

VASTO PRESENTS
HOC EST CORPUS MEUM

OPENING
CARRER
19.30

LLULL
TO

23.11.23
109
22.00

AN EXHIBITION BY BERTA-BLANCAT.IVANOW
LIGHT INSTALLATION

LIANG-JUNG CHEN

PERFORMERS
CLAIRE O'KEEFE
VOICE
SOUNDTRACK
COSTUME DESIGNER
CHEF

JOSEPHA MERZ
FRANKIE SOPHIE

ANNA VIKLUND
MIQUEL AMENGUAL
MONTSERRAT SERO
NIL CIURO
KM BY LANGE
JIL PAULINE SEIDEL

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Berta Blanca T. Ivanow, a sculptor and cinematographer, channels her passion for expression into bold, embryonic structures crafted from stoneware clay. Mentored at The Art Students League in New York, her work emphasizes the corporeal into sculpture. Executed in Ivanow's studio nestled in the Catalonia countryside, her sculptural works not only showcases her connection to nature through the use of organic materials but also underscores her reverence for them. In her practice, elements of earth, fire, water, air and body coexist without a discernible hierarchy, creating a harmonious juxtaposition.

"I am in an endless search to uncover what lies beneath that repetitive shape. These pure lines, drawn in space, support the clay bodies. Now, decomposed matter reveals a rusted steel and paper skeleton that simplifies the density of earth to its truthful inner soul. I call them 'Metamorphic Seeds' because your eyes will conclude their volatile form.

The sculptures connect with primitive memories of a previous touch. When transforming their shape in the present, I alter the sculpture's history. Perhaps there is no such thing as time. Creation must be a shared dance, where no main characters exist."

"HOC EST CORPUS MEUM" is artist Berta Blanca T. Ivanow's captivating works along the years, seamlessly crafting stoneware clay from visions of the corporeal into a series of sculptures.

Ivanow's creations showcase a deep connection to the earth through the use of organic materials and ancient practices while converting a profound reverence to the human body. Implicit in her work is the acknowledgment that all human-made creations eventually decompose, returning to and reintegrating with the environment. Berta Blanca is a performer, she is a part of the cinematographical world and ventures to weave her pieces with film.

A significant aspect of Berta's artistic identity is performance, and, true to form, "HOC EST CORPUS MEUM" goes hand in hand with a live performance accompanying her sculptural pieces. The performers shed light to each sculpture, utilizing them as movement and breathing them in as part of the human body. This performance not only complements the artworks but also provides a unique opportunity to experience the artist's nature to challenge, perform and highlight a harmonious juxtaposition without a discernible hierarchy.

To further give light to the immersive experience, artist Liang-Jung Chen is creating a bespoke light installation. This ephemeral creation, existing only for the duration of the night of the exhibit, represents Chen's dedicated life-long work as a researcher and her embrace for the impermanence of existence.

Withal, to enrich the sensory experience, chefs Frankie Sophie and Jil Pauline Seidel join in crafting a distinctive food installation. Their culinary artistry will not only engage the visual senses but also treat taste buds to an unparalleled and immersive exploration of flavors, enhancing the overall ambiance of the exhibition.

"HOC EST CORPUS MEUM"... this is my body.

Liang-Jung Chen, based in London, is an artist and researcher working across drawing, object, installation, and performance. Her practice is informed by material culture in anthropological study, leading her to investigate the usage, consumption, creation, and trade of artifacts, as well as the behaviors, norms, and rituals associated with these. Intrigued by tensions embedded in everyday scenarios, each series of her work scrutinizes a specific interaction between a daily object and its user. She holds the position of an associate lecturer at Chelsea College of Arts.

"As a material nerd, I delved into wax experimentation, captivated by its remarkable versatility. Wax transforms like water when hot, feels pliable as clay when warm, hardens like a rock when cooled, and turns as brittle as glass when thin. When crafted into a candle, it vanishes into the air, leaving no trace."

