

Artist Statement

Kamila J Gruss

## Misericordia

In my picture, only the lower part of a woman's body is depicted, dressed in red tights and matching shoes. The surroundings are lush and green. The title "Misericordia" refers to high heels resembling daggers and tells a story about the power of female authority over men and the consequences of manipulation and sexual abuse.

The color red has always symbolized passion, love, strength, and risk. The red blades not only serve as a wardrobe element but also symbolize power and control. They convey the intensity of emotions and the strength that a woman can exert over a man. This reference to red introduces drama and passion, merging with the narrative of manipulation and the consequences of sexual exploitation.

The greenery of the bushes and the environment in the painting carries deep symbolism. The green color is associated with nature, harmony, and a new beginning. This reference to the hidden side of female power, akin to nature, can be beautiful and mysterious but also hides its dark aspects. Green reminds us of the secrets that may lie behind an apparently beautiful facade.

The audience's reactions were ambiguous. Some understood the message of the picture, noticing details and interpreting them in their own way. Others were outraged, deeming the image provocative and lacking in class. It is surprising how

differently people can perceive the same image, illustrating how diverse society can interpret art.

The painting is like a lens through which we observe society. It is a social experiment through the prism of art, demonstrating how people can perceive the same image in diverse ways. It is an intriguing experience that prompts reflection on what we truly see, feel, and carry within ourselves.

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