

G E O R G K A R G L B O X

PRESS INFORMATION

Mercedes Mangrané

Drainage Systems

On view: March 6 – May 2nd, 2020

Opening: March 5, 2020, 6 pm – 9 pm

We are pleased to present *Drainage Systems*, the first individual exhibition of the artist Mercedes Mangrané at Georg Kargl BOX.

Mangrané has conceived the exhibition as a series of symbolic evocations of the body. Based on her daily walks, her works compose an intimate and sensual look around what is ambiguous and what remains undefined. The show at Georg Kargl BOX comprises a series of new works in painting, drawing and photography – with a painterly interest Mangrané looks at the drainage systems of a city as a collective body.

As in previous exhibitions (*Recompensa* at Ana Mas Projects, 2018, *Asir* at Museo Patio Herreriano de Valladolid, 2019) her research highlights poetic notions of the mundane and the banal. She metaphorically addresses objects and marginalized architectures which she observes at close range with an existential desire to understand the human nature through material culture. Although the starting point is specific and physical, the reflections it evokes are directed towards the intangible.

Far from idealizing the nostalgia of the green spaces that resist the city, the vision of the artist is raw and without artifice – from an apparent softness in the technique used in her pastel drawings of holes to the tenderness contained in the series *Humedades* and the capturing of vivacious fountains. Mangrané evokes internal connections within the tremor of contemporary life, focusing its attention on the small fissures and leaks of drainage systems. From an intimate urgency Mangrané investigates the regulation of the body in urban space.

In some of her photographs taken with the mobile, Mangrané offers a frontal view on ephemeral moments that go unnoticed, like mist or the vapour of a breath. In her series *Vaho* the condensation of steam on the windows of her home is a testimony of the thermal shock between inside and outside. It establishes a kind of melancholic reference of the desacralized auras drawn by the swaying of the water of the drainage holes with primigenius feminities.

The paintings on display show abstractions based on the dampness of her studio as well as on the retaining walls of the city. The spatula leads the artist to play with a notion of careful control of the surface and the unpredictability of the overflow. Compression and expansion are emphasized through the small format, where the artist explores tension in a variety of rhythms: from light to heavy: ascents, descents, expansions and breaks.

Through her work Mangrané conceives a spectrum of different spaces that contain the possibility of the flow of life. Looking for a common essence in the collected fragment, the artist seeks out the experience of openness and permeability, with gestures of care towards a body that is present despite the absence of figuration.

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Born in 1988 in Barcelona (Spain), Mercedes Mangrané lives and works in Barcelona. Her work has been presented in Spain in various solo exhibitions: *Asir* Museo Patio Herreriano (Valladolid), *Susceptible* Espai Cultural Rizoma (Celrà, Girona), *Recompensa* (Ana Mas Projects Barcelona) as well as group exhibitions: *Notes on Landscape* Kunstraum Lakeside curated by Franz Thalmair (Klagenfurt), Premio Internacional de Arte Fundación Maria José Jove (A Coruña), *During the Building of the Great Wall of China* curated by Ángel Calvo Ulloa at Luis Adelantado (Valencia), Mardel Arts Visuals (Valencia), *Walking in ice* curated by David Armengol, Centre d'Art SantaMònica (Barcelona).

She has also participated in numerous international art fairs such as Artissima Torino (Present-Future section) with Ana Mas Projects Barcelona, as well as in Arco, Untitled Miami Florida and Swab Art Fair where the artist won the collector's prize 2019 of the Vilacasas Foundation. In 2019 the artist participated in Compositions, a site-specific based program of artistic interventions in public space curated by Juan Canela during the Barcelona Gallery Weekend. In 2018 Mangrané won the Night of Museums contest from the Hangar.org arts and research program to develop a site-specific intervention (Flirteo) at the Botanical Garden of Barcelona. She has done a long-term art residency at Hangar.org Barcelona focusing on painting.