

The beauty in fragility

texts by Oscar Soriano

'Without insects there is no life'

(Spanish Association of Entomology and Ecologists in Action. 2020)

5th November 2024 – 4th January 2025

Opening: 5/11/2024 – 18-20H

Participating artists:

Antoni Abad (ES, 1956) | Monique Bastiaans (NL, 1954) | Natividad Bermejo (ES, 1961)

Rafa Burillo (ES, 1968) | Rocío Garriga (ES, 1984) | Che Marchesi (ES, 1963)

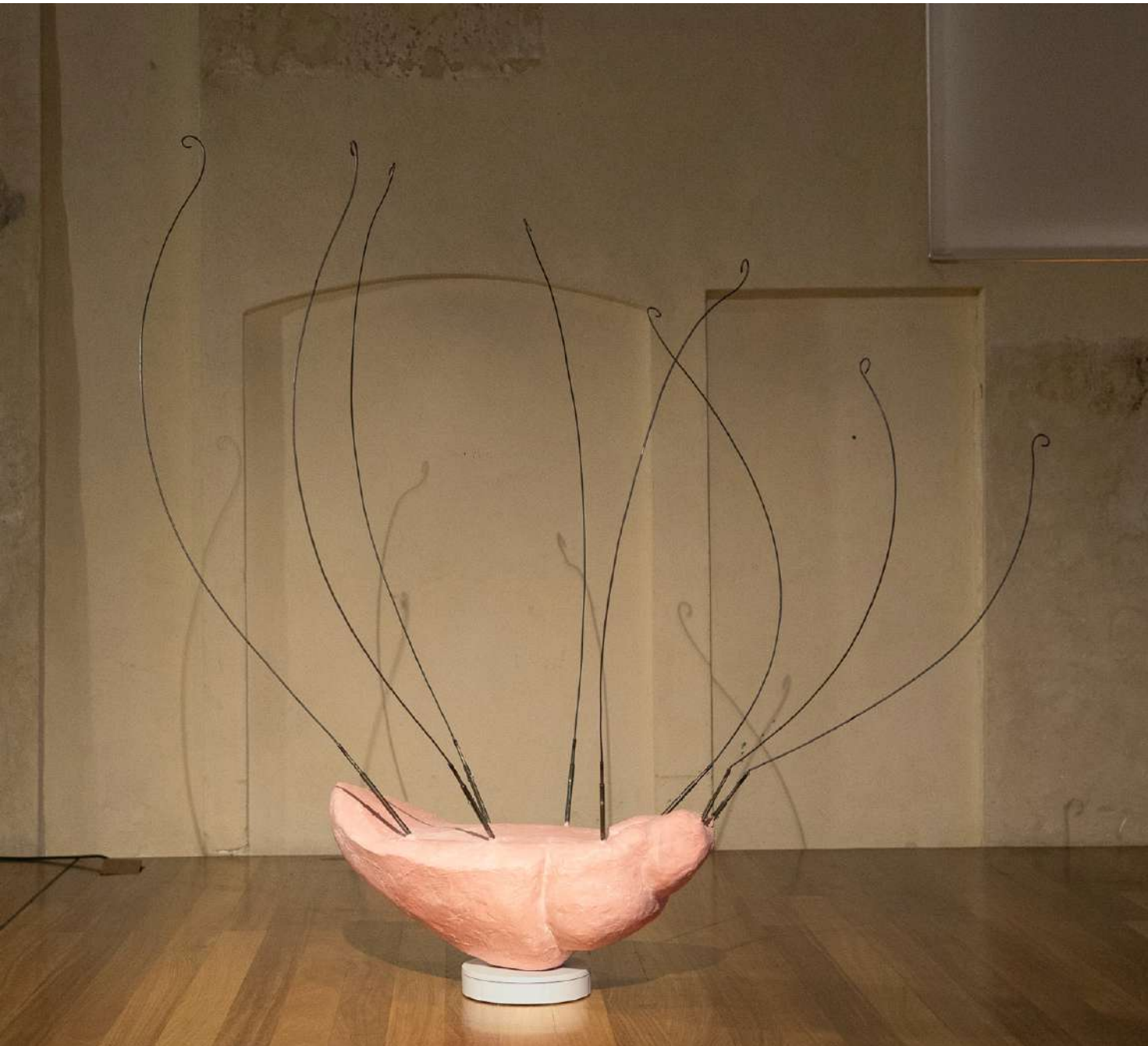
Ramón Mateos (ES, 1968) | Joaquín Mouliá (ES, 1944) | Pamen Pereira (ES, 1963)

