

NOGUERASBLANCHARD

Juliana Cerqueira Leite
Habitual

Madrid

Nov 18, 2023 - Jan 27, 2024



NoguerasBlanchard is delighted to announce *Habitual*, the second solo exhibition by Juliana Cerqueira Leite (1981, Yolanda) in our Madrid space.

New York based artist Cerqueira Leite is interested in the parameters of bodies and the space that they create, her tactile sculptures investigate the abilities and constraints of the human body. "Creating new forms is a mission for me," said Cerqueira Leite, "a way of not reasserting the world as it is, but of positing a transformation". Using her own body as a primary tool, Cerqueira Leite digs, combs, scratches, and pushes through her materials —which include clay, latex and plaster— to create organic forms.

For this exhibition, the artist presents a series of drawings and sculptures based on studies of everyday movements, understood as a codified physical language, learned and integrated into culture and which, like many aspects of culture itself, become automatic.



Installation view at NoguerasBlanchard Madrid



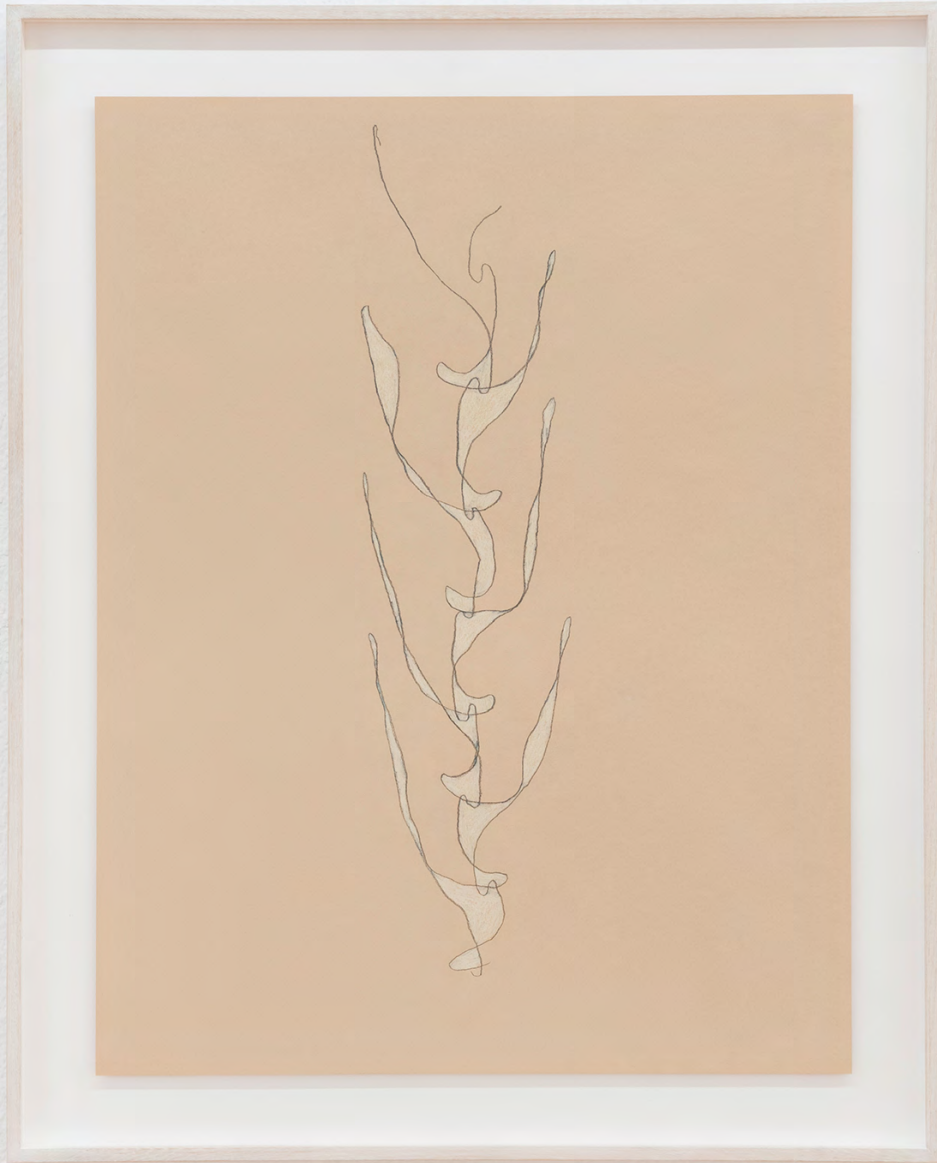
Juliana Cerqueira Leite
Lift, 2023
Steel, plaster, jesmonite, pigment, wax
113 x 78 x 20 cm



Installation view at NoguerasBlanchard Madrid

Juliana Cerqueira Leite
Stir, 2023
Steel, plaster, jesmonite, pigment, wax
80,5 × 53 × 24 cm





Juliana Cerqueira Leite
Wash hands (quick rub with fingers interwoven) 4, 2023
Graphite and colored Luminance pencil on paper
76,5 × 61,5 × 3,8 cm

The drawings are part of the series titled *Repetitive Movements that Make and Unmake the World*, in which the artist draws a line of the same gesture repeated until exceeding its original meaning. By translating the gesture on paper, Cerqueira Leite shows how the repeated and accumulated action of lifting something, stirring a drink, opening a door or turning pages, allows her to trace forms on paper that suggest anatomical figures —ribs, bones, organs— as if the anatomy of the human body were somehow imprinted in daily routines and actions.

