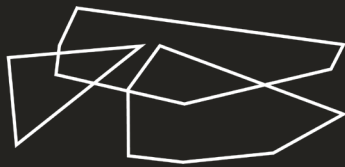




ESPRONCEDA
ARTE
LAGUNA PRIZE

Artwork by Dalia Baassiri





ESPRONCEDA
INSTITUTE of ART & CULTURE



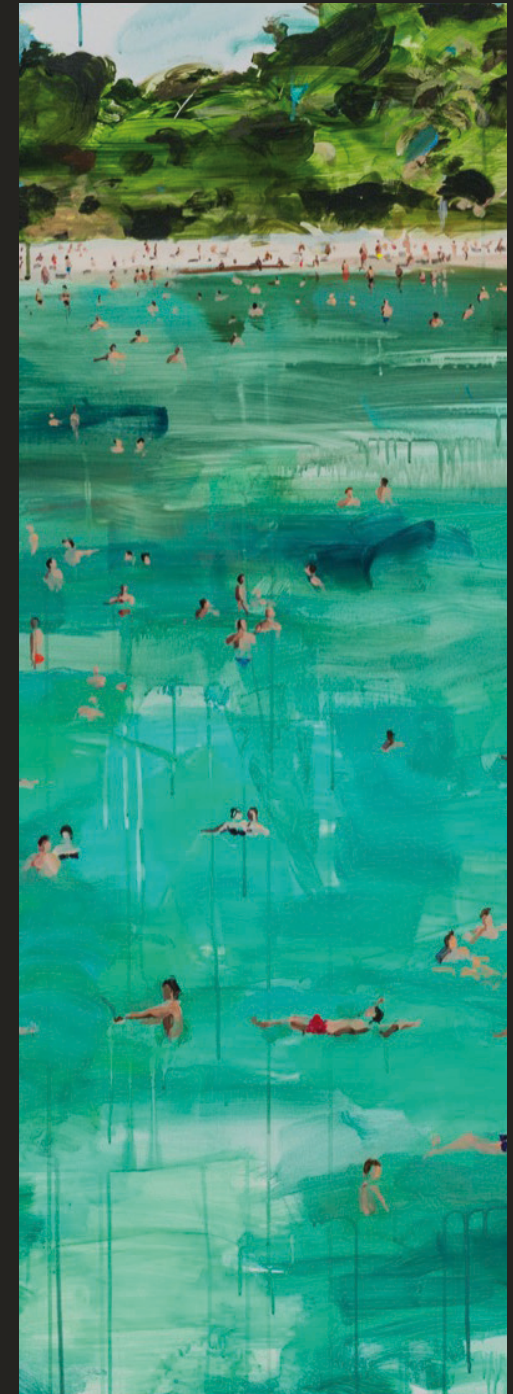
ARTE LAGUNA
PRIZE 2019.20

Real life

Winner of Special Prize Arte Laguna 2017
Sanja Milenkovic

Sanja Milenkovic was born on 17 November in 1983, in Nis, Serbia. At the age of 18 she moved to Milan. She graduated in painting and completed her post-graduated studies in Visual Arts at the Academy of Fine Arts Brera in Milan, Italy in 2009. She has had numerous exhibitions in Italy and abroad. Currently she lives and works in Milan.

"My inspiration comes from different constance scenes and situations from the real life. The majori- ty of the urban and almost conceptual paintings I am creating, is a research on my memory and how snapshots shape can change and create something new. In my works people are playing a major role. I like the moment when the painting is changing and suddenly there is a perfect disor- der and some imaginary conversation between the people. The sensitivity is revealed in the ability to perceive the condition of nature and translate it into images and consonants colours. Perfect mix is achieved between nearly realistic painted human figures and almost abstract environment. Often I use perspective as a main and fundamental element of composition."







