

TERESA SOLAR at the

Liverpool Biennial 2021

The Stomach and The Port

20 March – 6 June 2021



Press Kit

TRAVESIA CUATRO



Travesía Cuatro is pleased to announce the participation of Teresa Solar at the Liverpool Biennial 2021.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Osteoclast (I do not know how I came to be on board this ship, this navel of my ark)

Curator:
Manuela Moscoso

Teresa Solar presents a newly commissioned outdoor installation at Exchange Flags. Composed of five kayaks, each sculptural piece reflects on the shape of a bone in the human anatomy. The sculptures anchor on the history of Liverpool as one of the most active ports in facilitating transatlantic trade in Europe. Solar's work draws a parallel between bones – as hollowed structures, full of cavities, carriers of tissues, veins and cell communities – and vessels, vehicles of migration, transmitters of bodies and knowledge. In contrast to the enormous ships that were, and still are, built and docked in Merseyside, Solar's kayaks, turned into a disarticulated skeleton, set the human body at sea level and evoke the some times-forgotten fragility of the human body over the sea. At the same time, they also celebrate our capacity for transition and transformation.

LB2021
The Stomach and the Port

Manuela Moscoso, Curator of Liverpool Biennial 2021, has said: "We might think of the human stomach and the port as two sites of connection and exchange. Both vast, interconnected networks of cultural, natural and sociopolitical systems. Developed over several years, The Stomach and the Port gathers practices that are deeply engaged with different forms of existence that challenge rigid categories. They include kinship, porosity, collectivism and bodily experience, embracing ways of digesting and continuously producing, rather than only consuming. They also address bodies within specific locations and constraints and how history unfolds in the present. Given the porosity of our bodies and the behavior of the virus restricting our movements until today, the Biennial has to respond to the constant shifts and COVID regulations. The Stomach and the Port will therefore unfold in two chapters. The first focusing on Liverpool's exterior, presenting the outdoor, sonic and digital commissions, together with the film and online programme. And the second chapter will fully open the Biennial festival later in the Spring. Rooted in decolonising our experience of the world, the artists collaboratively present a re-calibration of the senses and a catalyst for change and healing."

This project was commissioned by Liverpool Biennial and Liverpool BID Company with support from Acción Cultural Española (AC/E) and the Henry Moore Foundation.

Liverpool Biennial is funded by



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IMAGES



2



3



4

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5



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The sculptures have been produced in Madrid, at MadFaber Studio.

The sketches were developed into 3D digital models, and were then 3D printed to create small tabletop maquettes.

The full-size bones were formed in foam and given an interior metal skeleton for additional strength.

Her team finished the sculptures by hand, achieving a smooth surface on the lower areas of the works, similar to that of standard boat textures. The plinths, which will elevate the kayaks, are inspired by the steel supports that hold boats up on land.



11



12



13

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Caption for the images 1, 10, 11, 12, 13 and cover:

Teresa Solar, *Osteoclast, (I do not know how I came to be on board this ship, this navel of my ark)*, (work in progress), 2021

Photo: Sebastián Fernández Beyro

Caption for the images 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9:

Teresa Solar, *Osteoclast, (I do not know how I came to be on board this ship, this navel of my ark)*, (work in progress), 2021

Photo: Pablo Alzaga



Teresa Solar's imaginary is based on the morphology of speech and, by extension, of thought. Concepts such as resistance, insulation, tightness and immunity are developed through a multidisciplinary production focused on sculpture and drawing and based on the creation of multi-layered narratives. Throat, pore, hatch, tongue, pipe, her pieces are populated with connotations of connectivity and flow. Hers is a practice full of words and full of organs that create words: a talkative work that doubts itself but nevertheless wants to talk.

In recent years, Solar has developed large-format installations in which families of sister sculptures vary in shape and size, creating complex ecosystems of thought. The reflection about the great stories of progress in contemporary society are opposed to micro-narratives that have to do with her own body: sports injuries, stuttering and daily transits through her city are a fundamental part of the expressive sphere of the creator.

The artist takes up the space with pieces of very different size and materiality: clay, found objects and human symbols coexist in her work. Teresa Solar approaches these relationships from an organic sensibility, as if they were bodily functions, but she also accentuates the complex system of relationships in the industrial world, where hybrid forms of existence that combine organic and synthetic properties are constantly being produced.

The work with ceramics is especially relevant in her production, the artist interprets the clay as a metaphor for the relationship of the human being with the geological mantle on which our civilizations lay and creates through the intrinsic insulating qualities of the material cavernous systems with which to tell stories of self-protection and isolation. In fact, in contrast to the raw, organic exteriors, the interiors are delicately finished and clad in bright colors reminiscent of miners' overalls or sprays used to mark new tunnels in the underground darkness.

Teresa Solar studied Fine Arts in Madrid and later graduated with an MA in Cultural Studies from UEM (Universidad Europea de Madrid).

Recent solo shows include *Formas de fuga* at Travesía Cuatro Madrid, *Pumping Station* at Travesía Cuatro CDMX, Mexico; *Ride, Ride, Ride* at Matadero Madrid and Index Foundation, Stockholm and *Flotation Line* at Der TANK, Institut Kunst in Basel.

She has taken part in group shows at Museo Patio Herreriano, Valladolid, Spain; CA2M, Madrid; Haus der Kunst, München, Fundación Marcelino Botín, Santander; Maxxi, Rome; General Public in Berlin; Kunstverein München; CA2M, Madrid and La Casa Encendida, Madrid.

She was a fellow at Akademie Schloss Solitude in Stuttgart and a Finalist at the Rolex Mentor & Protégé initiative, both in 2016. In 2018 she took part in the expedition "The Current" organized by TBA21-Academy and she conducted the workshop 'White Whale, Palace of a Thousand Courtyards', at Tabakalera San Sebastián. She took part in KölnSkulptur #9 curated by Chus Martínez in Cologne (2017-2019).

The artist lives and works in Madrid, Spain.

Opening to the public

Saturday, March 20, 2021

The Biennial programme is presented in locations across Liverpool, including public spaces, historic sites and the city's leading art venues: Bluecoat, Liverpool Central Library, Cotton Exchange Building, Exchange Flags, FACT, National Museums Liverpool, Open Eye Gallery and Tate Liverpool. New for 2021, Liverpool Biennial's reach will also expand to the city's historic Lewis's Building.

VIP Launch - Online

Wednesday 17 March 2021 | 6pm GMT

The Launch will feature:

- A filmed tour of the new outdoor sculptures and installations located across Liverpool, celebrating the city centre's iconic architecture and public spaces, along with artist interviews;
- A trailer previewing the new Biennial Online Portal, a dedicated platform presenting the practices of each of the Biennial's fifty artists, new sonic and digital commissions, together with an exciting online programme of live performances, artist-led events, talks and tours, evolving throughout the Biennial;
- Welcome from Kathleen Soriano, Chair of Liverpool Biennial, Sir Nicholas Serota, Chair of Arts Council England, and Wendy Simon, Acting Mayor of Liverpool.

Registration:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/liverpool-biennial-2021-the-stomach-and-the-port-vip-launch-tickets-143066591025>

www.biennial.com

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