

Lucía Pizzani
Frieze London, 2024
Smoke, Stand S4
Cecilia Brunson Projects



Lucía Pizzani

b. 1975, Caracas, Venezuela

Lives and works in London

Lucía Pizzani's research-based practice is informed by her studies in conservation biology and her involvement in Venezuela's environmental movement.

Pizzani migrated from Venezuela to the UK in 2007. Much of her work is concerned with the intertwining narratives of natural and human histories, and her recent production reflects heavily on the migrant experience, finding symmetry in the stories of global migration of plant species as well as in the syncretic nature of artistic production in the UK, and the historic journeys that brought her materials together.

These recent enquiries in her practice culminate in a new body of work presented at Frieze London, made this year in both the UK and the pottery town of Isla de Margarita in Venezuela.

The presentation coincides with her ceramic installation commission for the Harewood Biennial at Harewood House in Leeds, and the publication of her first monograph, including contributions by Nicolas Bourriaud and Lucia Pietroiusti.



Pizzani's work is held in important UK and Latin American art collections, including Tate, the Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros and the Essex Collection for Art from Latin America (ESCALA). In 2024, she was commissioned to produce an installation for the Harewood Biennial, UK. Other important exhibitions include the solo survey show *Tiempo Membrana*, Hacienda la Trinidad, Caracas, Venezuela, and the group exhibition *PlanetB: Climate Change and the New Sublime*, curated by Nicolas Bourriaud, Palazzo Bolani, Venice, Italy. In 2021, Pizzani completed a residency at Fundación Casa Wabi, Puerto Escondido, Mexico and produced a permanent installation for the Puerto Escondido Botanical Garden, UMAR University of Oaxaca.

Pizzani's first monograph will be published in October 2024, edited by Natalia Valencia Arango and including contributions from Nicolas Bourriaud, Lisa le Feuvre, Lucia Pietroiusti and Jesús Torrivilla.

"In Pizzani's work, the image links different states of matter, an intermediate between sun and vegetation, fire and earth, animate and inanimate. For her, plants show themselves from the onset to be libidinal connections within a vital network, and art as an erotica of living surfaces."

-Nicolas Bourriaud



Flora Totems

At Frieze London, Pizzani will present three *Flora Totems*, her largest ceramic works to date.

The *Flora Totems* are modular ceramic sculptures, designed to be shown indoors or outdoors. 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.

Lucía Pizzani, *Flora Totem Raíces [Roots]*, 2024, Whichford earthenware, black slip, steel base, 160 x 50 x 50 cm (63 x 19 3/4 x 19 3/4 in)







In her work, Pizzani considers the constant flux of ecosystems and biodiversity around the world. Deforestation and the planting of monocultures such as pine and eucalyptus have largely contributed to the diminishing biodiversity of South America's rainforests. Meanwhile, English gardens, the houseplants available in British garden centres and the botanical gardens and greenhouses across Europe reflect the enchantment with, and reliance on, flowers, crops and medicinal plants brought to Europe through colonial exploration and trade.

For Frieze, Pizzani has produced her first totems in red clay. Made at Whichford Pottery in Warwickshire, they use Whichford clay, a hard and durable mix from the Cotswolds, the Potteries and Suffolk with a rich terracotta tone. Here, this clay is predominantly used to produce flowerpots, servicing National Trust gardens across the UK. Pizzani deliberately references the connotations of these formal English gardens, while adorning the totems with slip and texturing them with the seeds of plants such as corn and eucalyptus, as she invokes the histories of flora both native and imported to South America.

Lucía Pizzani, *Flora Totem Ramales [Branches]*, 2024,
Whichford earthenware, black slip, steel base, 90 x 54 x 54 cm
(35 3/8 x 21 1/4 x 21 1/4 in)





Lucía Pizzani
Flora Totem Maiz [Corn], 2023
English stoneware, white slip, steel
base, imprinted with corn
91.5 x 48 x 46 cm
36 x 18 7/8 x 18 1/8 in





Lucía Pizzani
Flora Totem Pino, 2023
English stoneware, white slip, steel
base, imprinted with corn
138 x 50 x 50 cm
54 3/8 x 19 3/4 x 19 3/4 in

Lucía Pizzani
Flora Totem Eucalipto, 2023
English stoneware, white slip, steel
base, imprinted with corn
104 x 35 x 35 cm
41 x 13 3/4 x 13 3/4 in







Ser Mixto, Isla de Margarita terracotta and English black stoneware, 45 x 26 x 21 cm (17 3/4 x 10 1/4 x 8 1/4 in)



El Cercado, Isla de Margarita

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, in contrast to the *Flora Totems* produced using traditional British craft techniques.

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's clay sculptures are frequently based around plant forms and the atavistic symbols found in the earliest human-made images, such as cave paintings across the world. She exploits our instinctive comprehension of such symbols, existing in art throughout human history, in contrast to barriers in contemporary culture to connect with plant life and vegetal intelligence.



