

“Sale Liquido de Mi”- an exhibition by Julia Padilla

Did a drop of sticky liquid just come out? I felt this strange sensation a few months back while I gazed upon Julia Padilla’s work for the first time. In her studio downtown Buenos Aires, she was working on her new series of sculptures that explore the connections between the insides and outsides of different bodies—be they human, plant, or machine like. I remember I was looking around this hunter-gatherer place filled with forgotten objects the artist assembled along her way: dried plant leaves looking like elf ears, surfaces covered in resin, antique pipes... Metamorphosis is key in Julia Padilla work. Through assemblage of fragments, she composes hybrid creatures at the crossroad of botany, animal, and artificial life. The artist invests how mundane materials can transform; inviting us to pay attention to our environments and the sensations flowing through our bodies.

Inside, outside. Inside, outside.

Entering the gallery, now transformed into a clean, almost medical space, I notice the contrast between this artificial setting and the works displayed on the white floor and walls. On the right, a sphere made of ceramics, glass fragments, fiberglass, and fabric that gives the sense of a toxic flower about to bloom. Nearby, a two-part piece resembling giant ears from a hybrid body. Other works made from aluminum, pipes, and dried leaves are scattered around the space. In each assemblage, the objects have an independent story before entering in symbiosis like they do. But perhaps what matters is what to feel or remember when seeing the works and what this sensation becomes. In “Sale Liquido de Mi”, the artist explores the idea of bodies that are both latent and active, like the work hanging next to the window. It is a sensual piece, making us expect liquid to come out, but will it ever? “Sale liquido de mi” embrace the concept of the orifices as channels that connects what's inside us with what's outside. Julia Padilla listens to her own sensations and intuition, exploring how to bring sensory experiences to life as they pass through these openings.

As the title “Sale liquido de mi” suggest, the exhibition imagine a liquid that moves, something that goes beyond what we can see. And so, the room becomes a vast sensory organ merging with the works we perceive.

Inside, outside. Inside, outside.

Marie de Ganay