



Luca Bosani

PORTFOLIO 2025

Introduction

Victoria & Albert Museum, *Artists at Work: Museum Residencies*, London, UK (2024-2025)

Luca Bosani uses sculpture and performance to explore identity and to challenge gender roles.

Their residency at the V&A Museum focused on creating *Unidentified Performing Objects (UPOs)*, queer artworks that reject categorization and sit in between definitions, which they brought to life through live performances in the galleries.

Bosani's grandfather was a shoemaker and they learned new techniques this year to reconnect with their family trade. They incorporated woodcarving and traditional shoemaking into their new works. But by using unconventional shapes, colours and materials, Bosani's artworks are also a critical response to rigid ideas of masculinity they encountered as a gender non-conforming person growing up in a small village in the north of Italy.

The residency enabled Bosani's practice to develop on scale and ambition while embracing a more experimental working methodology that reveals the making process beneath.

Text by Justine Sambrook (Exhibition Curator)

About

Artist Film Portrait, *Luca Bosani: Adobe Creative Residency*, V&A Museum, London, UK (2025)



[click here or on the image for the artist film \(duration: 8 minutes\)](#)

Unidentified Performing Objects

Exhibition, V&A Museum, *Artists at Work: Museum Residencies*, London, UK (2024-2025)

Bosani's project interrogates the idea of the high-heeled shoe as a gendered garment.

During their residency, they created a series of artworks that play with the extremities of a platform heel. Through Bosani's research, they discovered that male Persian soldiers were the first to wear heeled shoes from around 900. It was only around 1740 that heels became a feminine garment. It remained socially unacceptable for men to wear heels until the 1970s when, alongside a sexual and political revolution, gender norms around clothing became more relaxed and it became fashionable for men to wear platforms.

For Bosani, the platform is a significant and symbolic genderless shoe. They use it as the starting point of their sculptures, building onto the original form with aluminium, wood, EPS, leather and cotton.

These *Unidentified Performing Objects* are unique artworks worn in performances created to reject gender labels and reimagine masculinity through an inclusive lens.

Text by Justine Sambrook (Exhibition Curator)





Unidentified Performing Object (7.5)

70's platform shoes, aluminium, epoxy clay, thread, hybrid rubber, leather, paint

26x28 h20cm (2024)

Unidentified Performing Object (9)
70's platform shoes, aluminium, epoxy clay, artificial moss, leather, paint
31x32 h27cm (2024)



Unidentified Performing Object (13)

Platform shoes donated by the London queer community, aluminium,
epoxy clay, thread, hybrid rubber, leather, paint, gesso strips
45x29 h28cm (2024)



Unidentified Performing Object (24.5)
Artist's platform shoes, hand-carved limewood,
aluminium, epoxy clay, leather, paint
30x30 h36cm (2024)



Unidentified Performing Object (36)

Vintage 70's platform shoes, aluminium, epoxy clay, EPS, leather, paint

55x45 h45cm (2024)





Unidentified Performing Object (59)
Artist's platform shoes, EPS, aluminium, epoxy
clay, thread, hybrid rubber, leather, paint
50x55 h75cm (2024)



Unidentified Performing Object (68)
Vintage 70's platform shoes, EPS, aluminium,
epoxy clay, thread, leather, paint
56x56 h77cm (2024)





Unidentified Performing Object (55)

Vintage 90's platform shoes, carved limewood, aluminium, epoxy clay, leather, paint

50x55 h75cm (2024)



Unidentified Performing Object (205)
Vintage 70's platform shoes, walnut and cedar wood,
aluminium, EPS, hybrid rubber epoxy clay, paint
50x55 h75cm (2024)



Unidentified Performing Objects (live)

Performance, Victoria & Albert Museum, *Friday Late: Inviting Alchemy*, London, UK (2024)

Bosani's fluid artworks, the *Unidentified Performing Objects* are activated during the performance. Wearing them, gradually, from the lowest heel height (7.5 cm) to the tallest (205 cm) the performers invite the audience to reflect on sculpture, fashion, gender and identity.