Real Life is an exhibition based on a personal experience in living Barcelona of the Serbian artist Sanja Milenkovic, winner of the International Prize Arte Laguna, Venice. The project will be on how common life, human experience, people and nature can become a narrative, a human experience through a poetic imaginary vision of common people and landscape, where the main artistic language is the figurative art. As the artist says: "My inspiration comes from different constancy scenes and situations from the real life. I like the moment when the painting is changing and suddenly there is a perfect disorder

In the words of Saatchi art curator, Jessica McQueen, "Sanja explores the human condition in her vibrant paintings. She focuses on the role of an individual in the urban environment, juxtaposing quotidian metropolitan scenes of traffic, pedestrians, and crowds with natural elements like parks and shrubbery." The project will be in cooperation with Arte Laguna Prize, Venice and curated by Savina Tarsitano.





Photos credits Vitor Schietti

Vesuvius

Winner of Special Prize Arte Laguna 2018
Dalia Baassiri

Dalia Baassiri was born in 1981 in Lebanon, where she currently resides. In 2003 she graduated from the Lebanese American University, with a degree in graphic design, and obtained her Masters in Fine Arts at the Chelsea College of Arts in London, where she also participated in several group exhibitions.

As a multidisciplinary artist, drawing has been her main tool of expression, alongside with painting and photography. At Galerie Janine Rubeiz (Beirut), in 2014 she participated in the exhibitions Clin d'oeil and Nostalgic Imagery. In 2017, Baassiri had her first solo exhibition, Wiped Off, at Galerie Janine Rubeiz. Her work has also been exhibited by the gallery at Beirut Art Fair and Art Abu Dhabi.

Baassiri has carried out artistic residences in Italy, Germany and the United States, and in 2018 she was awarded twice by the 12th edition of Arte Laguna –in the category of artist in residence– to reside in the printing laboratory Fallani Venezia (Italy)), as well as in Espronceda Center for Art & Culture, in Barcelona. Her work is exhibited permanently at Galerie Janine Rubeiz.





Photos credits Vitor Schietti

Dalia Baassiri explores her world through daily activities that have their core of action in the household, understood as a home and a protective refuge. This process gets the artist to question the meaning of everyday life, the interiority of the human soul and the adversities of life: conflicts and natural catastrophes that lead to destruction.

Furthermore, she turns the graphite into a mediator, since, in addition to its conventional use as a drawing tool, it is used as a metaphor for the dust and dirt of our daily life. Therefore, the artist discovers a new energy in everyday life, which leads her to reconsider the function of objects and transforms her personal experience into a universal reflection on the fragility of human existence, where home symbolizes vulnerability.

With *Vesuvius* Baassiri continues her research project about the ordinary, the dirt and destruction caused by man and nature. But here she uses the unpredictability of events as a metaphor, symbolized by the volcanic incandescence understood as a radical change of the ordinary. Thus, the abandoned houses of Beirut and the natural catastrophes are translated into a universal experience of the ephemeral and the instability of our time. An investigation that Dalia Baassiri, as a resident artist in Espronceda, also links to her stay and the ordinary life in Barcelona. The project is carried out in cooperation with the Arte Laguna Prize of Venice.



Photos credits Vitor Schietti

People

Winner of Special Prize Arte Laguna 2019
Clara Lotta Dittmer

Clara Lotta Dittmer was born in Haburg, Germany in 1992. Clara received her degree in painting at HAW Hamburg. She also received a scholarship and a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors.

