

For immediate release

## Heidi Schwegler My Enemy

November 2 – December 14

Opening reception on Thursday, November 2 from 6 to 8 pm



*Julia (butchered with her son)*  
2017  
Cast wax  
13 x 8 x 8 in (33 x 20 x 20 cm),

Asphodel is pleased to present *My Enemy*, the first New York solo show of **Heidi Schwegler** and the gallery's inaugural exhibition. Schwegler presents a tableau of cast glass replicas of classical Roman portraits and modern garden statuary, cast glass reliefs, orifices, and animals, found objects, and photographs. The artist rides multiple tangents of conceptualism through classical naturalism and back again, Janus-facing both humanism and nihilism. Her works act as a relay between now and then, the unreality of the present and the faulty idealism of the past, what we consider contemporary and the ancient that never was.

Here is a meditation on a classical marble portrait of Julia Avita Mamaea with broken nose and crushed skull. Alongside the Roman aristocrat stands the bust of a German Shepherd garden sentry, its nose – a dog's primary means of navigating the world – severed, its extended tongue helplessly straining for information. Schwegler plays with ants and house flies, those tiny primeval algorithms that silently refactor the natural environment and built world more than humankind's *techné* and industry ever have. A quartet of discarded chicken bones from a Popeye's Combo Meal are cast and plated in chrome, slippery and gleaming like the double deep-fried flesh from whence they came. The remains of a once-fearsome barbarian warrior stand isolated from his comrades-in-arms, lost in the woods, betrayed by his own hubris, or perhaps slaughtered while laying down his arms.

An eight page booklet designed by Asphodel with the artist accompanies the exhibition. Author Mandy Keifetz has contributed an essay on Schwegler's adaptation of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's seminal late Hellenistic sculpture, *Marble statue of a fighting Gaul*. Keifetz has also produced a custom perfume for the exhibition entitled *Julia*.

Heidi Schwegler (b. 1967, San Antonio, Texas) lives and works in Portland, Oregon, where she is Chair of the MFA program in Applied Craft and Design, a joint program of the Oregon College of Art and Craft and the Pacific Northwest College of Art. She is a Hallie Ford Fellow of the Ford Family Foundation, and has received a MacDowell Colony Fellowship, a Yaddo Fellowship, and multiple RACC Individual Project Grants (Portland, Oregon). Schwegler is represented by Upfor Gallery (Portland) and Asphodel (Brooklyn, New York). *My Enemy* is Schwegler's first solo exhibition in New York.

*Asphodel has partnered with the Anthology of Recorded Music, Inc. (ARM) for its 2017-2018 exhibition series. Operating continuously since 1974, ARM's imprints include New World Records, DRAM, and Sound American. Asphodel gratefully acknowledges ARM's logistical and operational support.*