Liang-Jung Chen's bespoke light installation exists only for the duration of the night of the exhibit. It embodies the artist's time and energy spent on refining the technique of making candle strips tangled in a hoop of 2 meters in diameter over a non-stop week, here in Barcelona. It marks the artist's intrigue into her continued venture into creating work that won't be retained, providing a sense of immense liberation. Chen invites the audience to celebrate the collective effort invested in everyday life and to embrace the transience of existence.

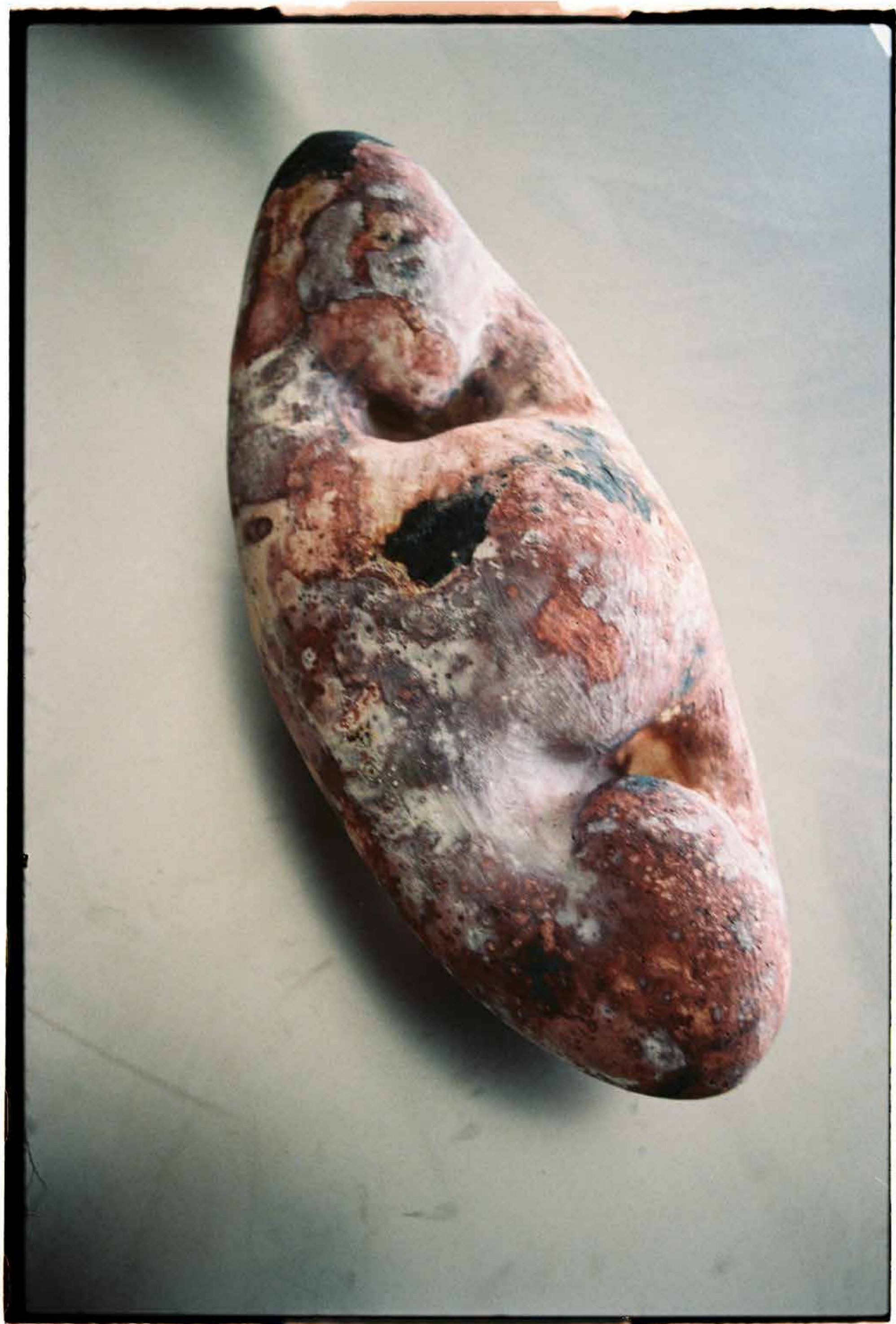
VASTO is a catalyst for creativity, a platform for discovery and a bridge to the future of art and design. Based in Barcelona, the gallery is dedicated to unearthing emerging artists and designers while encouraging new formats. We offer a diverse spectrum of artistic expressions, encompassing introspective explorations of identity, thought-provoking sociocultural and environmental activism. Our artists are fully dedicated to materiality, plasticity, and poetry, all with a distinct and unique aesthetic perspective. Our core mission is to democratize access to emerging and groundbreaking art and design, simultaneously fostering and championing artistic creation, patronage, and the art of collecting.





