

SOFÍA SALAZAR ROSALES
*The Desire to Dance with Someone
Who Is Not Here*

Chert
Lüdde

ChertLüdde, Berlin
26 April - 22 June 2024



PRESS TEXT

The Desire to Dance with Someone Who Is Not Here is the most recent exhibition by the Cuban-Ecuadorian artist Sofia Salazar Rosales (1999, Ecuador), marking her second solo show at ChertLüdde, presented during the Berlin Gallery Weekend.

For this occasion, the artist has crafted a series of sculptures specifically tailored for the exhibition space, delving into the intricate relationship between Salazar Rosales's ancestral roots and her personal history. Once again, poetry takes center stage in her artistic practice, yet this time, dance serves as the pretext. How does one grapple with the longing to dance with someone who is absent? Can we replace the void with a tangible body, the silhouette with an idea, the object with its representation?

The Desire to Dance with Someone Who Is Not Here prompts the viewer to consider dancing with a stranger, embracing the uncertainty that ensues. Within the intimacy of two bodies intertwining freely in motion, lies the essence of this proposal. Salazar Rosales's sculptures are conceived as dancing bodies—fluid, permeable, and poised in space, awaiting a partner.

Salazar Rosales compares the act of dancing to that of sculpting, highlighting the enchantment of two bodies moving in synchrony to the rhythm of a song - be it a son, a bolero, or a salsa - unaware and unconstrained by each other's limitations and capabilities. She herself initiates this dance with the materials, carefully manipulating and molding them until achieving the desired sculptural organicity. It is through this reciprocal interaction, this dance of exploration and refinement, that mutual recognition and subsequently, empathy, emerge.

Building upon this premise, the artist proposes an inquiry into the deeper significance underlying the creation of a sculpture, considering the various stages and processes it undergoes. The intention is to unveil, through the presence of installations born from her intimate experiences and her personal and collective

VERNISSAGE
26 April 2024, 6 - 9 pm

Portrait of Sofia Salazar
Rosales at Julio Artist Run
Space, Paris, 2023

memories, the life cycle of her creations conceived as living entities. These stages encompass the inception of an idea, its development, its presentation, and ultimately, its culmination or “end,” which in this context, denotes the intentional engagement with the audience.

More than just an show, this will be a fusion of referential and autobiographical narratives, forming an authentic visual and conceptual medley. From the enlarged renditions of her mother’s handmade earrings to meticulously crafted replicas of wrappers, her sculptures take on life, transforming the gallery into a dance floor. It’s akin to “learning to dance on unfamiliar terrain,” echoing another recurring theme in her practice: the significance of context and the ability to transcend it.

This installment, unveiled at the ChertLüdde Gallery, serves as a continuation of *There are Bodies Tired from the Journey Seeking to Root*, originally presented in 2022 at the Bungalow space. However, while the pieces showcased at Bungalow encapsulated Salazar Rosales’s life experiences during her time in Lyon, this exhibition incorporates and reflects the influences of three destinations she has lived in or visited since then: Paris, Amsterdam, and Cuba.

Text by Dayneris Brito

BIOGRAPHY

Sofía Salazar Rosales (1999, Ecuador) lives and works between Paris, France and Quito, Ecuador. She has recently completed a master’s degree with distinction at the School of Fine Arts (ENSBA Paris) in the ateliers of Tatiana Trouvé, Petrit Halilaj and Álvaro Urbano. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with distinction from School of Fine Arts of Lyon (ENSBA Lyon) where she worked in the studios of Pauline Bastard and Niek Van de Steeg. She is currently participating in the two-year residency at De Ateliers in Amsterdam.

Salazar Rosales’s work develops from a sentence she wrote: “Hay cuerpos cansados por el viaje que buscan enraizarse” (There are bodies tired from the journey that seek to root). Her interest focuses on how objects have a potential to show social, political, and economic contexts, specifically linked to the displacement of humans, goods and other objects.

She conceives her pieces as spaces of reconciliation to negotiate between the object, the material and their history throughout different contexts. Reconciling is also a constructive gesture in her work, which continuously transforms the objects with particular focus on their emotional effect. Salazar Rosales and her sculptures have a relationship of affection. The artist says: “We are contextual, but also sentimental.”

In 2023, she was nominated for Premio illy Sustain Art Prize and Emerige-CPGA Prize and in 2022, she won the SARR Prize. Her first publication *Hay cuerpos cansados por el viaje que buscan enraizarse* (There are bodies tired from the journey seeking to root) was published by ChertLüdde on the occasion of her 2022 solo exhibition at Bungalow, Berlin and contains letters from her diary addressed to her sculptures.

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IMAGES

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ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

[Hay cuerpos cansados por el viaje que buscan enraizarse \(There are bodies tired from the journey seeking to root\)](#)

[SARR Prize Laureate, Sofía José Salazar Rosales](#)

INFORMATION

Sofía Salazar Rosales

“The Desire to Dance with Someone Who Is Not Here”
26.04 – 20.07.2024

Admission free

Opening hours:
Tuesday – Saturday
12 pm – 6 pm

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