



SUMAC SPACE, AN INITIATIVE DEVOTED TO CONTEMPORARY ART PRACTICES OF THE MIDDLE EAST, SHOWS ITS NINTH DIGITAL EXHIBITION:

Almacén de pequeñas interacciones entre grandes regiones y sus personas

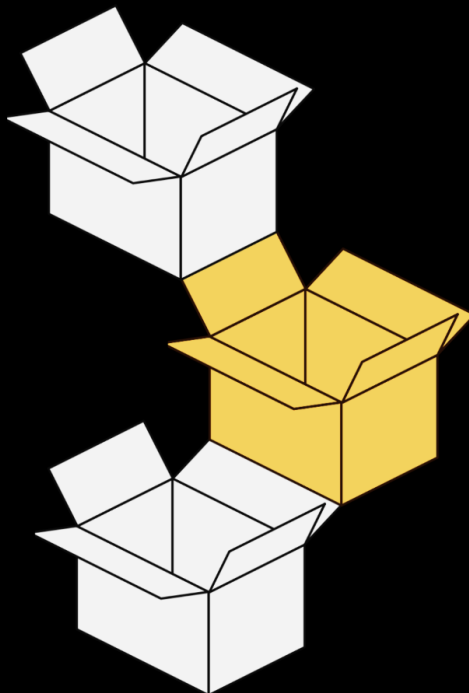
المخزن التفاعلات الصغيرة بين المناطق الكبيرة وشعبها

Armazém de pequenas interações entre grandes regiões e suas pessoas

[storage of small interactions between large regions and their people]

THE EXHIBITION IS ON VIEW AT WWW.SUMAC.SPACE FROM APRIL 26th TO JULY 5th, 2022, curated by Daniel H. Rey

'akhi huna (Sobradinho-Brasilia), Adrian Pepe (Beirut), Ana Escobar (Dubai), Andrea Salerno (Abu Dhabi), Cristina Serrano (Bogotá), Enrique Yidi (Barranquilla) and Sofia Basto Riouse (Dubai).



Vol 1: 26 April - 05 July 2022

www.sumac.space

ALMACÉN

de pequeñas interacciones entre grandes regiones y sus personas

التفاعلات الصغيرة بين المناطق الكبيرة وشعبها

المخزن

ARMAZÉM

de pequenas interações entre grandes regiões e suas pessoas

'akhi huna
Andrea Salerno
Enrique Yidi

Adrian Pepe

Ana Escobar Saavedra
Cristina Serrano
Sofia Basto Riouse

Presented on:



Mentored by:



Curated by
Daniel H. Rey

Almacén المخزن **Armazém** (@almakhzen123) presents and stores the archives and current explorations of artists, craft makers, chefs, musicians that have ties to both Latin America and the Arabic-speaking world. Playing on the

Spanish word “almacén” and Portuguese “armazém” inherited from the Arabic “al-makhzen”, meaning “storage, stock, or warehouse”, this first volume focuses on micro and powerful interactions between the two regions by way of their peoples.

Daniel H. Rey looks at cross-pollination between regions and how Arab–Latin and Latin–Arab are not just hyphens or “identities” but, rather, lifestyles produced, recreated, and amplified by people. By consequence, he proposes the terms Lárabe and Lçtin as experiences embodied by crafts, visual languages, music, and recipes that highlight hybridity, a daily reality shared by many. The exhibition seeks to situate itself historically, tracing heritages, genealogies, and contemporary migratory paths by way of the creative resources presented.

'akhi huna present their album *Aleluiá*, which shares references of a Brazilian family history with Lebanese roots. Honduras-born **Adrian Pepe** shares about *Entangled Matters*, in which he works with Awassi wool and its millenary history in Lebanon. **Ana Escobar Saavedra** draws parallels between rings and marriage alliances in Dubai’s gold souq and pre-Columbian alloys. **Andrea Salerno** finds in Dubai the accidental culmination of her *Migratory Birds* cuisine project once initiated in Rosario, Argentina. **Cristina Serrano** revisits her years in Abu Dhabi with a street food menu cooked in her kitchen in Bogotá. **Enrique Yidi** restages the arrival of Arab migrants to Puerto Colombia with his mastery of mother-of-pearl crafts in Barranquilla-based Taller Palestina. **Sofia Basto Riouse** visualizes her growing relationship with the Khaleeji desert as a painter longing for Colombia’s green lands of Huila.