In *Habitual*, Cerqueira Leite has drawn upon a specific gesture with which she began this series in 2016, describing different ways of performing the act of washing hands. In these new drawings we are able to recognise ourselves: we see the palm receiving the falling water, fingers intertwining and generating friction, a caress on the knuckles, an uncontrolled little finger when shaking the hand to dry it in the air... We are capable of recognising ourselves, although these gestures, so commonplace, so unconsciously repeated, have become like strangers to us. As well as a study of movement, these works stand for “a way to re-understand, to bring awareness back into and refamiliarize myself with something I do so frequently as to deserve being considered a part of who one is”.

“I realized that this everyday action, performed multiple times a day, had become so automatic as to feel almost unknown. Washing my hands involved carrying out a sequence of changing but consistently performed movements that, like other processes of my body - digestion, respiration - kind of just happened, unconsciously. The first drawing of washing hands became a study of the movement, a way to re-understand, to bring awareness back into and refamiliarize myself with something I did so frequently as to deserve being considered a part of who I am - I wash my hands- if I am defined by what I do”.

— Juliana Cerqueira Leite



Juliana Cerqueira Leite
Wash hands (quickly leaving thumbs dirty) 3, 2023
Graphite and colored Luminance pencil on paper
76,5 × 61,5 × 3,8 cm