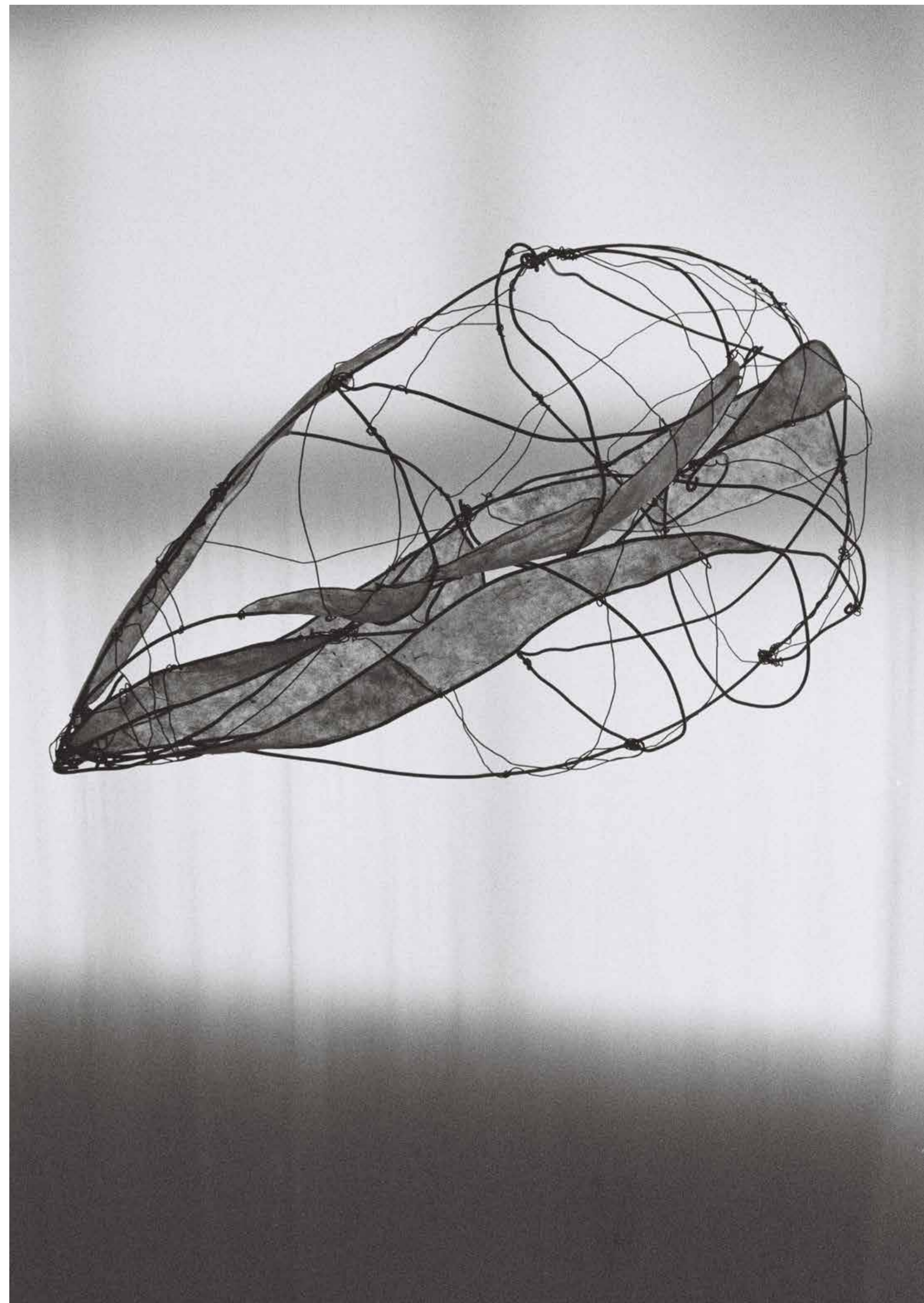


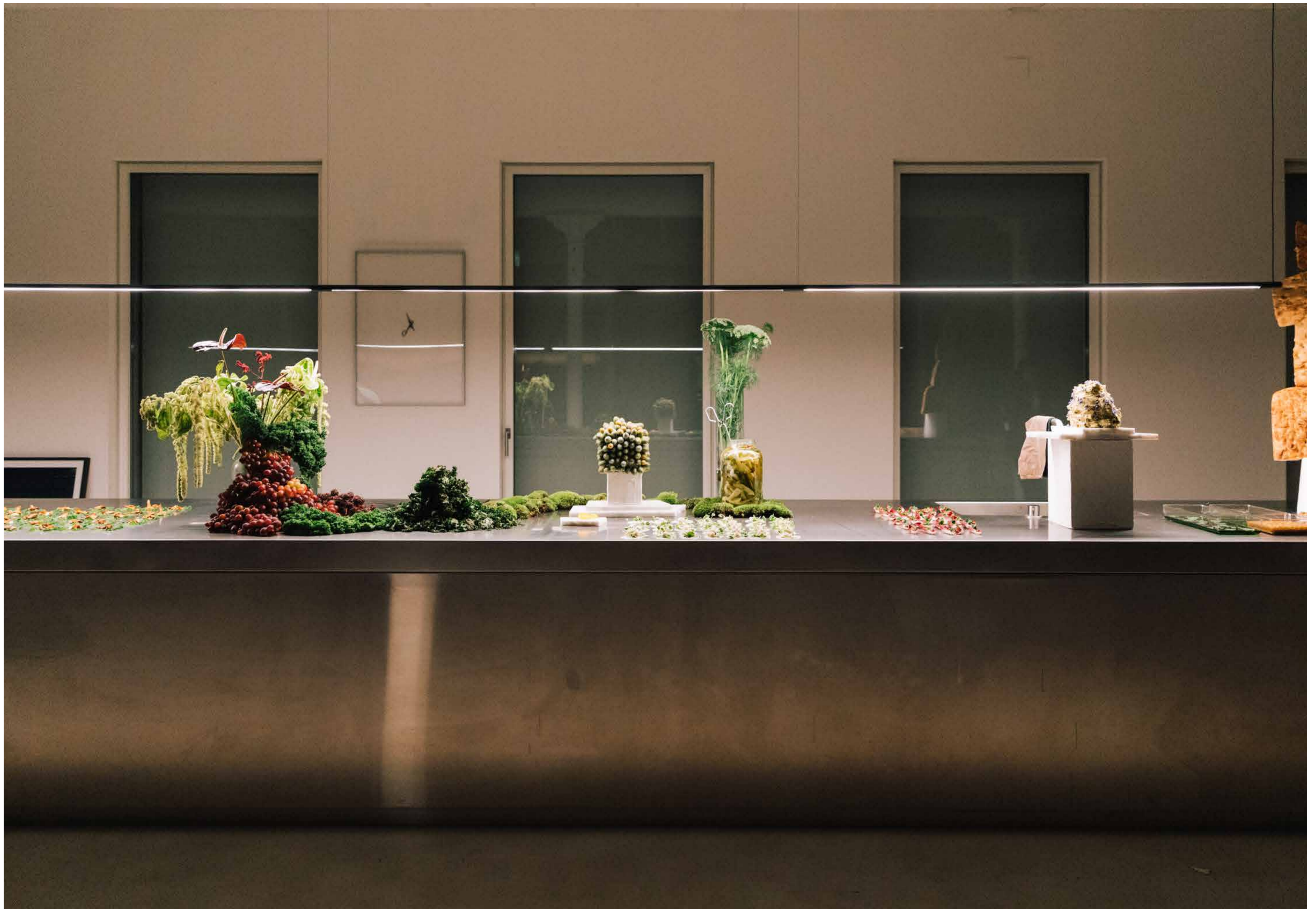








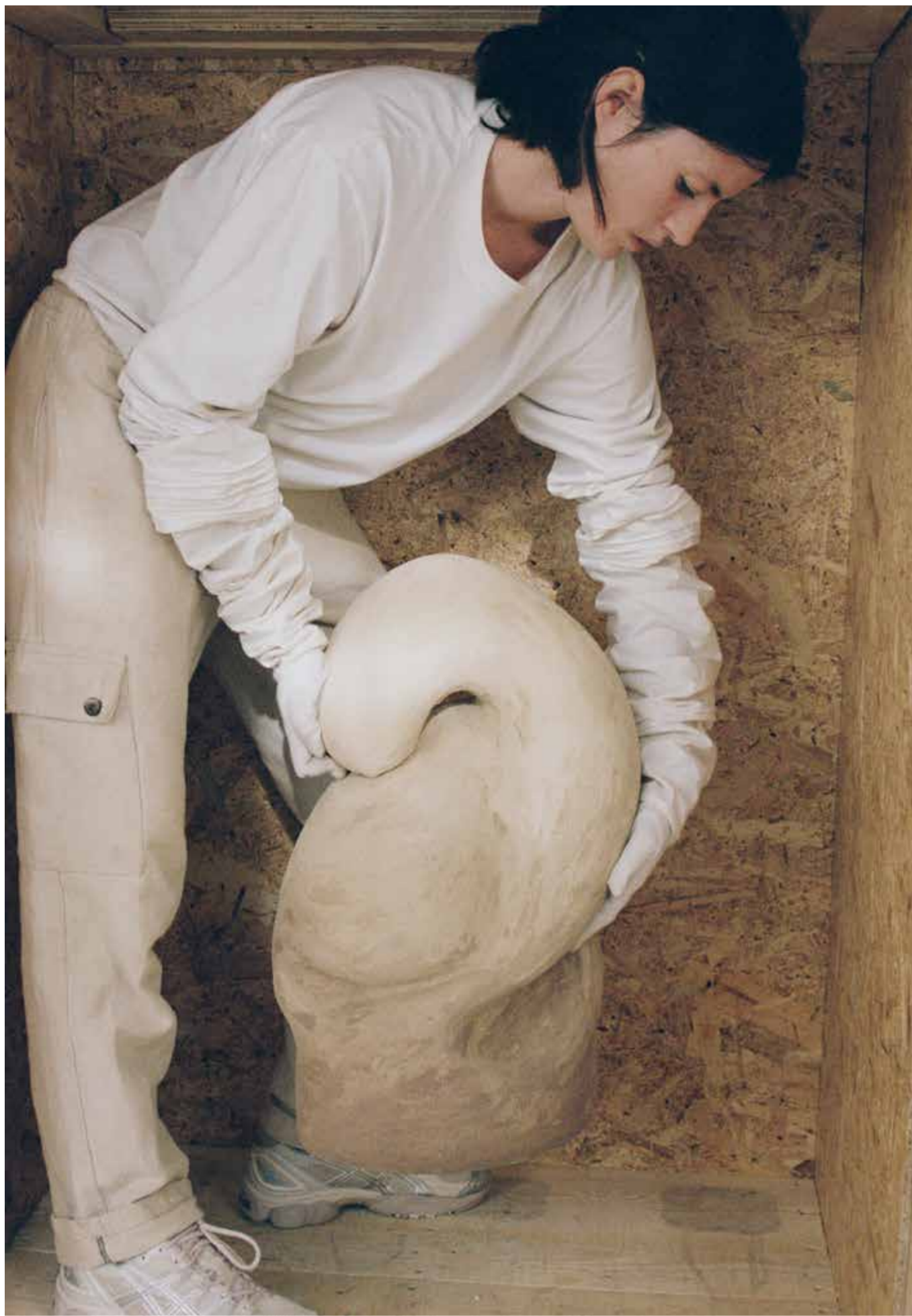












Barcelona, 1992

Berta Blanca T. Ivanow's artistic journey began at Central Saint Martins in London, where she pursued studies in Art & Design and later specialized in Womenswear Design. However, her encounter with artist Miquel Barceló led her to shift her focus. She explored figurative sculpture and abstract painting in New York at The Art Students League under the mentorship of Barney Hodes and Pat Lipsky. She furthered her skills at the Florence Academy of Art in Italy and the Escola de Ceràmica in Spain, where she delved into ceramics and color application.

