

DIRIMART

EMMA STERN AT DIRIMART DOLAPDERE WITH *CHAMPAGNE PROBLEMS*

Champagne Problems

Emma Stern

Opening: 5 February 2026, 6pm.

Venue: Dirimart Dolapdere

The exhibition can be visited from 5 February to 1 March 2026 (except on Mondays).

ISTANBUL, 21 JANUARY 2026 – Dirimart is pleased to announce *Champagne Problems*, Emma Stern’s first solo exhibition in Istanbul and her inaugural presentation with the gallery.

This exhibition unfolds as a continuation of Stern’s multi-layered practice, in which traditional techniques drawn from the history of painting – most notably oil on canvas – are brought into dialogue with contemporary digital modes of production. Using commercially available 3D modelling software developed for the gaming industry as a point of departure, Stern generates and designs virtual subjects and environments, which she subsequently translates from the digital realm onto canvas. The resulting painted surfaces thus become sites where representation is both reconstructed and critically examined.

The contrast produced by Stern’s synthesis of art-historical techniques with a contemporary context opens up a space for a renewed reading of representation. The virtual female figures that populate her works emerge as archetypes within a historical continuum that extends from the nudes and the muses in Western art history, through pornography and video games, to present-day forms of image production shaped by artificial intelligence. Stern renders visible how these images are reproduced through contemporary algorithms, and how such processes intensify the tension between empowerment, objectification, and self-objectification. Approaching avatar creation as a contemporary mode of self-portraiture, the artist interrogates notions of personhood, femininity, and the future of self-determination.

The exhibition’s title, *Champagne Problems*, makes a tongue-in-cheek reference to the English idiom commonly used to describe trivial concerns arising from a life of privilege. The works on view evoke an imaginary, extravagant, and fantastical dinner-party scene, populated by characters familiar from Stern’s earlier works alongside new figures appearing here for the first time.

Champagne Problems is also the title of the exhibition’s central work: a three-metre-long painting that reinterprets Leonardo da Vinci’s *The Last Supper* through Stern’s distinctive visual language. In this work, the recognisable archetypes of historical figures are replaced by voluptuous female avatars rendered in cyber-toned palettes, depicted in varying states of states of debauchery and undress.

Extending Stern’s ongoing entanglement of the classical and the hyper-contemporary, the traditional and the technological, *Champagne Problems* can be visited at Dirimart Dolapdere from 5 February to 1 March 2026.



press@dirimart.com
dirimart.com

DIRIMART DOLAPDERE
Irmak Caddesi 1-9
34440 Dolapdere İstanbul
+90 212 232 66 66

DIRIMART PERA
Meşrutiyet Caddesi 99
34430 Beyoğlu İstanbul

DIRIMART LONDON
23 Princes Street
London W1B 2LY
+44 203 833 91 55

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Emma Stern (b. 1992, New York) received her B.F.A. from Pratt Institute, Brooklyn in 2014. Stern's selected solo exhibitions include *Champagne Problems*, Dirimart Dolapdere, Istanbul (2026); *Hell Is Hot*, Almine Rech, Paris (2025); *Everything Looks Like a Nail (To a Hammer)*, Pond Society, Shanghai (2024); *Penny & The Dimes: Dimes 4Ever World Tour*, Almine Rech, London (2023); *Booty!*, Half Gallery, New York (2022); *Desert Pearl*, Marfa Invitational, Texas (2022) and *Home Bodies*, Carl Kostyál, Stockholm (2021). Among her group exhibitions are *Effets indésirables*, New Galerie, Paris (2025); *Utopia Vol. I*, Palm Gallery, Taipei (2025); *She Said She Said: Contemporary Artists from Rubell Museum*, Arlington Museum of Art, Texas (2024); *J'ai pleuré devant la fin d'un manga*, Galerie Édouard-Manet, Paris (2024); *Real Fake Door*, Arsenal Contemporary, New York (2023); *Cautere*, FRAC Corsica, Corsica (2022) and *Resting Point of Accommodation*, Almine Rech, Brussels (2021). The artist's works are included in the collections such as The Rubell Museum Collection, Miami; Pond Society, Shanghai and Gullringsbo Konstsamling, Stockholm. Emma Stern lives and works in New York and Paris.