

CRAC Alsace, Centre rhénan d'art contemporain, is located in Altkirch, France, at 18 rue du Château. Contact CRAC Alsace at +33 (0)3 89 08 82 59 and info@cracalsace.com. Access the future, present and past of CRAC Alsace via www.cracalsace.com.

Press release—From June 13 to September 15, 2024, *À l'aveugle*, a solo exhibition by Julia Spínola, curated by Elfi Turpin, in collaboration with Artium Museoa, Museum of Contemporary Art of the Basque Country.

On Thursday, June 13 at 7.30 pm, Opening Garden Party of the exhibition *À l'aveugle* in the presence of the artist. On this occasion, a free shuttle will leave from Art Basel, departure from Bleichestrasse at 7 pm, return to Basel at 10.30 pm. Reservation: m.gamboa@cracalsace.com.

For press enquiries, please contact Maria Gamboa, Head of Communication and Mediation, at m.gamboa@cracalsace.com or by phone at +33 (0)6 23 48 52 34.

Same Word is Julia Spínola's first solo exhibition in France. It is organized in collaboration with Artium Museoa, Museum of Contemporary Art of the Basque Country.

During a preparatory meeting, Julia Spínola talked us through the issues at play in this exhibition by presenting a series of workshops she has organized over the last few years, which have led her to produce series of forms and gestures with different groups of people. The imagined situations are simple. To copy something in order to understand its mechanism. To do without knowing how. To invent techniques using the most rudimentary materials available: cardboard, glue, string, tape, packaging, leaflets, saliva, hands. To organize the conditions for horizontal learning. To stimulate creativity.

To understand Julia Spínola's work is to practice it rather than discuss it, to apprehend it in the primary sense of the word, that is, to grasp it with the body. The exhibition *Same Word* is an invitation to this experience of apprehending, an invitation to "rub shoulders" with the works in order to discover their language. The two words *Same Word* could, in fact, suffice in themselves to introduce this exhibition, an exhibition in which the same form can be repeated to take on multiple contents and functions, and to exist equivocally in this multitude of uses or in the uncertainty of the perception of its outer layer. Is it a bag? Is it a fruit? Is it a smile? Is it a color? Is it solid? Is it rigid? Is it soft? Is it liquid?

Two or more words with identical pronunciation but different meanings are called homonyms. By extension, we could also call two or more artworks identical in form but different in uses homonyms. The exhibition *Same Word* then becomes a space for the metamorphosis of the same into the other: a paradise of homonymy.

—E.T., May 2024.

Julia Spínola

Born in 1979 in Madrid, Spain. Lives and works in Barcelona.

Julia Spínola conceives sculptural practice as a way of understanding and re-examining the relationship between people and the objects that surround them.

Julia Spínola presented solo exhibitions at Artium Museoa, Museum of Contemporary Art of the Basque Country (2023), Ehrhardt Flórez Gallery, (Madrid, 2023-2024), Miró Foundation (Barcelona, 2020), ARTIATX (Bilbao, 2020), CA2M Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo (Madrid, 2018) and Halfhouse (Barcelona, 2016). She participated at the DAAD Residency (Berlin, 2018-2019) and has been awarded with El Ojo Crítico de Artes Plásticas de la Radio Nacional de España price (2013).

Her work is in the collections of Reina Sofía National Museum (Madrid), Marcelino Botín Foundation (Cantabria), the Community's Contemporary Art Collection of Madrid at CA2M, La Panera Museum (Lérida) and La Casa Encendida, Montemadrid Foundation's socio-cultural center (Madrid).

Julia Spínola is represented by Ehrhardt Flórez Gallery.



View of the exhibition *Περὶ βία, ἤστυ, σοφία* (2023) at Artium Museoa, Museum of Contemporary Art of the Basque Country. Courtesy of the artist and Ehrhardt Flórez Gallery. Photo. by Nuria González.



View of the exhibition *Περὸ βία, ἤστυ, σβρία* (2023) at Artium Museoa, Museum of Contemporary Art of the Basque Country. Courtesy of the artist and Ehrhardt Flórez Gallery. Photo. by Nuria González.



View of the exhibition *Περὸ βία, ἔστι, σβία* (2023) at Artium Museoa, Museum of Contemporary Art of the Basque Country. Courtesy of the artist and Ehrhardt Flórez Gallery. Photo. by Nuria González.



Julia Spínola, *Жулик #3*, 2023. Bowl, acetate sheet, ball, bag, fibreglass veil, epoxy, cardboard box and acrylic resin. 34x46x21 cm. Courtesy of the artist and Ehrhardt Flórez Gallery.



Julia Spínola, *Вразе, сирце, шилице II* [Arm, Stream, Same II], 2019. Cardboard, metal. Variable dimensions. Courtesy of the artist and Ehrhardt Flórez Gallery.



Julia Spínola, *Ἐρασὲ Ὄβιετὸ Ἰὼσα* [Sentence Object Mouth], 2012. Variable objects and dimensions. Courtesy of the artist and Ehrhardt Flórez Gallery.



Julia Spínola, Rejamente #3 [Redness #3], 2022. Silkscreen 1/6. Variable dimensions. Courtesy of the artist and CarrerasMugica Gallery.

The art center

CRAC Alsace is a contemporary art center dedicated to experimentation and creation. Through exhibitions, residencies, publications, and outreach programmes, *CRAC Alsace* supports artistic production by promoting the encounter between artists, publics and works of art.

Access and practical information

Exhibitions are open from Tuesday to Sunday, 2 to 6 pm. Guided tours are organized on Saturdays and Sundays at 3 pm. Free entrance.

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Partners

Acción Cultural Española (AC/E) supports the exhibition through the Program for the Internationalisation of Spanish Culture.

CRAC Alsace is supported by Ville d'Altkirch, Collectivité européenne d'Alsace, Région Grand Est, DRAC Grand Est—Ministère de la Culture.

CRAC Alsace is a member of DCA and Plan d'Est.

CRAC Alsace is certified as a Contemporary Art Center of National Interest by the French Ministry of Culture.