

Press Release

Lucía Pizzani

Cecilia Brunson Projects at Frieze London

9 - 13 October, 2024



Lucía Pizzani, *Flora Totem Pino*, English black stoneware and white slip, 2023

Cecilia Brunson Projects will present new ceramic sculptures by Lucía Pizzani (b. Caracas, 1975, lives and works in London) as part of Pablo José Ramirez's curation at Frieze London.

This presentation coincides with the publication of the artist's first monograph, edited by Natalia Valencia Arango and with contributions by Nicolas Bourriaud, Jesus Torrivilla, Lisa Le Feuvre, and Lucia Pietroiusti.

Since 2013, Pizzani has collaborated with El Cercado, a pottery workshop on the Isla de Margarita, Venezuela, a village where pre-Hispanic ceramic traditions are still in practice. For Frieze, Pizzani will present new works produced this summer at a residency at El Cercado, using these ancestral methods. On the Isla de Margarita, clay is extracted from local deposits and fired on an open bonfire kiln. The rising smoke leaves its markings the clay, considered to capture the spirit of the community.

Pizzani will also present new *Flora Totems*, her largest ceramic works to date. Sites of cultural convergence, they are made from English clays and imprinted with plants such as corn and eucalyptus, as Pizzani invokes the histories of flora both native and imported to South America. These anthropomorphic, guardian-like sculptures reflect Pizzani's tendency to identify spirit-like imagery within natural forms, exploring concepts of interconnectivity across plant and animal worlds.

Pizzani's research-based practice, informed by her studies in conservation biology and her involvement in Venezuela's environmental movement, is concerned with the intertwining narratives of natural and human histories. In their material makeup, the works presented all hold stories of migration: of plants and their products, cultural practices, and the artist's own migration from Venezuela to London.

*Lucía Pizzani lives and works in London. Her work is held in important public collections including Tate, the Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros and the Essex Collection for Art from Latin America (ESCALA). In 2024, Pizzani will participate in the Harewood Biennial curated by Ligaya Salazar and Darren Pih. Pizzani's first monograph will be published in Autumn 2024.*

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