

# KNIFE POINTED UP

(2025-)

Marija Mandić



*Move away this instant!* - that's what we would hear at home whenever someone spoke a fate we didn't want to invite. We knocked on wood so evil wouldn't hear, lifted bags off the floor so money wouldn't run out, avoided sitting at the corner of the table so we wouldn't stay unmarried. These preventive rituals weren't learned from books, but from everyday life, within the family circle, mostly from women. That's how a symbolic world opened to us - one in which inherited gestures made sense, remembered equally by the body and by language.

Superstitions exist in many families - their forms adapt to context, but the core remains the same: a logic of conditional connection, where if A happens, Z will follow. Superstition is also an attempt to symbolically master what lies beyond our control - to conquer the sign through gesture, in order to briefly soothe the chaos of the world. While they may often seem absurd, these subtle rituals are not meaningless: the body recognizes them, even when the mind no longer believes.

In this work, I step directly into superstition by deliberately doing what shouldn't be done - sitting at the corner of the table, placing my bag on the floor, crossing intersections diagonally. Women from my surrounding do the same - not to break superstition or tempt misfortune, but to make it visible, to recognize and reconsider it.

To me, superstition is a map - inherited, imprinted, but not final. With the work *Knife Pointed Up*, I try to read it: to understand what remains, and what I can consciously let go of, without fearing that I'll lose myself in the process.



If you pick up the crumbs by hand from the table  
you will run out of money



If you walk under the ladder  
you invoke evil fate



If you put the bag on the floor  
you will have no money



If you cross the intersection diagonally  
you are creating a mess in your own path



If a black cat crosses your path  
an evil fate follows you



If you turn the knife upwards  
you invoke danger or conflict

If you turn bread upside down  
you invite misfortune for the family



If you sit at the corner of the table  
you will remain unmarried



If you open an umbrella in the house  
you invite misfortune



If you swear and lie  
you invite punishment over what you swore by



If you break a mirror  
you will have seven years of misfortune

Exhibition view:

*Knife Pointed Up*

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ph credits: Dalibor Danilović