Teresa Serrano (MX, 1936) | Candela Sotos (ES, 1986) | Los Torreznos (ES, 1959/1965)

About 1,000,000 species of insects have now been described.

The most modest estimates suggest that the number of living insect species may be as high as 6,000,000.

Monique Bastiaans (Netherlands, 1954)



Bastiaans creates works of an unsettling appearance, uncertain forms and an almost aberrant nature, which, in the manner of a Goyaesque carpus, with a significant plastic and formal variety, reclaim the artist's freedom to recreate herself in the folds of language, in the shadowy areas of reason and in fantasy to approach a reality that goes beyond the notion of truth and transcends rational logic.

Monique Bastiaans

Jepri 2023

Iron, rubber, polyetherane and motor

200 x 100 x 150 cm

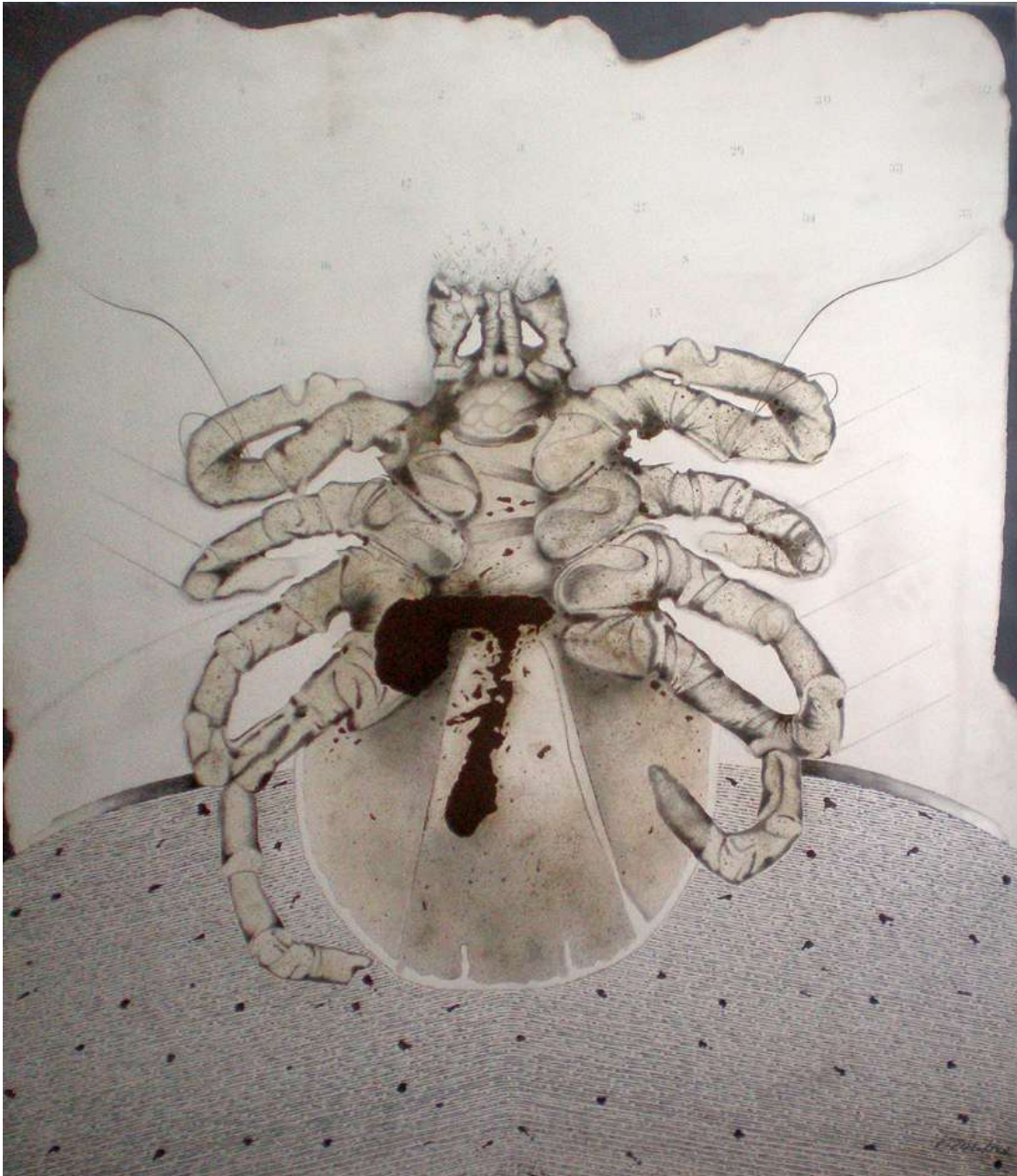
Unique piece

Antoni Abad (Spain, 1956)

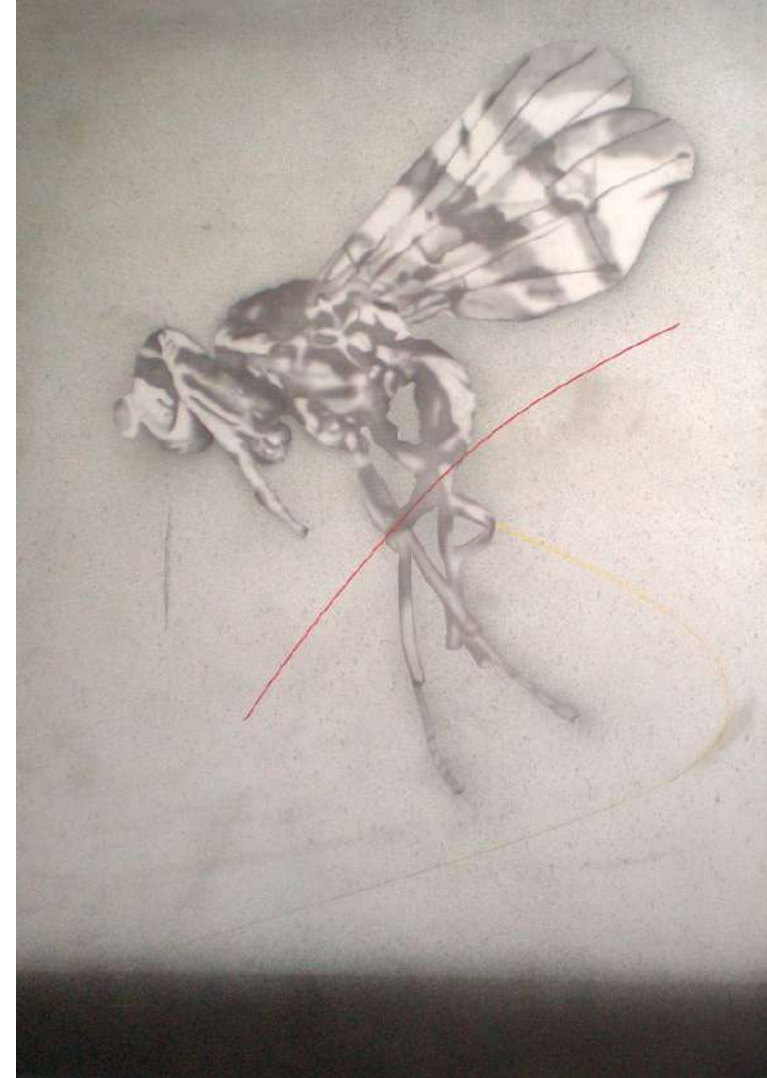


Antoni Abad
The Kiss, 2019
Black Wood DMF sculpture
145 x 300 x 160 cm
Unique piece

Joaquín Mouliaá (Spain, 1944)



