



**CELLAR CONTEMPORARY**

presents

**KARLIEN DE VILLIERS | Floating Solo**

**Opening 23.03.2021**

Cellar Contemporary opens its exhibition season in 2021 with “Floating Solo”, the first Italian solo show of the South-African artist Karlien de Villiers.

The exhibition takes its name from one of the most important artworks here displayed, that are part of a selection of recent works. In this series the artist presents her ironic and picky personality, taking inspiration from the visual imagery of cartoon and illustration, that she uses to communicate very important messages about society. The artworks in the exhibition allude to the suspended sensation of floating, Karlien de Villiers’ natural state, because she somehow “navigate solo”. Thanks to her ability of apparent detachment from the world, the artist becomes a harsh narrator and, in an almost epicurean way, she faces subjects connected with social stereotypes, making us arise some vivid considerations. In her work the lure of the graphic novel’s contemporary scene is direct, and her characters get around in a horizon that’s intentionally grotesque and cartoon-styled. In the artworks’ titles and in the texts included in the pictures there are often some Afrikaans words, the artist’s mother tongue, which determine a precise characterization of the context in which the artist works.

“Floating Solo” will be open from the 23<sup>rd</sup> March to the 23<sup>rd</sup> May at Cellar Contemporary on appointment.

*Karlien de Villiers was born in Cape Town, South Africa, in 1975. She studied Graphic and Illustration at Stellenbosh University and she worked as graphic designer. During the last years she concentrated on art, writing and designing a graphic novel titled “My mother was a beautiful woman”, that was published and awarded in various countries.*