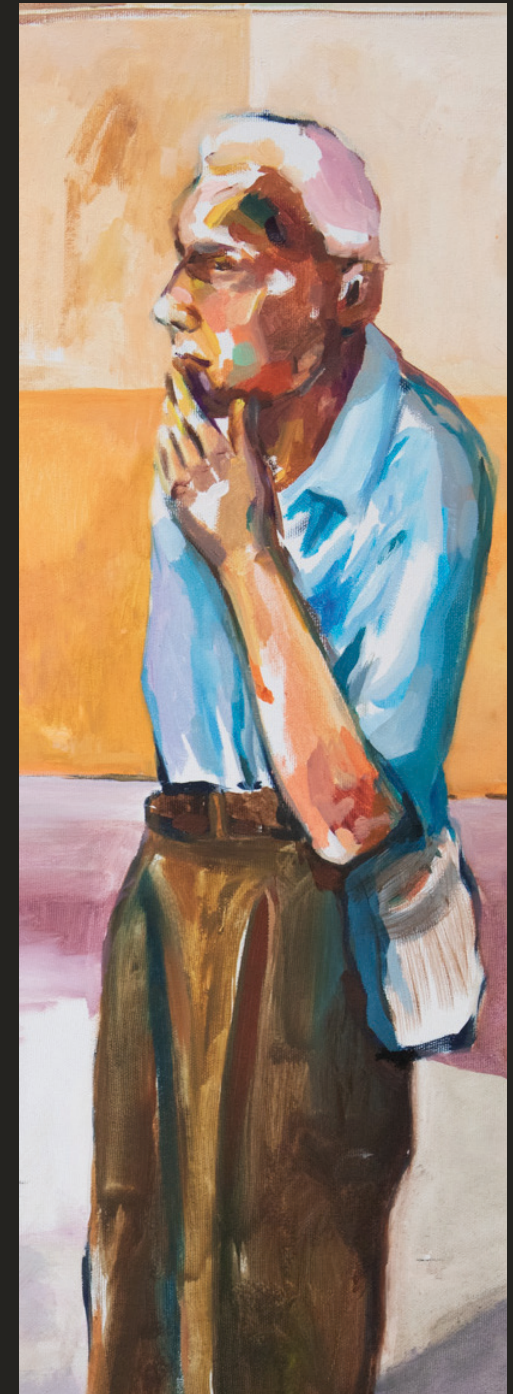
She also studied at the Academia di Belle Arti in Bologna, Italy. Clara has exhibited her prize-winning work in Germany, and she is one of the winners of the coveted, Arte Laguna Prize, in Venice, Italy in 2019.





Photos credits Vitor Schietti

With, *People*, Clara Lotta Dittmer aims to explore the mystery and the complexity of human being and existence. Her main interest is to describe and observe the story and voices of people, and their daily lives on the streets. Any emotions, fears, joys or feelings that are behind a face. Clara wants to explore Barcelona, lose herself in its streets, listen to the city and the sounds of the people, in order to reproduce not only a simple portrait: but a human story. Her paintings will permit the audience to reflect themselves into a mirror, and to be captured by hidden emotions. Clara Dittmer wants to play with the spatiality of human feelings through figurative and abstracts paintings. *People* is not just a collection of portraits, but a bridge between emotions, memories, identities, places, stories and more.