Joaquín Mouliaá
Mite, 1975
Oil on canvas
196 x 170 cm
Unique piece

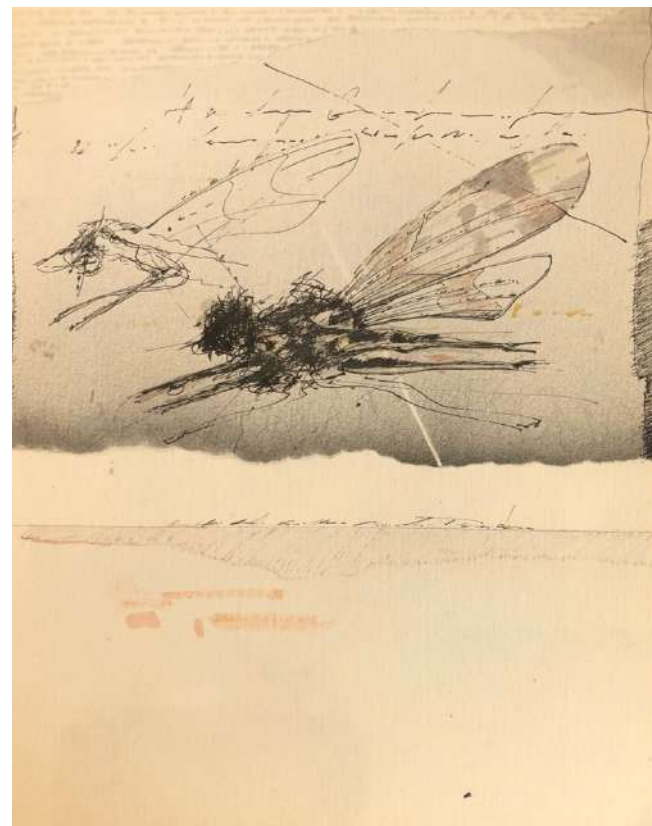


Joaquín Mouliaá
Oil on canvas
Mosquito, 1975
162 x 114 cm
Unique piece

Having appeared for the first at Fernando Vijande's *Galería Vandrés*, known for being the first gallery to exhibit Warhol in Spain, with Mouliaá's insects "we sometimes feel as if they could be unleashed in the greatest aesthetic uncontrol. It is not a work of tamed passions, but of tense and at the same time peaceful acceptances, which contain all the communicative force of that which one feels has been freely chosen and is authentic" (José Ayllón).



Joaquín Mouliaá
Untitled
Mixed media on paper
25 x 20 cm
Unique piece



Joaquín Mouliaá
Untitled
Mixed media on paper
24 x 19 cm
Unique piece

By the time we finish the insect inventory, only 3,000,000 species will be known. The rest, up to the current 6,000,000, will be extinct.

84% of plant species and 76% of food production in Europe depend on pollination.

Ramón Mateos (Spain, 1968)

21.759

1741
28.763


In 1741, during the War of Jenkin's Ear between Britain and Spain, a battle took place in which the British army under the command of Commander of All Armies Edward Vernon assembled in front of the bay of Cartagena de Indias more than 200 warships, with more than 2,000 cannons and an army of 28,763 men, making it the largest naval landing in history until Normandy, more than 200 years later. A ruse by Blas de Lezo, in charge of the defence of the port with less than 3,000 soldiers, forced the British army to land in an area plagued by Aedes Aegypti mosquitoes, which caused the loss of 84% of the British army, resulting in a total of 21,759 casualties and the defeat of the invading army.

Ramón Mateos
21.759, 2024
Print on paper
100 x 70 cm
Unique piece

Che Marchesi (Spain, 1963)



Marchesi's work has always tried to highlight man's relationship with nature and its new vision of it as something foreign, alien and an object of study only as an instrument for humans.

For a hundred years, the vinegar fly has rendered a valuable and virtually unnoticed service to science and mankind. This insect has been and is reared, observed, modified and dissected in multiple studies, constituting an efficient and disciplined "scientific husbandry".

Che Marchesi

Drosophila Melanogaster Macho , 2003

Digital photograph. Lamda Box Light.

