

RU Public Programs



**...an instinct to change things...,
a group exhibition with**

Aurelija Bulaukaite

Paola Fernanda Guzmán Figueroa

Sead Kazanxhiu

Amira Ziyani

Curated by Alexis Mendoza

Location: Trotter&Sholer (168 Suffolk St, New York, NY 10002)

On view: Wednesday August 23 - Saturday August 26, 2023 | 12:00 - 6:00pm

Opening: Wednesday August 23, 2023 | 6:00 - 8:00pm

[Link to information on RU website](#)



*Left to right: Aurelija Bulaukaite, Sead Kazanxhiu, Amira Ziyani, Paola
Fernanda Guzmán Figueroa*



Curatorial text by Alexis Mendoza

Art has long been a powerful medium for expressing complex ideas and emotions, and it has the ability to transcend time and societal boundaries. This exhibition dives into the intertwining concepts of timelessness in art, while also examining the social aspects of identity and gender. The exhibition also explores how art engages with issues of cultural conflicts, prejudice, and exclusion, and how it can serve as a catalyst for change and reflection. The artistic production of Aurelija Bulaukaite, Paola Fernanda Guzmán Figueroa, Sead Kazanxhiu, and Amira Ziyar, examine the process of the emancipation of art-making aimed to safeguard their own interpretation to enable the option of self-intervention.

This project encompasses the essence of transcending temporal boundaries to capture the human experience. Simultaneously, it engages with the audience, providing a platform for marginalized voices. "...an instinct to change things...", a collective effort to address political norms, activism, discrimination, and displacement, makes it a powerful instrument for change, challenging oppressive systems and fostering empathy. Calling for a more inclusive and compassionate world, where creativity and expression serve as catalysts for social progress. Simultaneously, these four artists played a vital role in exploring and challenging social constructs related to discerning and epicene. Through these visual representations the artists have confronted societal norms, racism, and stereotypes, offering alternative perspectives and narratives.

About Alexis Mendoza



Alexis Mendoza is a Cuban artist, writer and independent curator, based in New York City. His multidisciplinary work focuses on painting, sculpture, printmaking, drawing and installation. His art explores the transitioning and overlapping of colors as a metaphor for the Afro-Cuban customs, rituals and traditions. As a curator his investigation has been focused on contemporary arts and culture, with a particular interest in exploring issues of identity, representation, and social justice. Over the years, he worked with a diverse range of artists and organizations to create exhibitions, performances, and other cultural events that challenge viewers to engage with complex issues in new and meaningful ways.

Opening and Installation Shots



Works on view by Aurelija Bulaukaite



gastronomic glamour, oil on canvas, 57x41 inches, 2023

Works on view by Paola Fernanda Guzmán Figueroa



Nanita, para siempre & Braiding the future, installation with two video projections, stereo sound, 2023

Works on view by Sead Kazanxhiu



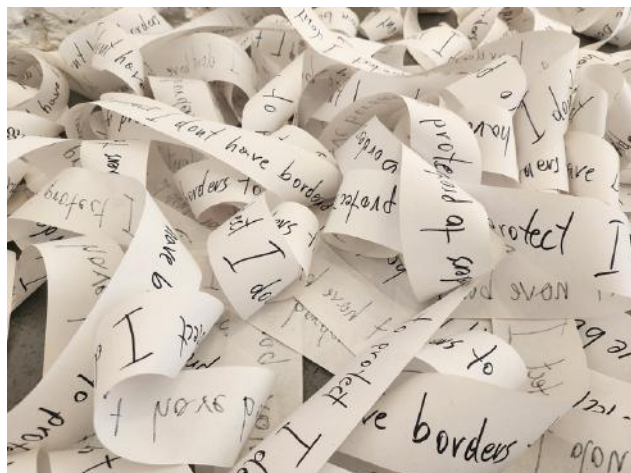
Partial installation shot



*In between transition
Drawings on paper, 2018-2023*



"Shtepizeza" 2014-2023, Small house, Home sweet home, multimedia installation, bronze, 2x2x2 inches, 2014-2023



Borders Invoice, paper rolls, variable dimensions, 2017-2023

Works on view by Amira Ziyen

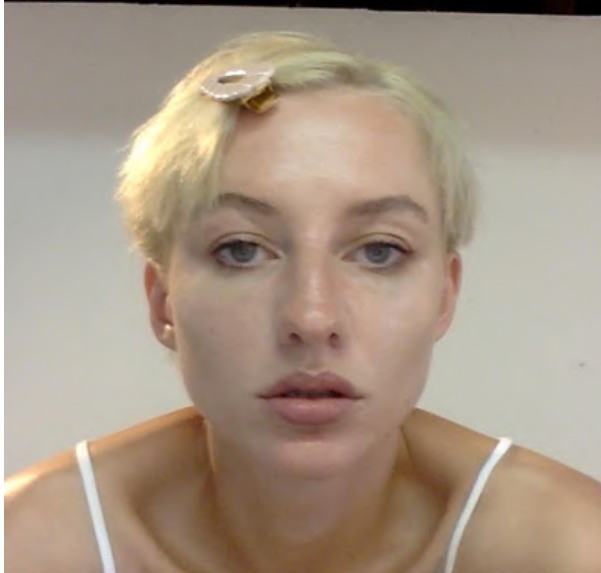


Left: Stairway To Heaven, 70x35 inches, 2017. Right: Shirin, 40x40 inches, 2017



Works from portfolio, 2016-2020

About Aurelija Bulaukaite



Aurelija Bulaukaite is an artist from Lithuania who resides in Vilnius and works in unconventional art forms. She delves into the intersection of idealistic dreams and the often harsh realities of life, creating jarring contrasts between mundane daily routines and the imaginative possibilities they hold. Her artistic interests include the concepts of timelessness and impermanence, as well as the aesthetics of internet usage and performative cultures.

About Paola Fernanda Guzmán Figueroa



Paola Fernanda Guzmán Figueroa is a visual artist and filmmaker. She works with film, analogue experimentations, animation, installations, and performance. Her art reflects and raises issues related to fluidity, boundaries, family, and aging. Paola's work is based on the narratives and the lived realities of her family members and the geographical distance among them. Through her art, Paola intends to bring situations, stories, and bodies in constant motion, dissolve any frontier and connect the past with the present.

About Sead Kazanxhiu



Kazanxhiu's practice as an multidisciplinary artist and more generally as a cultural producer, reflects his position as an Albanian Roma citizen. Through his profound awareness of the ways that social and political hierarchies within the nation-state reinforce unequal privileges and prevent participation, Kazanxhiu's practice foregrounds and addresses issues of politics, activism, prejudice, exclusion, and the environment. His image making represents the efforts of a single artist devoted to restoring the dignity of a cultural group that has been forcefully and unjustly marginalized within the structures of European democracy.

About Amira Ziyane



Amira Ziyane's artwork focuses on staged photography which emphasizes the act of the physical character's absence by evincing it with the high presence of the scene's objects. Women from her Israeli Druze society are mainly the object of Ziyane's art beside other social aspects such as identity and gender in the contemporary Druze culture.