

## **Patricia Waller – Accidents**

by Martin Oskar Kramer, Gallery Deschler, Berlin

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Accidents occur suddenly and unexpectedly. But we are caught off guard just as much by their crocheted depiction. The diligence and slow care apparent in the production of such crocheted objects renders the depicted bloody scenes of violence strangely absurd. Man-eating stuffed animals? Crocheted puddles of blood?

Of course these objects play to our craving for sensation. Human beings are very rarely devoured by tigers, sharks, or crocodiles. Even more rarely will we be witness to such accidents. The fact that they loom disproportionately large in our imagination suggests that they point to something deeper within us, an irrational identification that profoundly perturbs and fascinates us. These scenes penetrate our own abysses.

Waller's persistent tightrope walk between the homely and the uncanny plays, in this series, with the (violated) integrity of the body. Its fragmentation, mutilation, dismemberment, its consumption. Particularly the latter has numerous erotic connotations: "I love you so much I could eat you." Visions of physical appropriation, the conquest of another body through the extreme act of consuming it, exert a strong fascination. Just as we strive to preserve the inviolability of our own body while always also hoping to lose it.

Eating and being eaten: paradoxically perhaps, we identify both with the act of eating as well as with that of being eaten, with him who eats and him who is being eaten. With the exertion as well as the suffering of violence. Attraction and repulsion, pleasure and fear, fear of pleasure and the pleasure of fear. This makes these works irresistible. He who claims otherwise has much to hide.