200 x 150 cm

Ed. 3

*With this sincere homage to the small *Drosophila Melanogaster Marchesi* highlights the lack of knowledge of the activity and research carried out and of the observation of nature in general. At the same time he nimbly connects scientific culture with the art world.*

In this new observatory, the fly serves no specific purpose: art as a basic science makes it the ultimate end of its reflection... Or perhaps it can be applied science if it awakens in the spectator an emotion of surprise, a reflection or a drosophila syndrome.

Che Marchesi

Drosophila Melanogaster Hembra , 2003

Digital photograph. Lamda Box Light.

200 x 150 cm

Ed. 3



Teresa Serrano (Mexico, 1936)



Teresa Serrano

The Grass Is Always Greener on the Other Side of the Fence, 1997

Video, 4'15: monarch butterflies travelling 5.000 km every year from Mexico to Canada.

Ed. 2/5 + 2 AC

An experimental work by the veteran Mexican artist on migration and memory, in which she superimposes images of monarch butterflies with archival images of migrants.

Rocío Garriga (Spain, 1984)



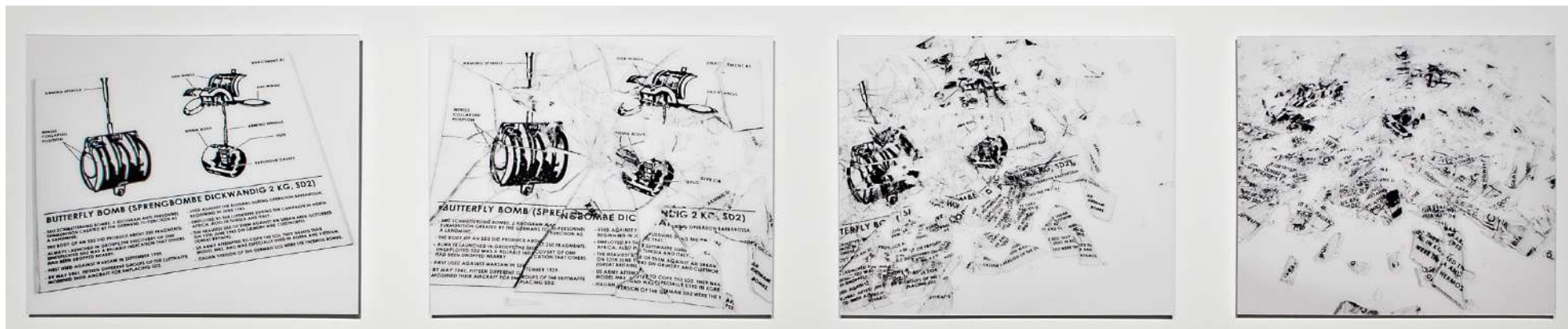
Rocío Garriga

Butterfly Bomb V, 2024

Broken glass obtained during the artist's test run for the non-public action *Butterfly Bomb II*. Mounted under a methacrylate urn with white lacquered wooden base.

26 x 25 x 24,5 cm

Unique piece



Rocío Garriga

Butterfly Bomb III, 2018

Record of Butterfly Bomb I, progression of the rupture of the image in 4 phases.
 Installation of 4 photographs made in Ultrachrome printing on glossy photographic
 paper, mounting behind 2mm. glossy methacrylate, phorex and anodised aluminium
 frame.

32.6 x 40 cm c/u | each

Unique piece

The Butterfly Bomb is a piece derived from Garriga's research on Bombed Zoo's during the Second World War, and particularly that of the Warsaw Zoo. As the artist recalls "the city of Warsaw served a testing ground for the Nazis, where they first launched the SD2 Sprengbombe Dickwandig 2 kg or Butterfly Bomb - the name by which the Allies would identify it years later - and tested this new form of warfare that would mark the fate of millions of people".

