

FRIEZE

Preview of the 2022 Venice Biennale Part Two: ‘The Milk of Dreams’

The frieze team selects the projects they are most looking forward to at the Giardini’s Central Pavilion and the Arsenale

This April, the Venice Art Biennale returns after a three-year pandemic-related hiatus (preview days 20–23; first public opening day 23 April; runs until 27 November). In the first of our three-part preview, *frieze* editorial staff name the artists they're most looking forward to seeing in the central international exhibition. To read part one of ‘The Milk of Dreams’ preview, [click here](#).

Elle Pérez



Elle Pérez, *Petal*, 2020–2021. Courtesy: the artist and 47 Canal

In 2002, at age 12, [Elle Pérez](#) began photographing punk nightclubs in the Bronx, New York, making flyers for a venue in exchange for free access to events. Although nightlife and crowds formed a large part of Pérez’s identity, the photographer now prefers the subtle details of human relations to illustrate the queer experience: visceral moments of emotion, intimacy and power. Since then, they have shown in New York at 47 Canal, MoMA PS1 and the Whitney Museum of American Art. In a 2019 interview for Art21, Pérez said that photography ‘has so much to do with identity and how surfaces have the ability to contain the traces of an experience’. In *t* (2018), a hand clutches a vial of testosterone; in *Dick* (2018), a bloodied hand rests upon a shadowy crotch. Pérez’s photographs may initially seem ambiguous but, at their heart, they ask us to reflect on our relationships with ourselves and others, whether platonic, sexual or abstract.

– Ella Slater, Editorial Assistant