

Dyslexia Friendly Wall Text – Julia Isídrez: *Mud is Everything*

Julia Isídrez

Mud is Everything

09.10.26 – 10.01.27

When Julia Isídrez (b. 1967, Paraguay) goes out and gathers clay, when she reaches down and scoops it from the earth with hand or spade, she is not holding a singular thing. Earth is many things - sediment and minerals, microorganisms and insects, mycelia and plant roots. It is full of our ancestors, and so it might be said that earth, or clay, or mud, has a soul. As Isídrez has said - "mud is everything".

All mud used to be something else, and it will be something else again. Mud is malleable but also holds memory. It can

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be squeezed and shaped, hardened and dried, fired and transformed.

Isídrez grew up in Itá, Paraguay, where Guaraní ceramic techniques have been passed down through generations and are amongst only a few practices that can be traced back to pre-Hispanic times.

Through this inheritance, Isídrez learned under the guidance of her mother, the renowned artist Juana Marta Rodas, who in turn learned from her own mother. This mode of sharing passes on a knowledge not just of making, but of being – with clay and the memories it holds of people and more-than human lives, grounded in reciprocity between people, territory, ancestors, plants and animals.

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Like mud, Guaraní ceramic traditions used to be something else, and will be something else again. They have shifted alongside turbulent times and changing pressures – Spanish colonialism, sociopolitical shifts, globalisation, and destabilised climates and ecosystems. As specific forms and functions declined from daily use, replaced by objects made from glass, plastic or metal, the nature of the ceramics evolved. The spout of a water jug transformed into the gaping mouth of a lizard; a handle morphed into the elongated neck of a llama. Guaraní practice has continued not because it has remained rigid, but because it has continued to transform.

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This exhibition brings together key examples of Isídrez's work across forms and scale, made over the course of her practice. The exhibition has been designed to present a chorus of creatures meandering on forest paths.

This exhibition was made possible thanks to the support of:

Headline Supporters: Gomide&Co, Olney Gleason, and Jessica Silverman. The Julia Isídrez Exhibition Circle: ANTESALA / Flavia Nespatti, Hanneli Rupert and the Embassy of the Republic of Paraguay to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

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The accompanying publication Julia Isídrez

Mud was generously supported by

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Exhibition graphics by Waste Studio.

We would like to extend our deepest

thanks to all the lenders who have

supported us in bringing together this

selection of Julia Isídrez's works:

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offer new viewpoints into Isídrez's

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Nottingham Contemporary.

Nottingham Contemporary is a registered

charity and dependent on the generosity

of our visitors, partners and supporters.

If you would like to use any alternative

forms of interpretation, we have a range

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of accessible versions on our Access Wall
beside Reception or alongside the wall
text in the exhibition.

RELATED EVENTS

WALKTHROUGHS

Wed 21 Oct, 1pm Curators' Walkthrough

Join Nottingham Contemporary's curators
for a tour of our autumn exhibitions.

Wed 2 Dec, 1pm

With Dr. Sofia Gotti, Lecturer in Curating
at the Courtauld Institute.

Wed 16 Dec, 1pm

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With Sophia Mena, Somos The Podcast
founder and host.

12.30 Talks

12.30pm every Tue, Thu, Sat, and Sun,
starting Tue 20 Oct

Join one of our friendly Gallery

Assistants for a short exploration of one
of our current exhibitions.

WORKSHOPS

Sat 31 Oct, 2pm Workshop on speculative
design histories by Pina and Biblioteka

An interdisciplinary workshop exploring the
design histories of exhibitions and libraries
as worldview machines.

Sat 21 Nov & Sun 13 Dec, 1pm

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**Unearthing: a workshop in story and clay by
Ruby Daley**

Explore your personal histories and our
collective dreams of a life lived closer to
clay in this hands-on making workshop.

PERFORMANCES

**Fri 13, Sat 14 & Sun 15 Nov, 12pm–2pm &
3pm–5pm**

Bar Tango by Beni Bosetto

Join us for this new production exploring the
corporeality of love through stage objects
and a surreal choreography in which tango
dancers inhabit costumes inspired by animals,
plants, and minerals.

CONTEMPORARY X ART HISTORIES

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A collaborative strand of programming
between the University of Nottingham and
Nottingham Contemporary.

Wed 25 Nov, 3pm

Ways of Seeing, Learning and Making: With
art historian, Dr. Lara Pucci (University of
Nottingham), in conversation with ceramic
sculptor, Irina Razumovskaya (Royal College
of Art).

Wed 9 Dec, 3pm

Ways of Seeing, Learning and Making: With
Backlit Gallery Co-Director, Matthew
Chesney.

For more information about the exhibition,
related events and learning programmes, visit
nottinghamcontemporary.org or scan here:

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Curated by: Salma Tuqan and Niall Ó

Faircheallaigh, assisted by Klara Szafrńska

Curatorial Admin: Xin Chen and Caitlin Irwin

3D Design and Exhibition Build Lead: David

Thomas Exhibition Build and Installation:

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Narewski, Craig David Parr, Emily Stollery,

and Hannah Templeman Condition Checking:

Jenna Jones, Lara Mattinson, and Simon

Withers

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Scanlon, Amanda Spruyt, Andrew Martyn

Sugars, Holly Tea, Charlotte Tupper,

Stephanie Wardle and Sian Watson Taylor

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Exhibition Invigilators: Winter Beaumont, Tom Chamberlain, Nadim Chaudry, Lynn

Chippendale, Olwen Davies, Quinn Greytryx, Lachlan Hui, Jenna Jones, Milee Lee, Karen Lunt, Lara Mattinson, Craig David Parr,

Millie Quick, Nikki Stevenson, Olu Taiwo and Simon Withers

Visitor Experience: Emma Beischer, Paul Buddle, Nadim Chaudry, Olwen Davies, Sam Harrison, Jenna Jones, Lucy Martin, Holly Matthews, Craig David Parr and Jordan Sterry

People and Culture: Lauren Riley

Finance and Operations: Andy Batson, Jon Chambers, Mandy Newbold and David

Thomas