Candela Sotos (Spain, 1986)



Candela Sotos

Danza n III, 2024

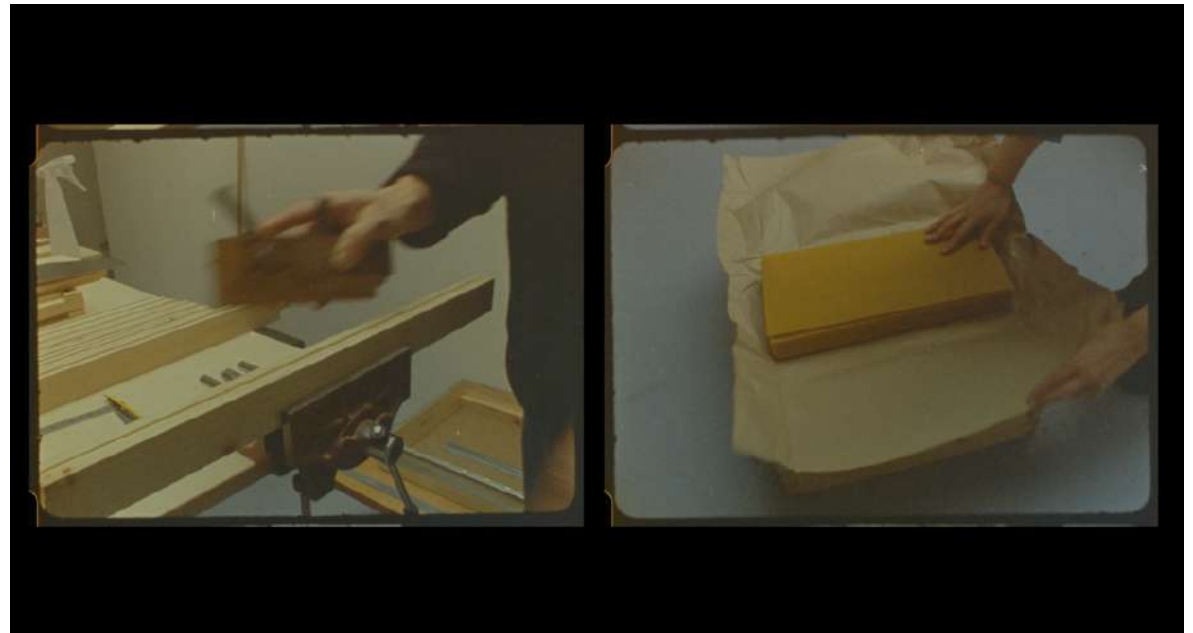
Installation composed by the following elements:

Beehive, wood, wax and glass made in collaboration with Miguel Sotos. 61 x 56 x 47 cm.

16mm film (9'), digitized and projected over a 82 x 60 cm screen.

Unique piece

Through the reading of the archives of Carlos Velo and our great-uncle Guillermo Fernández-Zúñiga from the 1930s, we reflect on the observation hives they created in the early 1930s and how we could reproduce one of them again. The hive and the process of its construction becomes a gesture of visual memory and a channel of information, where the bees, in turn, can communicate in the dark through their dance to find the nectar identified by their companions.



Stills from the 16mm film presented in the installation.

Natividad Bermejo (Spain, 1961)



Bermejos' work allows us to reflect about ourselves, our existence as human beings and our coexistence within a larger ecosystem, aiming to refer the audience to a simultaneous vision of an instant, in various locations around the globe.

