

# Sandra Vásquez de la Horra

## *Constellations*

preview: 31 Mar 6 - 8 pm

exhibition: 1 Apr - 20 May



Sandra Vásquez de la Horra, *La Siesta*, 2021

Sprovieri is delighted to present *Constellations*, Sandra Vásquez de la Horra's second solo exhibition at the Gallery.

Sandra Vásquez de la Horra's drawings are influenced by film, fairy tales, botanical and zoological textbooks, as well as from her personal background. Since 1997, the Artist finishes her drawings by dipping them in wax. This process gives her work a unique materiality and emphasises the pencil line with ambiguous depth.

The traditions and myths of her Chilean origins and the influence of Latin-American magic-realist literature are essential in her artistic practice. Religion, mythology, sexuality and the bizarre, reverberate and merge together, trapped beneath the wax coating of her drawings. Her works deal with borderline experiences, femininity, fear and death, as well as poetry, reawakening demons, ghosts, creatures of myth and gloomy dreams.

The extremely defined images show desires that stem from both her personal and wider universal experience: they appear ecstatic, traumatic and surrealistic. Frequently working while she travels, her drawings are often stowed in her luggage, functioning as a sort of pictorial diary.

*"A sky cracked with stars like a black mirror in the endless night,  
In the desert the constellations appeared, They wanted to find me;  
They were my mother and my father,  
I said goodbye to them and I knew that my fate was in other lands".*  
(Sandra Vásquez de la Horra)

Her recent three-dimensional houses engage the viewer with the return to her childhood home. She does not only represent the physical aspects of a house but engages the viewer psychologically with the internal structure being inaccessible. The Artist continues combining sculpture and painting with the use of *leporelli* sheets which once complete are then folded and dipped in beeswax to give the drawings their stability.

About the artist:

Sandra Vásquez de la Horra, born in Viña del Mar, Chile, in 1967, grew up in a Catholic family under Augusto Pinochet's authoritarian regime. After studying at the University for Design in Viña del Mar from 1989 to 1994, Vásquez de la Horra moved to Germany, where she enrolled at Düsseldorf Art Academy under Jannis Kounellis and Rosemarie Trockel before attending the Academy of Media Arts in Cologne. She currently lives and works in Berlin.

Her work has been exhibited at Kupfestich-Kabinet, Dresden, Germany (2021); Drawing Biennial, London, United Kingdom (2019); The Parkview Museum, Singapore (2017); Museum für moderne Kunst, Bremen (2016); S.M.A.K., Gent (2015); Albertina, Vienna (2015). Solo shows include: Sächsische Akademie der Künste, Dresden, Germany (2021); Museo Novecento, Florence, Italy (2019); "Sao Paulo Biennial" curated by Luis Pérez-Oramas, Sao Paulo Brazil (2012); Musée d'Art Moderne, St-Etienne (2011); Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht (2010); the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (2017, 2011, 2009) and the Museum Kunstpalast, Düsseldorf (2008).

Vásquez de la Horra was awarded the prestigious Guerlain Prize in 2009 and in 2021 received the Hans Theo Richter Prize. Her work is part of various public and private collections such as: Centre Pompidou, Paris; Pinakothek der Moderne, München; Museum Kunst Palast, Düsseldorf; Museum of Art, Philadelphia; among others.

The Artist has been invited to the 59th International Art Exhibition of la Biennale di Venezia 2022 "*The Milk of Dreams*" curated by Cecilia Alemani.