

# *The Special Treat*

**Sara Ravelli**

**Geneva – December 2021**

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Espace 3353

## 1. FOREWORD

### THE SPECIAL TREAT

From the starting point of giant-colored-baits given as treats to zoo animals, Sara Ravelli's ongoing research on the concept of tamed-love takes a new focus.

Working around the tension of an object that can simultaneously appeal or disgust, she puts in space the images of an ever-ambivalent relationship of both affection and control, decoration and domination.

This plurisemic scenario aims to redirect attention to the anthropocentric and authoritative nature of the relationship humans maintain with the animal, perhaps as a metaphor of inter-personal relationships in the contemporary capitalism.

OPENING : 04TH DECEMBER 21

EXHIBITION OPEN UNTIL 16TH JANUARY 22

ADDRESS : 9 RUE DU TUNNEL, 1227 CAROUGE, SWITZERLAND

## 2. ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

### Biography

Sara Ravelli (IT-1993) lives and works between Geneva and Milan. She graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts of Bergamo (IT) and more recently from Work. Master at HEAD (CH). She works across sculpture and installation, questioning the sentimental charge of objects and the idea of compromised, traumatised functionality. Setting up tensions between social contexts and emotionality she investigates the notion of domestication focusing on relationships where human, non-human and artifacts are in continuous oscillation and affection and control coexist. Within this context matter becomes both a burden and an element of evocation.

<https://sararavelli.com/>

### 3. EXHIBITION TEXT

#### To Eat or to Be Eaten

Colin Raynal, December 2021

I propose the following equation: in 150 years zoos will have disappeared, or in 150 years humanity will have disappeared.

○

It would be the tale of a stomach that eats, and eats, and eats, that never ceases to fatten, that swallows everything in its passage and ends up gobbling us all.

○

How did the wolf become a dog? Probably because humanity enticed it with offerings of food.

○

To try to stimulate animals in zoos, we hide food in different places every time they are fed.

○

My sister remembers very well the day a goat started eating her dress.

○

At Samut Prakan in Thailand can be found the largest crocodile farm in the world. From the top of the path that spans the pond, one can purchase a chicken to place at the end of a fishing rod to make the crocodiles jump out of the water.

○

The orca named Tilikum was captured in 1983 off the Icelandic coast to be exhibited in North American theme parks. Over the course of its captivity, Tilikum killed three people, including its trainer, Dawn Brancheau. To explain this attack, the following theory was proposed: during the show preceding the tragedy, Dawn Brancheau was short on fish to reward the orca, which would have frustrated and annoyed the animal. After the performance, Tilikum caught the trainer by the arm to lure her into

the water. The medical examiner's report documents lacerations, hemorrhaging and fractures.

○

The lion of Atlas, the macaw of Spix, the toad of Wyoming, the scimitar-horned oryx, the crow of Hawaii, the cinnamon kingfisher and the soft-shelled black turtle are species extinct in the wild.

○

Some people gather the plentiful hairs shed by their cats, with which they fabricate little hats that they place on the heads of their pets for the time required to take a photo shareable on social media.

○

I would have liked to be a prehistoric human. Senses always alert. Fixed on survival, on top of things, going on the hunt. Guided by my flair. Inventing objects that serve my survival. Appreciating the heat of the fire, that luminous beast difficult to tame, that eats dead wood and that bites when one approaches too closely.

○

The zoo of Asson in the department of Pyrénées-Atlantiques proposes that children 6 to 11 years old celebrate their birthdays at the zoo. The package involves going to feed the animals before they may have their own birthday party.

○

The suggested videos will finish by gobbling me up.

●

#### 4. EXHIBITION VIEWS

The Special Treat - Geneva, 2021

*all credits to ©Anastasia Mityukova*





**Treat #1, Monroe**

*Cardboard covered with plaster, plaster, grid, iron structure*



**Treat #2, Cecil**

*Styrofoam covered with plaster, baitworms*



**Treat #3, Playtime**  
*Book, clay, plaster*



**Treat #4, Gus**  
*Styrofoam covered with plaster, silicone, latex, grid, iron structure*



**Treat #5, Boo !**

*Papier mâché, fleece, grid, iron structure*



**Unbecoming you favored spot**

*Chemical essences of beaver, owl, cortex, leather*