Natividad Bermejo

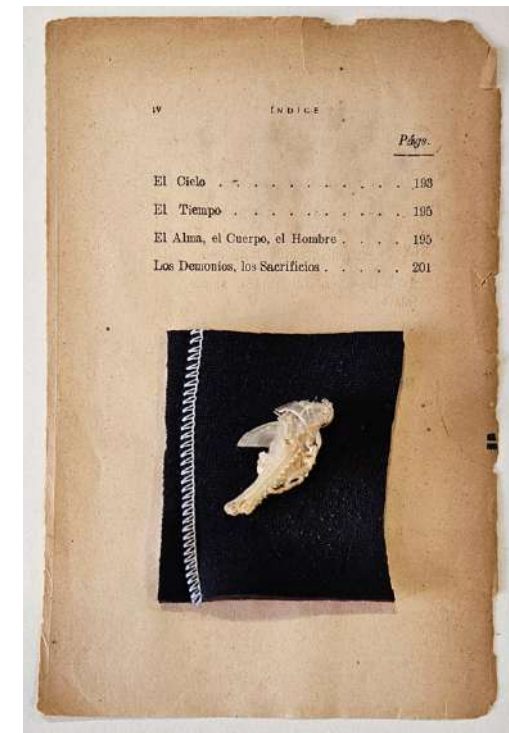
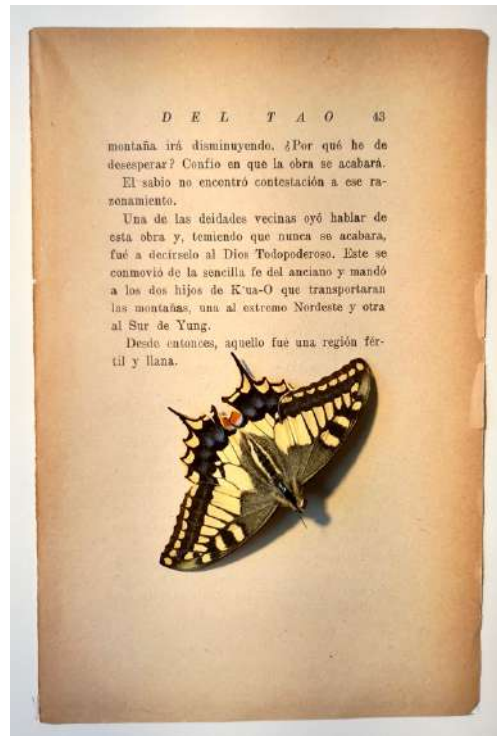
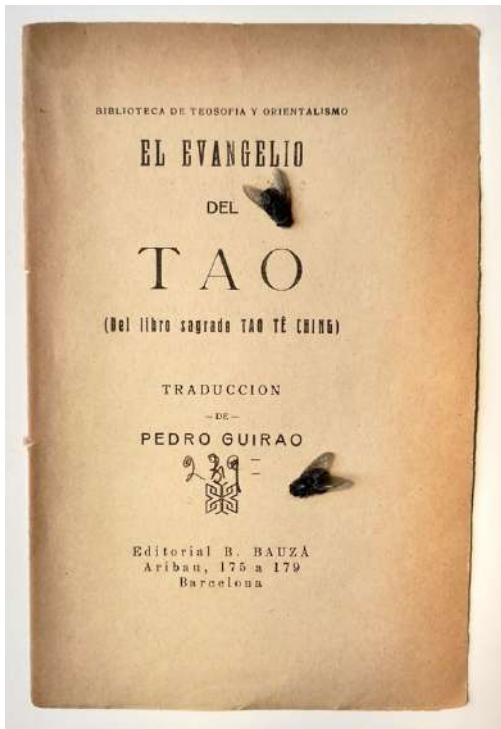
Butterfly for Edward Lorenz, 2008

Graphite and pastel on paper

141,5 x 216 cm

Unique piece

Pamen Pereira (Spain, 1963)



Pamen Pereira

Life I'm Your Lover. TAO book, 2019

35 pages from the TAO book from the *Theosophy and Orientalism* series published by Pedro Guirao in 1926. Collages and mix media.

30 x 22.5 x 4.5 cm each

Unique piece

The pages of this book were a wake-up call to spontaneity and tolerance, to acceptance of change and to the wisdom of knowing that nothing is forever. For this reason, the dead insects that appeared in my path are also present here: flies, mosquitoes, dragonflies, or an extraordinary moult of grasshoppers, the key to what is left behind for a new life.

Rafa Burillo (Spain, 1968)



Rafael Burillo
Bubble gum, 2024
Video installation
Video on loop
Variable measures
Unique piece

Los Torreznos (Spain, 1959/1965)



Their proposal is situated on the border between action art and the living arts. In more than two decades of career, they are considered one of the most outstanding references in the Spanish performance field and their work enjoys a continuous international projection, which has taken them to more than twenty countries since their participation in 2007 in the Spanish Pavilion at the 52nd Venice Biennale.

Los Torreznos

The Conversation, 2024

Cardboard box and audio

Variable measures

Unique piece

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