

siembra 32

mariana castillo deball

*feathered changes,
serpent
disappearances*

from august 21, 2021

Feathered Changes, Serpent Disappearances presents an archaeological search for absence and a study in the gaps of memory. What role does chance—in the form of lapsed time, erosion, fragmentation, and human intervention—play in our subjective interpretation of history? By lingering on the unknown histories of artifacts, Deball underscores the effects of natural and social processes within archaeological narratives.

The exhibition presents a new vision of archaeology – one that acknowledges ghosts, double visions, and multiple versions of history. The artifacts unearthed through different research originate in local archives. The artist made reproductions of tiny fragments of the murals of Teotihuacán on different scales. Through large-scale fragments, rubbings, ceramics, and fresco works, *Feathered Changes, Serpent Disappearances* overlays and blends these disparate narratives, splicing them together into a collage of archaeological time.

about the artist

Mariana Castillo Deball takes a kaleidoscopic approach to her practice, mediating between science, archaeology, and the visual arts and exploring the way in which these disciplines describe the world. Her installations, performances, sculptures, and editorial projects arise from the recombination of different languages that seek to understand the role objects play in our identity and history. Her works result from a long research process, allowing her to study the different ways in which a historical object can be read as it presents a version of reality that informs and blends into a polyphonic panorama. Seeking to initiate a dialogue with institutions and museums beyond contemporary art, she collaborates with ethnographic collections, libraries, and historical archives. She often produces multiples —books or objects with different uses and formats— to explore how they might generate new territories. Weaving her way through the fields of anthropology, philosophy, and literature, Castillo Deball draws inspiration from a wide range of sources as she engages in the exchange of knowledge as a transforming process for everyone involved.

Mariana Castillo Deball earned a BFA from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México in 1997. In 2003, she completed a postgraduate program at Jan van Eyck Academie in the Netherlands. Deball has been awarded with the Prix de Rome

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(2004), Zurich Art Prize (2012), a fellowship at the Henry Moore Institute (2012), and the Preis der Nationalgalerie für junge Kunst (2013). She was an artist in residency at the Berliner Künstlerprogramm in Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) in 2011.

Mariana Castillo Deball lives and works in Berlin.

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