

Luis Adelantado

Gallery

"Coatlicue gives light to everything and devours everything. She is the monster that swallows all living beings and all the stars, the monster who swallows the sun every evening and brings back the light every morning. Coatlicue breaks through the surface of our everyday world. Like the Earth, she opens up and swallows us whole. Casting us into the underworld where the soul resides, allowing us to dwell in darkness." Gloria Anzaldúa.

As it drags its body to the end of the day, the snake dreams of becoming a bird. In the morning its throat is adorned with a feathered ruff until it is lost in flight. And so, day after day, its life unfolds between scales and feathers blending in with the colour of the sky. The imaginary of the snake that transmutes itself and reaches its goal leads us to the experience of resilience. Shedding its skin, the slithering motion of its body, its venom and its antidote endow the image of the snake with power in countless mythologies rooted in the origin of all the peoples of the world. We invoke this powerful image of transmutation for a special celebration as Galería Luís Adelantado in Valencia celebrates the tenth anniversary of its director, Olga Adelantado, at the head of the gallery.

To mark the occasion, Olga, together with the curator, Johanna Caplliure, have prepared a group exhibition that brings together works and artists from various periods of the gallery's trajectory, with a select group of significant artists from the contemporary art scene. Accordingly, *El sueño de la serpiente* takes the form of an exhibition defined by narratives that intersect and coalesce into a reparative fiction. This kind of fiction, which has the power to alleviate situations of injustice, censorship, pain, anonymity and incomprehension, is coupled with a bold transformative gaze that opens up a whole world of possibilities. The reparative fiction presented here mediates through a speculative interweaving of narratives with a profound vocation to evoke resistance.

In this regard, the works comprising the exhibition invite an open interpretation, affording us a performative locus which has no room for the inconsequential. Each work grabs us by the scruff of the neck, gives us a good shake and transforms us. In the firm conviction of the power of reparative practices that, while paying attention to pain, to emptiness and to silence, slide sinuously, snake-like, towards care, possibility and speech, these works propose different ways of world-making.

The exhibition includes over twenty works by the following artists: Mar Arza, Carmen Calvo, Lucía C. Pino, Milagros de la Torre, Susy Gómez, Mónica Mays, Eva Lootz, Emmanuela Soria Ruiz and Montserrat Soto. The selected works embrace photography, sculpture expanded into installation and the field of textile, as well as processual practices and manifold painterly strategies. The themes explored cut across memory and forgetting, censorship and resistance, the processes and transmutation of matter, territory and nature, intimacy and community, fragility and power. This interweaving of narratives is built along two lines of force and also of flight: on the one hand, the shifting possibilities of the image, constructed through text, painting, space and photography; and, on the other, the imaginative powers of matter, where the mutation of natural and artificial elements, the absence of a fixed explanation and the enigma of processes compose the challenges of an exhibition that hisses dreams to awaken the snake.

_Johanna Caplliure