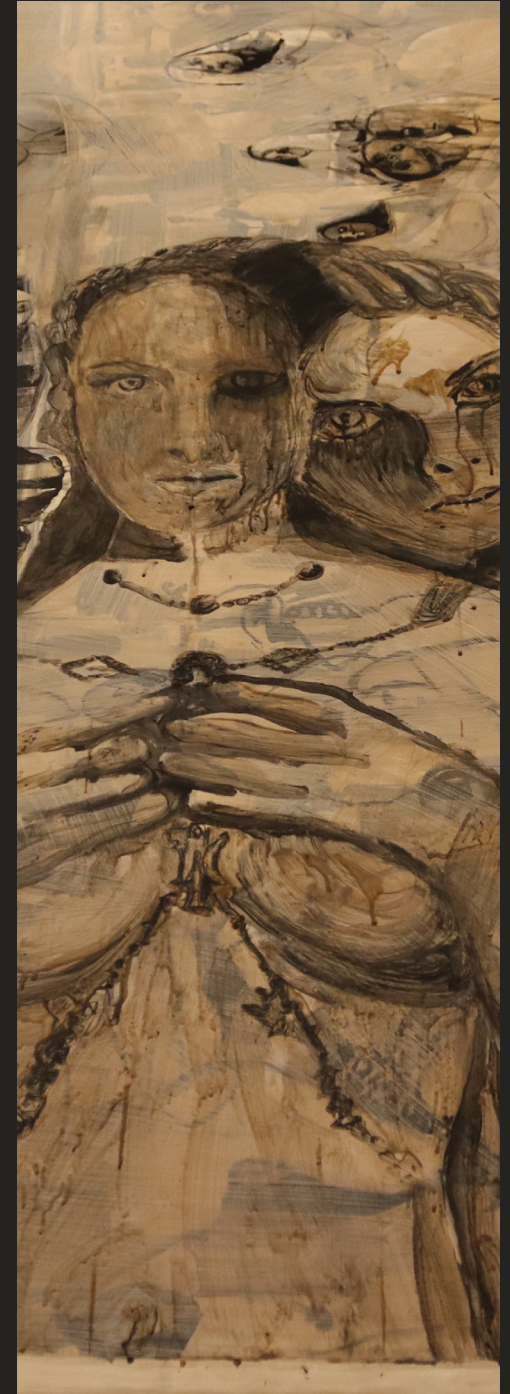


Photos credits Vitor Schietti

Open Studio

Yohy Suárez

Yohandrys Suárez Peña (Yohy), (Cuba; 1989) is a young Cuban artist who currently lives and works in Havana. Since he graduated with honors from the San Alejandro Academy of Fine Arts (2010), he has opted for a work whose fundamental focus is the anthropological value of the image. He has developed a type of painting in which the photographic and the drawing merge in a language of great expressive precision. He draws attention to the classic breath that floods his canvases, seasoned with a type of pathos that ranges from perversion to self-indulgence. The Havana squares, the most emblematic buildings of the capital, the historical settings for excellence are reconstructed by him as narrative spaces of great archaeological value. His peculiar way of dialoguing with urban reality is the product of his first aesthetic experiences. His childhood occurred in a building located right in front of the National Capitol, where his grandmother worked for a few years as an elevator operator. In those years, the urban landscape available from his terrace was contaminated with images of the city's golden past, stories that reached him through the popular voice.

