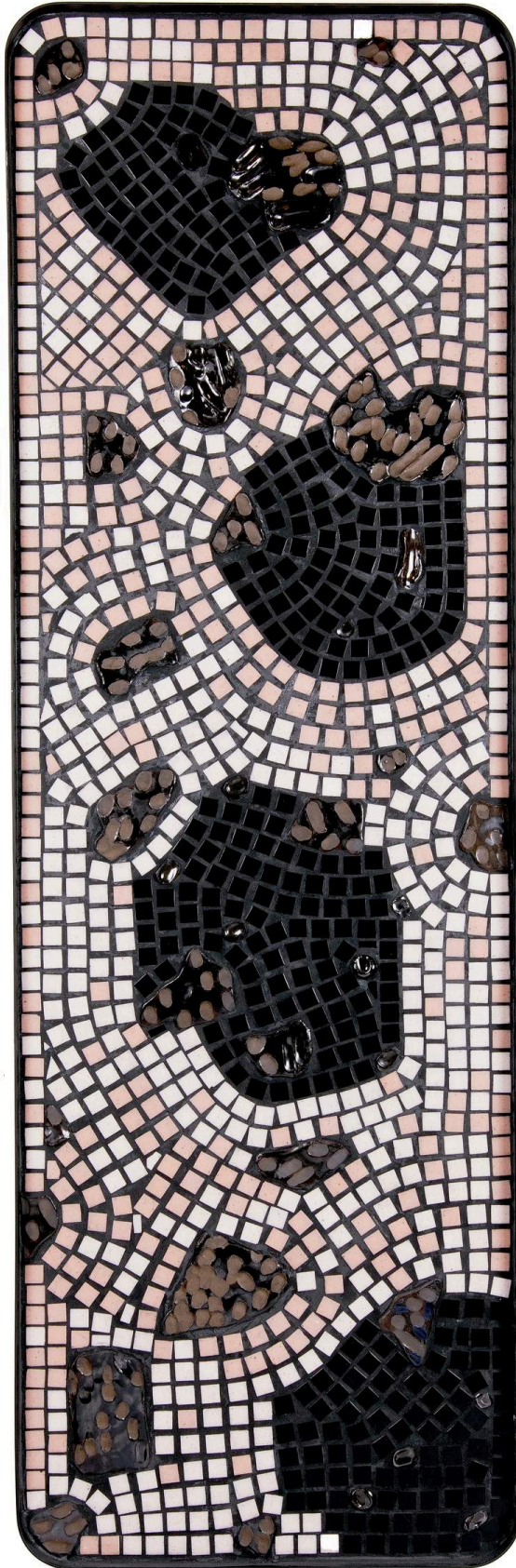
Ilana Harris-Babou's work has been exhibited throughout the US and Europe. Recent exhibitions include *Needy Machines* at Candice Madey and *Under My Feet* at Storefront for Art and Architecture in New York. In May 2023, Harris Babou's video installation *Liquid Gold* took over the screens of Times Square for the Midnight Moment program. She has been included in the Istanbul Design Biennial (2020) and The Whitney Biennial (2019). Harris-Babou's work is represented in the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, Wellcome Collection (London), and Electronic Arts Intermix. Her exhibitions have been reviewed in the New Yorker, the New York Times, Artforum, e-flux, Sculpture Magazine, and Art in America, among others..

Please don't hesitate to reach out for inquiries. I look forward to hopefully seeing you at the fair!

Best Wishes,  
Rebecca



Installation view of *Wayfinding Device 1* (2024) with the artist



**Ilana Harris-Babou**

*Wayfinding Device 1, 2024*

Glazed ceramic, glass tile, grout & cement, on panel

63½ x 20¾ x 1½ in.



\$ 22,000 USD



**Ilana Harris-Babou**

*Wayfinding Device 2, 2024*

Glazed ceramic, resin, tile, grout & cement, on panel

63½ x 20¾ x 1½ in.  
\$ 22,000 USD



**Ilana Harris-Babou**

*Test Tile 8, 2024*

Glazed ceramic, cement, grout, glass tile, aluminum frame

6 x 15 in.

\$ 4,200 USD



**Ilana Harris-Babou**

*Test Tile 3, 2024*

Glazed ceramic, cement, aluminum frame

16 x 8 in.

\$ 6,000 USD





**Ilana Harris-Babou**

*Test Tile 6, 2024*

Glazed ceramic, cement, grout, glass tile, aluminum frame

16 x 16 in.

\$ 8,000 USD





**Ilana Harris-Babou**  
*Soft Interior 1*, 2024  
Glazed ceramic, table  
28½ x 19½ x 19½ in.  
\$ 15,000 USD





**Ilana Harris-Babou**

*Foaming Mouth (Coal Tweed)*, 2024

Custom mirrored monitor and cord with video

21 x 13 x 2 in.

\$ 15,000 USD

DREAMSONG

Rebecca Heidenberg

8/22/24, 11:43 AM

Darrow Contemporary Mail - Fwd: The Armory Show | Dreamsong Preview | Ilana Harris-Babou

she/her/hers

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