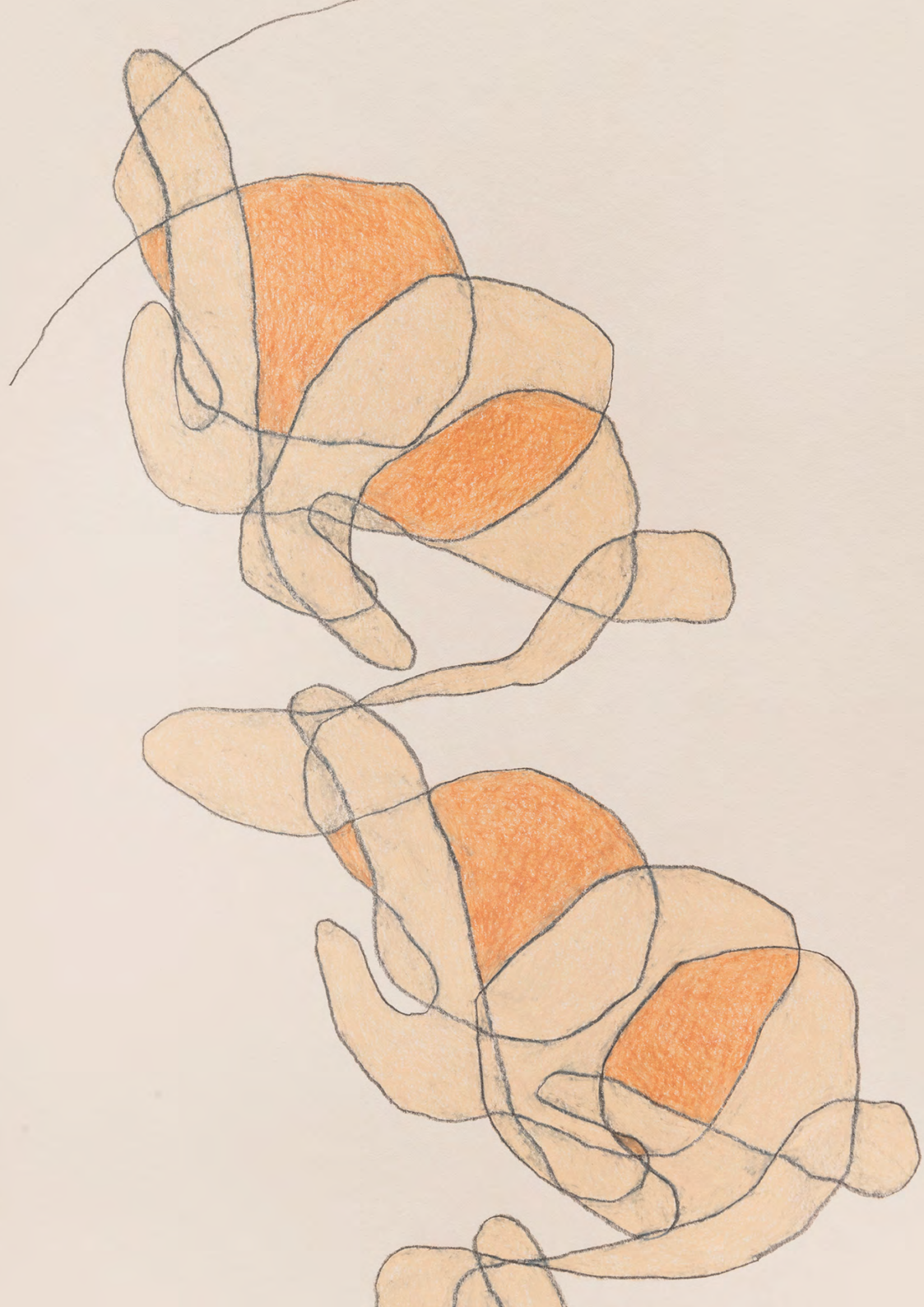


Installation view at NoguerasBlanchard Madrid

A further exploration of the translation of three-dimensional movements to the two-dimensional plane and the curiosity for the information lost in 2D drawings, Juliana Cerqueira Leite adds a new layer to her body of work, generating a new translation that brings drawing back to the sculptural medium. In this new series of sculptures the relationship of the line with the direction of movement is maintained generating "not a representational figurative sculpture, or an index of motion". The artist understands these works as models of movement "that transpose the information lost in a quick ephemeral act into a dynamic form that prioritizes specific qualities like direction, scale, the flow of attention and proprioceptive memory, than the realistic rendering of detail or the anatomy of my hands".

Juliana Cerqueira Leite
Wash hands, 2023
Steel, plaster, jesmonite, pigment, wax
160 × 40 × 19 cm







Juliana Cerqueira Leite
Wash hands (or apply lotion) 2, 2023
Graphite and colored Luminance pencil on paper
76,5 × 61,5 × 3,8 cm



Installation view at NoguerasBlanchard Madrid

Juliana Cerqueira Leite
Flip, 2023
Steel, plaster, jesmonite, pigment, wax
17,5 × 80 × 33 cm





Installation view at NoguerasBlanchard Madrid

The exhibition includes two sculptures produced on site in the gallery, that describe two daily actions, lying down and getting up, in whose forms the artist's body is revealed. "Bracketed by the absence of my body —the subject— and the absence of the objects —a chair and a bed— what is left is a trace of the interaction registered in plaster, like a verb".

Juliana Cerqueira Leite
Sit, 2023

CalCast 300 alpha plaster, stainless steel,
aluminum, glassfiber, pigment and wax
140 × 50 × 50 cm





Juliana Cerqueira Leite
Sit, 2023
Detail



Installation view at NoguerrasBlanchard Madrid

Juliana Cerqueira Leite
Lay, 2023
CalCast 300 alpha plaster, stainless steel,
aluminum, pigment and wax
96 × 117 × 53 cm





Installation view at NoguerasBlanchard Madrid

Juliana Cerqueira Leite has exhibited her works in sculpture, photography and video internationally since graduating from the Slade School of Fine Art MFA Sculpture Program (London) as recipient of the Kenneth Armitage Sculpture Prize. Cerqueira Leite was awarded the Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant in 2019 in support of her solo exhibition *Orogenesi* at the National Archaeological Museum in Naples, Italy. In 2016 she was awarded the Furla Art Prize for her contribution to the 5th Moscow Young Art Biennale. She has exhibited her work in venues such as the Sculpture Center, New York (US); Saatchi Gallery, London (UK); the 2017 Venice Biennale Antarctic Pavilion (IT); Mares House for Contemporary Culture, Maastricht (NL); Hordaland Kunstsenter, Bergen (NO) for the 2019 Bergen Assembly; Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo (BR), Cass Sculpture Foundation, Sussex (UK); T.J. Boulting Gallery, London (UK); Alma Zevi, Venice (IT), Galeria Casa Triângulo, São Paulo (BR); Regina Rex and Arsenal Contemporary, New York (US); Museion, Bolzano (IT); MuBE, São Paulo (BR); FrauenMuseum, Hittisau (AT); Ilmin Museum, Seoul (KR); Arsenal Contemporary, Montreal (CA). Her works are held in public and private collections in the Americas, Europe and Southeast Asia. Cerqueira Leite's upcoming projects for 2023 include exhibitions at the KW Institute (DE), Penn State University's the HUB-Robeson Gallery (US), and the CCBB (Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil) (BS). Juliana Cerqueira Leite currently lives and works in New York.



For further information and images please contact Cristina Spinelli
+34 91 506 34 84 or cristina@noguerasblanchard.com
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