In 2016, she received a sculpture grant and presented her project "Mujer Vacío" at Palau Güell. She continued to evolve her artistry, creating engravings and mixed media paintings during an artistic residency. In 2020, she co-founded studio OMOTESANDO for video-art, installation, and performance projects. Her works were showcased at the Sainte Anne Gallery in Paris in both solo and collective exhibitions. Berta Blanca's art has gained recognition, featured in magazines such as The New York Times, La revue de la ceramique et du verre, ELLE Decor, and more. Currently, she operates from her workshop in Teyá, Spain.

ART STUDIES, GRANTS & RESIDENCIES

2019 Oct. Sastres Paperes - Molí de la Farga, Papermaking with Jordi Torrent, Girona, ESP
2018 Jan-Jun. Escola de Ceràmica de la Bisbal d'Empordà Professional ceramist training, Gerona, ESP
2017 July. Escola de Ceràmica de la Bisbal d'Empordà Glaze formulation & raku firing technique with Dolors Ros, Girona, Spain
2016 Apr - Jul. ANFA. Asociación Nacional de Fotografía Analógica Analogue photography: developing in black & white, Barcelona, Spain
2016 Oct. Fundació Güell, Sculpture grant, Barcelona, Spain
2016 March. Art Students League of New York
 Sculpture Portraiture with sculptor Arslan, New York, USA
2014 June-Jul. Florence Academy of Art, Anatomy & Figurative Sculpture
 Florence, Italy
2014 Central Saint Martins, Diploma in Professional Studies, London, England
2014-2016 Feb. Art Students League of New York, Barney Hodes Figurative sculpture with clay Pat Lipsky Color theory & abstract painting Peter Reginato Welding: metal sculpture, New York, United States of America
2013 - 2016 Centre Internacional De Gravat. Xalubinia Engraving: Aquatint, etching, intaglio and photogravure. Menorca, Spain
2013 Sept - Dec. Academy of Art Barcelona, Figurative Sculpture & Academic drawing, Barcelona, Spain
2011-2013 Central Saint Martins, Fashion design and marketing, London, United Kingdom
2010. Central Saint Martins Grant for Foundation Diploma in Arts&Design, London, United Kingdom

