

Dead Skin Cash an exhibition by *Salim Bayri* and *Ghita Skali*

W139

28 JANUARY – 19 MARCH 2023

Tuesday to Sunday
12:00-18:00

Unfolding over the course of two months, the exhibition period will be punctuated by a public program that includes:

DEAD SKIN COLLECTION DAYS

Running throughout the exhibition period

During the opening times of the exhibition, visitors are invited to sell or donate their dead skin using our dead skin collection kits. You can remove your dead skin in the exhibition space, have it weighed and documented by our exhibition host and get some cash in exchange.

“WHO CAN AFFORD TO NOT SELL THEIR OWN SKIN?”

Every Tuesday from 18:00-19:00

Six artists are invited to react to the prompt “Who can afford to not sell their own skin?” by curating a playlist of visual and audio materials for this weekly screening program. The schedule and invited artists are the following:

Mariana Penas Charrua	31/01/23
Sophie Soobramanien	07/02/23
Jay Tan	14/02/23
Nolwenn Vuillier	21/02/23
G	28/02/23
Henna Hyvärinen	07/03/23

TWO SQUARE METERS

Tuesday 14 March from 20:00-21:30

Conversation with dermatologist Dr. Marco van Coevorden, Salim Bayri, and Ghita Skali. The title of this event comes from the statistic about how much skin we have on average on our bodies. Salim and Ghita interviewed Dr. van Coevorden as part of their research leading up to this exhibition, and he'll be joining us this evening for an open discussion about his own work as a dermatologist and the intersections with the topics and thematics of the *Dead Skin Cash* exhibition.



Voluntarily or involuntarily we humans shed our dead skin. In this exhibition, Ghita Skali and Salim Bayri take this fact as their starting point to zoom in on the ambiguities within our relationship to dead skin—the tensions between its acceptance and rejection (some keep it, some scrub it away), its proximity and our neglect, our indifference and its unstoppable production, our obsession and care but disgust once it leaves the body.

Offering €20 per gram, dead skin collection networks emerged through gossip, online advertisements, business cards, and stickers distributed around the city repeating the slogan “get money for your dead skin”. A naive attempt to create a new kind of currency while simultaneously diverting and redistributing public money to people who took the bait out of curiosity, necessity, or entertainment. Within this context, an intimate and immediate material such as skin becomes a possible commodity. How dirty can money be?

What happens when a value is set on something we expel from our bodies? When there is the possibility of getting a reward for something that is usually discarded, dilemmas arise between economic interests, integrity, ethics, labour, and exploitation—echoing the metaphor of ‘selling your own skin’. Despite this enticing offer, some people had no interest in this exchange, provoking the question “who can afford not to sell their own skin?”.

The exhibition is composed of all new works. A “Dead Skin Cash” information welcome desk gives way to large printed textiles that appear as aerial views of landscapes but which in fact are made of dead skin samples from contributors. Inside empty construction and spa buckets are recorded voices and sounds from the conversations of disgust and amusement with strangers, confusion from nail salons, and a dermatologist’s opinions. Upstairs, a ‘classical’ exhibition room displays collages made with found images and collected material. Further in, the video “Semiotics of the Hammam”— a direct response to Martha Rosler’s “Semiotics of the Kitchen”— shows a character trapped in a dry hammam presenting, with irritation, hygiene tools that gradually start to feel like weapons.

W139

Warmoesstraat 139
1012 JB Amsterdam

Exhibition by
Salim Bayri
Ghita Skali

Curated by
Margarita Osipian

W139 team

Tomas Adolfs
Nadia Benchagra
Dana Claasen
Levi van Gelder
Dil Ghale
Sam Geer van der Klugt
Kirsty McIntosh
Margarita Osipian
Claudio Riffeld
Annette Wolfsberger

Support team

Andre Avelas
Grimm van den Berg
Hugo Inglez
Alma Kim
Boris van Nes
Pedram Sazesh
Sabrina Simons
Sophie Soobramanien
Shreya De Souza
Angus Liao Zhixin

Visual identity

Oriol Cabarrocas

Actor

Jaouhar Bourhram

Camera operator

Ayoub Abouizza

Color grading

Kimball Holth

Special thanks

Dunya Hammam
Reda Senhaji
Ghassan El Hakim
Sabaah Folyan