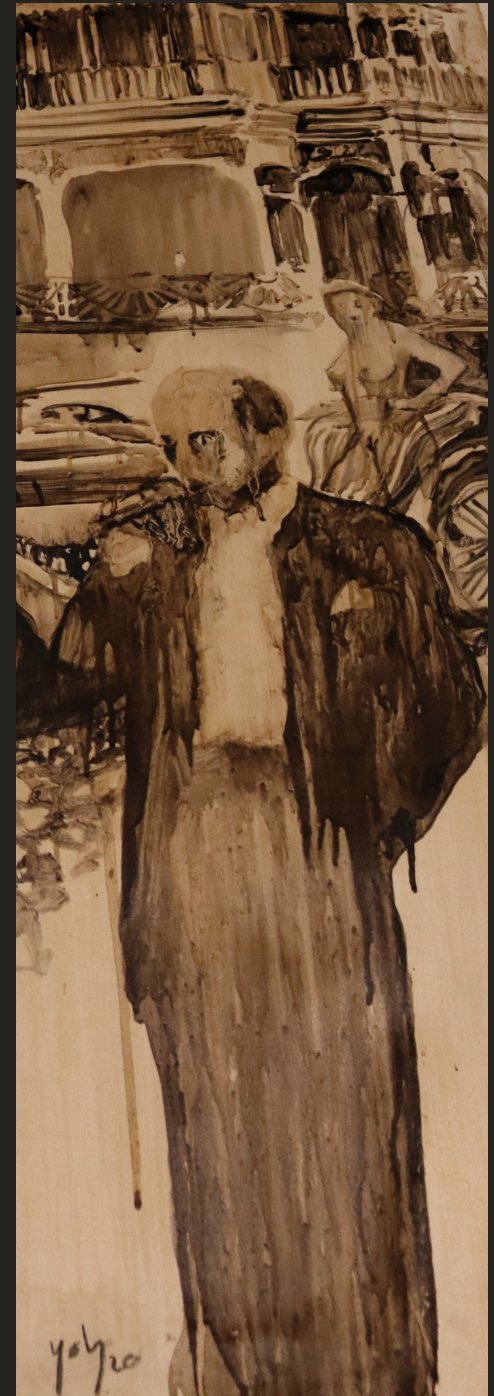




Photos credits Vitor Schiatti

Foto de divulgação: Café Vale Alegre
1990

Among his main exhibitions are, 2020: "Unpredictable Chronicles". Isolo Gallery 17. Verona. Italy, (staff); "Felices los Normales" Galiano Gallery, Centro Habana, Havana, Cuba, (Collective); "Caprichos" Havana Creative Spaces. Old Havana. Havana. Cuba, (Staff); 2019: "Havana: images of five centuries". National museum of fine arts. Universal Art Building. Havana. Cuba, (Collective); "Virtues". N.G. Art Gallery. Panama, (Collective); "Young Havana". Hotel Big Apple Kempinski. Havana. Cuba, (Collective); International Biennial of Contemporary Art" Mantova Artexpo". Francesco Gonzaga Diocesan Museum. Mantua. Italy, (Collective); Collateral to the Venice Biennale. "Horizons of utopia". Zenobius Palace. Venice. Italy, (Collective); XIII Biennial of Havana. resonance. Galiano Gallery, Centro Habana, Havana, Cuba, (Collective); Collateral to the XIII Biennial of Havana. artifice. NG Art Gallery, Vedado, Havana, Cuba, (Collective); 2018: "The arrival", Oswaldo Guayasamín Museum House, 23rd International Festival of Dance in Urban Landscapes, Old Havana City in Motion. Cuba, (Staff); "Meraki". N.G. Art Gallery. City of Panama. Panama, (Collective); "The land given". Cuban Pavilion. Havana, Cuba, (Collective); Contest "Post-it 5", Galiano Gallery, Centro Habana, Havana, Cuba, (Collective); "Factory of Cuban Art" FAC, Havana, Cuba, (Collective); "Come, Come closer", Havana Collage Gallery, Cuba, (Collective); "XX Habano Festival", Palace of Conventions, Havana, Cuba, (Collective); 2017: "La gran barricada", Gallery 7 and 22, Miramar-Playa, Havana, Cuba, (Personal); "Post-it 4" Contest, Galiano Gallery, Centro Habana, Havana, Cuba. "Ira Mention", (Collective); 2016: "Visitaciones I", El Templete Restaurant, Old Havana, Cuba, (Staff); 2015: "Second Landscape Salon 2015", La ACACIA Gallery, Miramar Playa, Havana, Cuba, (Collective). His works are part of collections such as: Los Carbonell Foundation, Panama City, Panama; Viñas-Gil Collection, Spain; José Álvarez Collection, Spain; also in private collections in Germany, the United States, Italy and Portugal. He has been awarded "The International Prize Caravaggio" 2018. Milan, Italy.





Photos credits Vitor Schietti

Patterns of experience

Winner of Special Prize Arte Laguna 2020

Hee Sook Kim

Hee Sook Kim is an internationally recognized artist who has received numerous awards including Fleisher Art Memorial Wind Challenge Award (Philadelphia), Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant (New York), and Leeway Foundation Grant (Philadelphia). She also has had solo exhibitions including Philadelphia International Airport (PA), Youngeun Museum of Contemporary Art (Korea), Phillips Museum of Art (Lancaster, PA), Marwick-Boyd Fine Arts Center (PA), She had two person shows at Indianapolis Art Center, Lincoln Center (Colorado), and Museum of Natural Sciences (North Carolina).

Her work appeared at exhibitions at Osaka City Museum and Fukuoka Prefectural Museum (Japan), Bronx Museum, Drawing Center, Asian American Art Center, and Queens Museum (New York), Korean Cultural Center (Washington DC). Additionally, her work has been shown at National Museum of Modern Art (Korea), Taipei City Museum of Art (Taiwan). Ms. Kim's pieces are in many collections throughout the United States, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and Germany and numerous reviews were published nationally and internationally.





