

I compare you to a young slender shoot

A Sapphic performance by Maya Peitersen

21.09.2023 – 19.00 @The Danish Institute at Athens



The theme of the performance is falling in love, in both mentally and erotically sense. In her piece Maya Peitersen draws lines to the poems of Sappho, which just now are highly current, in their diverse take on love and sexual attraction, across genders and norms. The performance works from a contemporary view, by consciously navigating around specific and recognizable gender identities. It encapsulates human love and lust, without binding it in gender stereotypes. With her performance Maya Peitersen creates a sense of fluently and overlapping conditions of falling in love and feeling passion.

Maya Peitersen takes inspiration in archaic theatre, with both tragic and comical elements. She also uses masks, soloists, and a choir. By using masks set up in a shape like a huge fan, she shifts between characters, fitting the different moods in the changing texts. Via the fan formation she creates an illusion of being both choir and soloist at the same time. The choir part is further increased by a voice, reciting a Greek version of the texts as the performance plays.

I compare you to a young slender shoot is also a translation of the Danish title 'Jeg sammenligner dig med et ungt slankt skud' of the book that Maya Peitersen is working at, during her stay at the institute. The book has grown from the performance but will be significantly longer with illustrations drawn with ink and pen, which are Maya Peitersen's preferred tools for drawing.



Maya Peitersen is a Danish artist and writer working with performance art, sculptures, installations, paper works and texts. She has a master's degree from The Royal Academy. She exhibits and performs at museums, exhibition spaces and galleries and works in the public space too. Her books contain poetic texts and paper works.

