

Press release

Julia Aurora Guzmán

AGUAVIVA

18th March – 14th May 2021

Opening: 18th March, from 12 to 21 hr.

Julia Aurora Guzmán (Dominican Republic, 1993) is an artist who started to work with us in the opening exhibition of the season, *Books and Art*, and is now presenting her first individual exhibition in the gallery, **AGUAVIVA**.

Her work is characterized by mixed media installations composed of sculpture, textile works, photography, sound and performance as the means to express and relate to what could be called *emotional architecture*, as one of her great passions. Guzmán recontextualizes architectural elements and mechanisms, by taking them out of their original function and using them as metaphors for emotional, social and personal support. An example is Guzmán's "columns", which have been present in her work in the past years. Traditionally tasked for structural support, these individualized *columns* become standing metaphors for ourselves, reflecting and supporting our cycles and gradual processes.

In the exhibition **AGUAVIVA** Guzmán takes a step forward to show these concepts through WATER and the logic of its movement. Waves, tides, and ripples become representative of an individual or a collective body, undergoing a continuous and conscious process of adaptation and transformation. The presented ceramic sculptures and textiles-works which include natural elements from her home space in the Dominican Republic, such as seeds, sand, coral and coconut mesh, honor water in their fluidity and rhythm, energetic and subtle movements.

Inspired on the expanding ripples of a waterdrop, **AGUAVIVA** also presents works from the series "Architectural Navels", with the idea of focusing on our origin and our physical, mental and emotional center. Living in a whirlpool of events that un-anchor us, Guzmán intends to offer tools that help us stay in the calmness of our vortex, achieving a perspective of our cycles through this *point* of view.

Julia Aurora Guzmán is currently living and working between Barcelona and Amsterdam. With a BFA in sculpture from the San Francisco Art Institute, her work has been shown in Brazil, Dominican Republic, the United States, the United Kingdom, Spain and The Netherlands, including individual exhibitions at Galerie Fontana (Amsterdam) and Galería Mamey Eddy Guzmán (Santo Domingo). Recently, she has been shortlisted as one of the three finalists for the Tilting Axis Fellowship from Het Nieuwe Instituut (Rotterdam) in 2020 and has participated in the renowned ceramic residency Sundaymorning@EKWC (Oisterwik, NL)

* The ceramic works presented in **AGUAVIVA** were created at Sundaymorning@ekwc with the financial support of Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds and Stichting Stokroos.