Lucía Pizzani
Margarita Tabachin, 2024
Isla de Margarita terracotta, treated
flamboyant seed pods and dried
palm
45 x 33 x 25 cm
17 3/4 x 13 x 9 7/8 in



Lucía Pizzani, *Seeds Culebra [Snake Seeds]*, 2024, 113 x 15 x 10 cm (44 1/2 x 5 7/8 x 4 in), Isla de Margarita terracotta



Cíclope Tabachin, Isla de Margarita terracotta and flamboyant seed pods, 55 x 22 x 18 cm (21 5/8 x 8 5/8 x 7 1/8 in)



Barro semilla, Isla de Margarita terracotta and seedpod, 38 x 18 x 18 cm (15 x 7 1/8 x 7 1/8 in)



Solares series

Pizzani's Solares series comprise of a form of solar print produced using dried plants and a camera-less photosensitive process. She applies ink to paper and then places plant matter on top of the pigment. Some are anthropomorphic, like spirits of the vegetal world, whilst others appear as universal symbols such as spirals and snakes. The darker areas of pigment reveal the brushstrokes that applied the ink, and the lighter areas demarcate the presence and subsequent absence of the plant material that helped to create the image.

These works were made in Isla de Margarita, Venezuela during her residency this summer, using local, native plant material.





Lucía Pizzani
Solares Dátil [Date palm],
2024
Photosensitive ink on cotton
paper
48 x 36 cm
(18 7/8 x 14 1/8 in)
£4,800



Lucía Pizzani
Solares RiquiRiqui, 2024
photosensitive ink on cotton
paper
48 x 36 cm 18 7/8 x 14 1/8 in)



Lucía Pizzani
Solares Jojoto [Red Corn], 2024
photosensitive ink on cotton
paper
48 x 36 cm 18 7/8 x 14 1/8 in)

Further Information:

Lucía Pizzani In Conversation with Lucia Pietroiusti (Head of Ecologies, Serpentine)

In June 2024, Lucia Pietroiusti led a conversation at Cecilia Brunson Projects about Pizzani's exhibition at the gallery, *Rites, Seeds and Refuge*. The conversation expands on Pizzani's recent work, her environmental activism and the role art plays in this.

Watch In Conversation here: <https://www.ceciliabrunsonprojects.com/exhibitions/103/>

Press:

New York Times: <https://www.ceciliabrunsonprojects.com/usr/library/documents/main/lucia-pizzani-new-york-times-october-2024.pdf>

Frieze: <https://www.ceciliabrunsonprojects.com/usr/library/documents/main/lucia-pizzani-frieze-september-2024.pdf>

Download artist bio & CV:

<https://www.ceciliabrunsonprojects.com/usr/library/documents/main/luci-a-pizzani-bio.pdf>

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Lucía Pizzani

Born 1975 Caracas, Venezuela; Lives and works in London

Education

2008-09 MA Fine Arts, Chelsea College of Arts, London, UK

2001-02 Certificate in Conservation Biology, CERC Columbia University, New York, USA

1993-98 BA in Visual Communications, Universidad Católica Andres Bello, Caracas, Venezuela

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2024 *Rites, Seeds and Refuge*, Cecilia Brunson Projects, London, UK

2022 *Tiempo Membrana, survey show of works from 2008-2022*, Hacienda La Trinidad, Caracas, Venezuela

2022 *Manto*, Galería La Cometa. Madrid, Spain

2022 *Seres Vegetales*, Casa Wabi; Puerto Escondido Botanical Garden, Puerto Escondido, Oaxaca, Mexico

2019 *Coraza*, Cecilia Brunson Projects, London, UK

2019 *Coraza*, Fundación Marso, Mexico City, Mexico

2018 *Limbica*, ZonaMaco Solo projects, Zonamaco Sur, Mexico City, Mexico

2017 *Broader Implications*, Photofusion, London, UK

2017 *Descent, House of Egorn*, Berlin, Germany

2015 *A Garden for Beatrix*, Cecilia Brunson Projects, London, UK

2014 *El Adorador de la Imagen*, Sala Mendoza, Caracas, Venezuela

2013 *Mariposario*, Oficina #1, Caracas, Venezuela

2011 *Orchis*, Galería Fernando Zubillaga, Caracas, Venezuela

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2024 *Harewood Biennial 2024*, Harewood House, Leeds, UK
- 2022 *PlanetB: Climate Change and the New Sublime*, curated by Nicolas Bourriaud, Palazzo Bolanni, Venice, Italy
- 2022 *Cabilla*, curated by Sol Calero, Tenerife Espacio de las Artes, Tenerife, Spain
- 2022 *Peckham 24*, Photography Festival, London, UK
- 2021 *La Trayectoria Inédita*, Hacienda La Trinidad Parque Cultural. Caracas, Venezuela
- 2020 *MECARO L'Amazonie dans la Collection Petitgas*, MOCO, Montpellier, France
- 2019 *Fotonoviembre: Bienal Internacional de Fotografía*, Tenerife Espacio de las Artes, Tenerife, Spain
- 2019 *Amazones*, Latin-American Women artists from Catherine Petitgas Collection, Art Paris, France
- 2017 *Covert Corporeality*, ArtExchange, University of Essex, Colchester, UK
- 2013 *XII Premio Mendoza*, Sala Mendoza, Caracas, Venezuela

Public Collections

Tate, UK

Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros (CPPC), USA; Venezuela

Essex Collection for Art from Latin America (ESCALA), UK

Museum Of Latin American Art (MOLAA), Los Angeles, USA

Colección Archivo Fotografía Urbana, Venezuela

Banco Mercantil Collection, Venezuela

Juan Yarur Collection-FAMA, Ama Foundation, Chile