When does a shoe become a sculpture?

When does a sculpture become a shoe?

What does masculine mean?

Who gets to wear heels?

Challenging gender norms and stereotypes, the performance introduces queer and ever-changing identities: the performers' faces behind soft fabrics, their bodies styled with genderless garments, and their feet inside the artworks. Rising above, equally powerful and fragile.

The heel height of the *Unidentified Performing Objects* gives them their titles and the exhibition display - presented in the previous pages - follows a gradual growth in height as does the live performance.

Text by Justine Sambrook (Exhibition Curator)

Unidentified Performing Objects (live)
Performance, V&A Museum, Raphael Court, London, UK
30 minutes, repeated twice (2024)
Photography: Peter Kelleher





Raphael and the Cartoons

Performance Documentation

V&A Museum, *Unidentified Performing Objects (live)*, London, UK (2024)
by Luca Bosani, with: Rebecca Solomon, CJ Calderwood, Rafael Escardo, Conn Williams



[click here or on the image for the video documentation \(duration: 4 minutes\)](#)

Unidentified Performing Object (cornillaro)
Vintage 80's platform shoes, aluminium, epoxy clay, hybrid rubber, studs, airbrush paint
60x95 h65cm (2023)



Unidentified Performing Object (cornillato)
70's platform shoes, aluminium, epoxy clay, hybrid rubber, studs, airbrush paint
45x55 h75cm (2023)



Queering the Mind, Releasing the Body

Collaborative Project on Queerness & Mental Health, London, UK (2024-ongoing)

Queering the Mind, Releasing the Body is an ongoing collaborative project initiated by Bosani in early 2024, which explores queerness and mental health through performances and collective discussions.

Collaborating with London-based queer and neurodivergent creatives working in different disciplines (visual art, music composition, choreography, fashion) live performances in the form of immersive sensorial journeys are created together.

The audience as participants are immersed in inclusive, multi-sensorial environments where tenderness, trauma and rebirth are explored and shared through sound, visuals and movement.

Queering the Mind, Releasing the Body 01 was presented at Hypha Studios in February 2024 through a 30-minute performance, followed by a Q&A, while *Queering the Mind, Releasing the Body 02* was presented at the V&A Museum in April 2024, with two live performances of 30 minutes each.

Creatives and artists involved in the project so far: FLORA L. (they/them), Lulu Manning (she/her), Conn Williams (he/they), Sakeema Peng Crook (she/her), Michael Kesting (he/him), Luca Bosani (they/he). Fashion contributors for each project are available in the video documentation credits.

Queering the Mind, Releasing the Body 02
Performance, V&A Museum, The Globe, London, UK
30 minutes, repeated twice (2024)
Photography: Hydar Dewachi



Performance Documentation

Queering the Mind, Releasing the Body 02, V&A Museum, *Friday Late: Feminist Futures*, London, UK (2024)
by: Lulu Manning, Conn Williams, Luca Bosani, Sakeema Peng Crook, FLORA L.



[click here or on the image for the video documentation \(duration: 2 minutes\)](#)

Queering the Mind, Releasing the Body 01
Performance, Hypha Studios, London, UK
30 minutes followed by Q&A (2024)
Photography: Ines Brochado



Performance Documentation

Queering the Mind, Releasing the Body 01, Hypha Studios, London, UK (2024)
by: Lulu Manning, Conn Williams, Luca Bosani, FLORA L.



[click here or on the image for the video documentation \(duration: 3 minutes\)](#)





C0036: The Upside-down Rainbow
Performance, Osservatorio Futura, Turin, IT
2 hours 45 minutes (2022)
Photography: Davide D'Ambra





website

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Additional Content

Untold History of Heels, Lecture, V&A Museum, London, UK (2024)



[click here or on the image for the lecture and UPOs Activation \(duration: 1 hour 27 minutes\)](#)