For developing the project on a conceptual and research level, the curator has received mentorship from **Instituto de Cultura Arabe de Colombia** to study and identify past, current, and foreseeable interactions between the Arab world and Latin America. The first step has been to find the language to define what each region’s name implies and what their boundaries are, as well as their fluidity.

ARTISTS

'akhi huna, b. 2020, Sobradinho, Distrito Federal, Brazil.

Lives and works in Sobradinho, Brazil.

'akhi huna is a musical duo formed by brothers Mansur JP and Dila Caju. Playing on the Arabic phrasing for “my brother is here,” the project kicked off in 2020 when the duo shared the same house again after living in separate continents. Since then, they have released two mixtapes, *Aleluiá*

(October 2020) and Várzea Mini Jumbo (April 2021). 'akhi huna is pioneering a niche wave of Latin American creatives returning to their Arab roots for conceptual inspiration.

Adrian Pepe, b. 1984, La Ceiba, Honduras.

Lives and works in Beirut, Lebanon.

Adrian's work focuses on craftsmanship from sociocultural, aesthetic, ecological, and methodological perspectives. He studies the relational ties we form with objects over time, how they are made and replicated, transferred and adopted, and how they change and adapt. His integrated approach interweaves culture, history, and performance with design, fashion, and interiors. Throughout his work, he performs a sort of creative shadowgraphy, crafting objects and experiences as tools to enable an open discourse on materiality, our morphing cultural landscape, and present condition.

Ana Escobar Saavedra, b. 1978, Cali, Colombia.

Lives and works in Dubai, UAE.

Ana Escobar Saavedra has a cross-disciplinary practice, working on the frontiers of art, craft, and design. Born and bred in Colombia, after living and working three years in Italy and thirteen years in France, she moved to Dubai in 2020. Her work has been featured in different printed publications and has been selected for group exhibitions across Europe, Colombia, Argentina, China, Australia, the USA, and the UAE.

For the last few years, she has combined a personal studio practice alongside research, writing, and other professional projects in a range of fields such as fashion, art, and trend forecasting. Ana has a background in fashion and textiles and goldsmithing and currently, she is pursuing an MA in object and jewelry from MASieraad in partnership with Hogeschool PXL in Hasselt Belgium.

Andrea Salerno, b. 1978, Miranda, Venezuela.

Lives and works in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, UAE.

A Colombian–Venezuelan photographer, Andrea grew up between the Andean mountains and the Caribbean sea. She studied photography at the Institut d'Estudis Fotogràfics de Catalunya. For twelve years she ran her photo studio in Rosario, Argentina. Andrea has given countless lectures and workshops on photography and food culture in South America and has presented her work internationally in multiple formats. She is a full member of Diversify Photo (NY, USA), works as cultural manager in the

Embassy of Colombia to the UAE, and practices as a licensed freelance photographer.

Cristina Serrano, b. 1995, Bogotá, Colombia.

Lives and works in Bogotá and Cali, Colombia.

Cristina Serrano Gnecco is a Bogotá-born and based chef, baker, ethnomusicologist, and teacher. Her lifelong passion for manufacturing baked goods has been the driving force behind her professional trajectory. Having culminated her studies in ethnomusicology and history at NYU Abu Dhabi, she became an unsuspected food entrepreneur whilst continuing to cultivate her interests in human history, migrations, the creation of culture and its undoing. She has written for food publications such as the Dubai based food magazine *The Carton* (2015) and has featured as a guest speaker about cooking and culinary anthropology in podcast *Expertos de Sillon*. She teaches at *Escuela de Gastronomía de Occidente* in Cali, Colombia. Cristina is currently the executive chef and co-owner of *Onza*, a bakery-cafe in Bogotá where she offers the public a showcase of her culinary innovations and developments.