Photos credits Luca Roxana Emilia

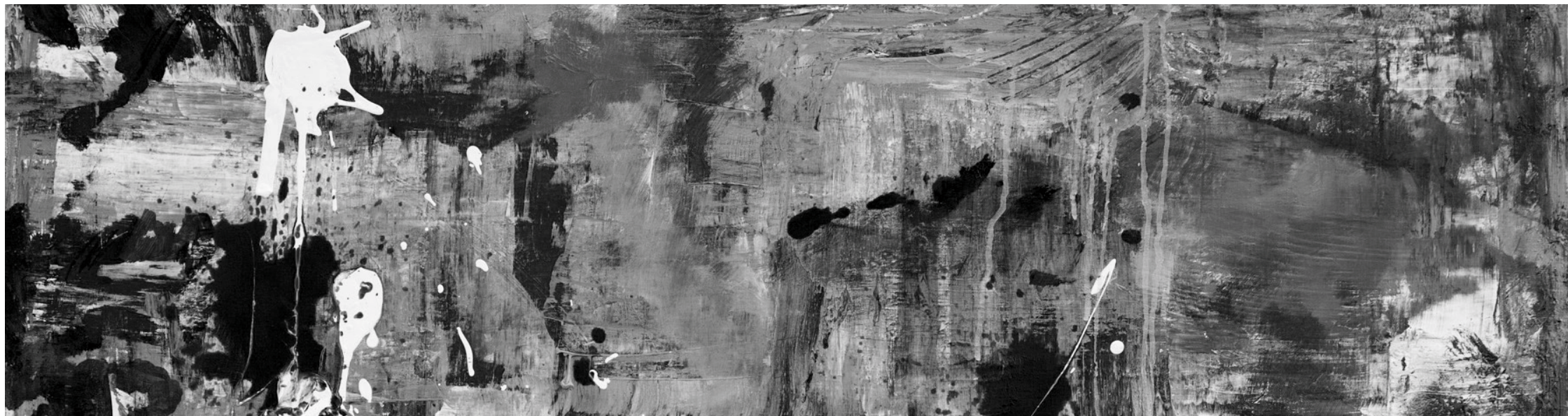
Hee Sook Kim's work leads us into the world of nature, taking care of ourselves, healing ourselves from the catastrophic events that surround us. The work produced during her artist residency at Espronceda, takes us to the Mediterranean world through a gaze towards the West and the East, two worlds that dialogue and meet. The feminine rises between colors and materials to also remind us of being a woman, the right of one's own expression and freedom to exist.

Hee Sook Kim decides due to the attack of the twin towers, in New York, the atrocity of those acts, the human brutality, to contribute through her art to take care of humanity. If art has a mission, it is precisely to remind us who we are, the beauty that surrounds us beyond the atrocities. Covid has led Hee Sook Kim to reflect again on the relationship between plants, nature and man, and how to take care of the soul and the body. In this phase of isolation her research intensifies the colors that rise with such beauty as to bring us back to the natural world. The period in Barcelona, the architecture, the colors, the observation of Gaudi's work, leads her back to that meticulous research of the particular, of the detail, of the contemplation and observation to rebalance the relationship between nature and man. The works presented in the exhibition "Patterns of Experience" have been created during her stay and journey in Barcelona, letting the place, the culture convey new elements, new colors and nuances in this series of paintings. The video installation by the composer Christopher Shultis reaches out to us in this journey that together with the works of Kim Hee Sook are completed in a single work that pushes us to enter slowly in the natural world.





Photos credits Luca Roxana Emilia



ESPRONCEDA
INSTITUTE of ART & CULTURE
encontrArte Association, NIF: G66433111
Carrer D'Espronceda 326 Nave 4,5 & 1008027 Barcelona,
Spain
info@espronceda.net
www.espronceda.net



Artwork by Dalia Baassiri