

# HYPERMAREMMA

IS COMMUNICATIVE

**Virginia Overton**  
*Tulip*

Opening reception Saturday, April  
8th, h.11.00am  
09.04 – 26.06.2023  
Polveriera Guzman, Orbetello  
Coordinates: 42.436985, 11.214021

Hypermaremma officially launches its fifth edition on Saturday, April 8th, with artist Virginia Overton's monumental sculptural work entitled *Tulip*.

Located in front of Orbetello's Polveriera Guzman facing the lagoon, *Tulip* is a 6-metre-high concrete structure punctuated by constellations of pink glass 'windows'. Arranged back-to-back, three vertical segments made from pre-existing moulds typically used for the construction of large tunnels, open towards the sky taking on the form of a 'tulip'.

Presented for the first time at the 59th Venice Biennale as part of 'The Milk of Dreams', *Tulip* activates a new form of collaboration that aims to share contemporary artistic practices in dialogue with the Maremma landscape. Overton's work will interact with the historical architecture of the Polveriera Guzman: a building constructed during Spanish rule in 1692, by the Flemish architect Ferdinand De Grunembergh. Throughout history it was employed as a gunpowder store then remained closed to the public for an extended period of time. It is currently the headquarters of the Orbetello Archaeological Museum, where Etruscan, Roman, and Mediaeval artefacts found in the surrounding area are preserved to narrate the exploits of past populations. Although concealed by an elusive inscrutability, Overton's chosen materials are never selected purely for their aesthetics but also their histories and the future potential they hold. Interested in reviving, re-contextualising and appropriating, Overton often uses recycled or readymade materials which she finds in the everyday detritus of the urban landscape.

Overton's interest in public art originates from its symbolic function within a collective space, where her sculptures often call attention to the inexorable demands of scale and gravity. The public is invited to move around this work and its surrounding benches, without preferring a single perspective. Together *Tulip* and the Maremma landscape reflect on our environment and our community by highlighting both.

Text by Madeline Weisburg extracted from the catalogue of the 59th Venice Biennale 'The Milk of Dreams', curated by Cecilia Alemani

In collaboration with White Cube. Thanks to Bortolami Gallery, Galerie Francesca Pia

With the patronage of Comune di Orbetello and Rai Toscana

Hypermaremma  
Associazione di promozione sociale  
via delle Mimose 133, 58015 Orbetello (GR)  
P.IVA e C.F. 01680040530

[www.hypermaremma.com](http://www.hypermaremma.com)  
Facebook, Instagram: [@hypermaremma](https://www.facebook.com/hypermaremma)  
[info@hypermaremma.com](mailto:info@hypermaremma.com)

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## Biography and general information

### Virginia Overton

Virginia Overton was born in Nashville, Tennessee in 1971 and lives and works in New York. Her work, which includes installation, sculpture and photography, is the result of her direct intuitive response to a specific space. From a process of research and exploration, she creates works that re-activate the viewer's spatial and sensory experience with an elegant physicality. Infused with an ethos of economy, Overton employs everyday, elemental materials to engage with a site, its geographical location and history. Wooden planks, beams, metal, mud, sheetrock, and bricks – things commonly associated with construction work or farming – are cut, bent, stacked, and hammered into shape, often pushing the material to its physical limit. Evincing the power and sensory quality of their own textural materials, her sculptures and installations, through their new functionality, expose the energy and associations encapsulated within their parts.

Solo exhibitions include Frist Art Museum, Nashville (2022); Goldsmiths CCA, London (2022); White Cube Hong Kong (2020); Socrates Sculpture Park, New York (2018); Museum of Contemporary Art Tucson, Arizona (2017); Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2016); The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, Connecticut (2016); Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami (2014); Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster, Germany (2013); Kunsthalle Bern, Switzerland (2013); The Power Station, Dallas, Texas (2013); and The Power House, Memphis, Tennessee (2007). Group exhibitions include 59th Venice Biennale (2022); The Ranch, Montauk, New York (2021); Hayward Gallery, London (2020); Front Triennial, Cleveland (2018); Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit, Michigan (2017); and Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (2016). Her work is represented by the galleries White Cube, Bortolami, and Galerie Francesca Pia.

### Hypermaremma

A non-profit cultural association that has been operating since 2019 for the production and promotion of contemporary art in Maremma through the intervention of contemporary artists, encouraged to relate to the territory and its history. Hypermaremma was founded by: Carlo Pratis, Giorgio Galotti, Matteo d'Aloja.