EXHIBITIONS & PRESS

Nov. 2023 HOC EST CORPUS MEUM. Solo show / performance / video-art film at VASTO gallery
May 2023 GRAN TEATRE DEL LICEU. Film 4 tragedies in an act
June 2022 BLOQUE MEXICO. Ser Tierra
May 2022 GRAN TEATRE DEL LICEU. Film Lux Aeterna
March 2022 IDEAT MAGAZINE. l'Origine du monde vue par BertaBlanca t. Ivanow
April 2022 La Revue de la céramique et du verre. Brut-delicat BertaBlanca t. Ivanow
March 2021 ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST. Printed - Best of España
Feb. 2022 CORPS MESSAGERS. Solo show at Sainte Anne Gallery
Jan. 2022 RITUEL STATIQUE / L'INVISIBLE EN MOUVEMENT Fanzy & video-art film
Dec. 2021 THE PLANT MAGAZINE. Printed feature Methamorphic Seeds
Nov. 2021 KONFEKT MAGAZINE. Feature Natural Selection
Oct. 2021 CRAFTS COUNCIL GALLERY. Collective show Rewilding
Sept. 2021 PARIS DESIGN WEEK. Sculptures displayed at Sainte Anne Gallery
Sept. 2021 CONDE NAST TRAVELLER. Feature Arte y Parte
Aug. 2021 DORA DAAR. Online feature Sambun
July 2021 TOAST MAGAZINE. Online interview
June 2021 FOUNDATION - SAMBUN ARTS FESTIVAL Workshop Contemporary Sculpture
June 2021 GRAN TEATRE DEL LICEU. Film If we ever get to heaven
May 2021 SAINTE ANNE GALLERY. Group show Granum
May 2021 SEND BOOKS. Invited artist
March 2021 THE GREENHOUSE. Online feature The will of nature
March 2021 ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST. Interview Best of Spain
January 2021 VOGUE MAGAZINE. Interview Que tacto fluya con materia
January 2021 PRIMO - Producing company. International representation of the directing duo OMOTESANDO
Aug. 2020 LA VANGUARDIA. Interview Bella es la materia castigada
June 2020 GRAN TEATRE DEL LICEU. Film Opera Omnia
May 2020 SELF PRACTICE . Online feature People: Berta Blanca T. Ivanow
Abril 2020 MUSES OF NOW. Online feature Muses: Berta Blanca T. Ivanow
Oct. 2019 BOUND MAGAZINE. Printed feature When Clay Speaks Nature
May. 2019 ABSTRACT TALK. Founder of ABSTRACT TALK
May. 2019 ELLE DECOR . Online feature Artistas Emergentes
May. 2019 AD Magazine. Online feature Artistas Emergentes
April. 2019 FORMATO 14. Group show
Feb. 2019 Metal Magazine. Online feature Mujer Vacío
Nov. 2018 EMERGENT MAGAZINE. Printed feature ISSUE 03
Feb. 2018 PALAFOX. Group show curated by John Brown
Dec. 2017 Let's Panic Magazine New York. Online feature BertaBlanca T. Ivanow
Nov. 2017 T Magazine , The New York Times Style Magazine Online feature Celebrando el cuerpo femenino.
Oct. 2017 Palau Güell. Solo show Mujer Vacío
Sept. 2017 Estudio Creativo O. Online feature Gest photographed by Adrià Cañameras
June 2017 Mutuo () Centro de Arte. Group show Please, do not touch
January. 2017 El Celler de Can Ginestar. Solo show Gest
Dec. 2017 Ayuntamiento de Sitges. Group show
Oct. 2016 Reial Cercle Artístic de Barcelona . Solo Show
March, 2016 RockPaper Scissors Art Auction. Donation for Lower Eastside Girls Club con la ONG WideRainbow
Oct. 2015 La Casa del Alcalde. Solo show 23en23
Sept. 2015 Metal Magazine. Online feature: Blurring Artistic Boundaries
Feb. 2015 Phyllis Harriman Mason Gallery . Group show Ancient Sculpture
Dec. 2014 First Generation Alumni Show. The European Museum of Modern Art. MEAM
April. 2014 Phyllis Harriman Mason Gallery. Group show Color Field Painting
April. 2013 Central Saint Martins. Group show Womenswear Design

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