

GABRIEL CHAILE

Los Jóvenes Olvidaron sus Canciones

ChertLüdde, Berlin

26 April - 20 July 2024

Chert
Lüdde



PRESS TEXT

For the exhibition *Los Jóvenes Olvidaron sus Canciones* (The youth forgot their song), Gabriel Chaile's second solo show at ChertLüdde, the artist carves the image of the Argentinian tapir into a broader historical framework. Leaving behind strokes and lines within adobe clay, Chaile creates a forest full of tapir within the exhibition space. Imaginative and vigorous, his environmental installation gathers around an adobe bas-relief about 10 meters in length in the center of the exhibition. Its figurative presentation of the tapir is a challenge to monumental narrative structures that seek to erase pre-colonial heritage.

The tapir, characterized by its robust build and short proboscis, belongs to a very ancient genus of mammals most closely related to rhinos and horses. The most primitive large mammals in the world, existing for over 20 million years, the tapir can still be found across the globe in South America, Central America, and Southeast Asia. In each of these places, the tapir plays a fundamental role in dispersing seeds through their defecation, making them indispensable to human life and nature. Chaile chooses to focus on the native species of Argentina, which are on the verge of extinction due to the rapid disappearance of tropical forests caused by the timber industry and slash-and-burn agriculture. By recreating this rare animal in adobe, Chaile reflects on the similarities of these systems and practices to colonial erasure and the loss of indigenous cultures, traditions and life.

Adobe is the artist's signature material used for his sculptures and installations presented at venues such as Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) (2023-2024); The High Line, New York (2023-2024), the 59th Venice Biennale (2022), the New Museum Triennial, New York (2021-2022) and Art Basel Cities, Buenos Aires (2018). The material connects not only to the pre-Columbian indigenous artistic tradition but also to the richness of the earth and the importance of connection with nature.

VERNISSAGE

26 April 2024, 6 - 9 pm

Portrait of Gabriel Chaile in the exhibition "No se me quita lo naco" at Meridiano, Puerto Escondido, 2023. Photo by Alex Krotov

As Gabriel Chaile reconstructs the tapir's natural environment, the viewers begin to reflect on the important relationships between humans and tapir. In acknowledging that among the people protecting the tapir, many come from indigenous tribes, Chaile recreates the scenes and scenery of his native Argentina into a lasting ballad.

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BIOGRAPHY

Gabriel Chaile (1985, San Miguel de Tucumán) lives and works between Buenos Aires and Lisbon. He works between the fields of anthropology, religion and art. His work is rooted in the indigenous cultures of Northeast Argentina, aiming to reconstruct and continue the lineage of his culture developing upon a theory that Chaile calls "the genealogy of form". He refers to himself as a "communicator of images", which he finds through contextual observations, acting as a visual anthropologist in the way indigenous forms and materials have survived time and denote resistance, such as the clay oven or the common pot. Working frequently with natural elements such as adobe, mud and metal, Chaile weaves stories that readdress and revitalize the tales of his ancestors and his community, integrating the ritualistic and communal significance of food and public spaces into his practice.

His public sculpture at The High Line, New York will remain on view until April 2024. In 2022, he participated in *The Milk of Dreams*, the 59th Venice Biennale curated by Cecilia Alemani. His project has now been acquired by Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires and will soon be turned into an outdoor pavilion.

PRESS MATERIAL

IMAGES

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ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

[ART BASEL Meet the Artists | Gabriel Chaile](#)

[Gabriel Chaile: Artist in 'Who tells a tale adds a tail' at the Denver Art Museum](#)

["Gabriel Chaile and the Engineering of Necessity". Gabriel Chaile @ Museo Picasso Málaga](#)

INFORMATION

Gabriel Chaile
"Los Jóvenes Olvidaron sus Canciones"
26.04 – 20.07.2024
Admission free

Opening hours:
Tuesday – Saturday
12 pm – 6 pm

PRESS CONTACT

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