Enrique Yidi, b. 1960, Barranquilla, Colombia.

Lives and works in Barranquilla, Colombia and Bethlehem, Palestine.

Born to a Bethlehemite family in Colombia, Enrique Yidi is an artist, collector, and author who has devoted his life to safeguarding the Palestinian art of mother-of-pearl carving. In 1998, he founded “Taller Palestina”, a diasporic workshop where he has trained local Colombian artisans with the mission of restoring and devising around 3,500 mother-of-pearl artworks. Enrique Yidi’s work has been showcased worldwide and, in 2011, he opened in Barranquilla the largest museum of Palestinian mother-of-pearl crafts, with artifacts spanning from the 16th to the 20th century.

Sofia Basto Riousse, b. 1981, Pitalito, Colombia.

Lives and works in Dubai, UAE.

Sofia is a Colombian–French self-taught artist, based in Dubai since 2015. Her art path started back in Colombia with big-format mural paintings. Once a lawyer fed up with codes and paperwork, Sofia returned to the arts, where she contemplates nature and observes social dynamics. Having decided to move her brushes again, watercolors and acrylics are her main mediums. Embroidery and decoupage can be found in her collages and paintings, always accompanied by a botanical touch, which is a reminder of the mountains and jungle she grew up surrounded by.

CURATOR

Daniel H. Rey b. 1998, San Juan de Pasto, Colombia.

Lives and works in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, UAE.

Daniel is an independent curator advocating for #YouthCuratingYouth and Latin–Arab cross-pollinations. His work balances institutional and grassroots presence via Art Jameel, Dirwaza Curatorial Lab, and Global Art Daily, among others. An emerging writer, arts educator, and public programmer, he has participated in cultural projects in South America, the Arab Gulf, Scandinavia, and the USA. Daniel feels at home in Paraguay, Norway, the UAE, and hopefully on Mars.

curator@danielhrey.com; @danihrey

Sumac Space is a platform devoted to contemporary art from the Middle East through digital programs, critical writing, and research. In particular, Sumac Space focuses on dialogues as a medium for presenting diverse forms of research. This format stimulates interaction and polyvocality and encourages critical thinking and intimate conversation that is not limited by physical distance or particular means of expression. Sumac Space also uses digital programs to activate the role of artists and curators in re-imagining and shaping our times and aims to provide a public space for their research and diverse forms of expression.

www.sumac.space

contact@sumac.space



@sumacspace #sumacspace

Almacén المخزن **Armazém** @almakhzen123

Established in 2022, **Almacén** المخزن **Armazém** is a multimedia research project storing and amplifying the archives and current explorations of artists, craft makers, chefs, musicians, and creatives at large who have ties to both Latin America* and the Arabic-speaking world. Playing on the Spanish word 'almacén' and Portuguese 'armazém' inherited from the Arabic 'المخزن' al-makhzen', meaning 'storage or warehouse', the project's first volume focuses on micro and powerful interactions between the two regions by way of their peoples. The project is an initiative of UAE-based, Paraguayan-Colombian curator Daniel H. Rey

*Latin America is a colonial term that limits access to the layers and fluidity of a vast region and its histories.

Mentored by:



[@institutodeculturaarabeco](https://www.instagram.com/institutodeculturaarabeco)

Established in 2017 as a not-for-profit, non-political and non-religious independent organization based in Barranquilla, Colombia, the Institute of Arab Culture of Colombia aims to connect through multiple channels in Colombia and the Arab-Latin Diaspora with the Arab-speaking world. The Institute serves and is recognised today as a platform to generate intercultural dialogue and to bolster opportunities of growth and development between the regions and amongst its peoples through art, culture, research and other related interactions.