

ARTE ABIERTO



Modthera Nature

Gabriela Galván

- Arte Abierto once again transforms its exhibition space with a project commissioned to artist Gabriela Galván, which will be a multisensorial installation made up with live nature.
- The exhibition is a reflection around the human-nature relationship taking as main reference the biodiversity and modern architecture from El Pedregal.
- Based on the historical and ecological importance of this area, Galván proposes to reflect on concepts such as transformation, temporality and contemplation.
- *Modthera Nature* is the first large-scale exhibition that Gabriela Galván presents in the last 10 years in Mexico, and one of the most complex that she has ever made.
- As part of the project, Arte Abierto has designed a broad public program for the diversity of audiences that visit us, and a publication that will delve into the exhibition's subjects from the voice of thinkers and specialists from various disciplines.
- The exhibition is open to the public from June 1st, 2023.

Mexico City, May 11, 2023.- **Arte Abierto** presents *Modthera Nature* by artist **Gabriela Galván** (Mexico City, 1974), a site-specific installation for which the **Arte Abierto** exhibition room turns into a natural garden with endemic plants from El Pedregal and sensory hydroponics, which seeks to provoke cognitive, contemplative and imaginative experiences around nature and our sense of belonging to it. In addition, for the first time an **Arte Abierto** exhibition extends to the public space of **Artz Pedregal** with a natural and artistic garden.

The projects arise from the interest in experiencing with the concept of transformation, privileging the contemplation of natural and everyday happenings through the senses. For **Galván**, transformation and temporality are notions which could be explored through art as fields of experimentation, investigation and knowledge, having the immediate context as reference and creating connections between living beings, places and cultures.

Modthera Nature is an artistic installation and an environment with endemic plants of El Pedregal, as well as a hydroponic system that will preserve plants for medicinal and culinary use through artificial lighting. In this sense, **Arte Abierto** will be a totally sensorial space in which visitor will be able to smell aromas, perceive textures, recognize colors, feel the temperature and humidity that plants and rocks provide as the living beings that they are. The idea of this garden arises from a long-term investigation that **Gabriela Galván** has worked on in recent years in relation to the sensitivity and knowledge that nature provides, and especially with a project that she imagined 18 years ago and that is finally materialized. The research and technical production of this projects has involved working with Arte Abierto for a year, based on an interdisciplinary collaboration with biologists, botanists, geologists and landscapers.

Arte Abierto

Artz Pedregal
Periferico Sur 3720
Col. Jardines del Pedregal
CP. 01900
Ciudad de México
Periferico Sur 3720

Oficinas Arte Abierto

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The proposal takes El Pedregal as its starting point as a site that has been transformed throughout history, starting with Cuicuilco, one of the most important and ancient cities in the Valley of Mexico (800 BC – 250 AD), buried by lava caused by the eruption of the Xitle volcano and whose effect resulted in a volcanic landscape that we can still witness, live and think about. Another key reference is the Mexican modern architecture from mid-twentieth century that was developed in the area as a result of the process of modernization of the city, and which allow us to think about the different transformations that the Pedregal area has undergone in its different temporalities. Some examples of this are Casa Estudio Max Cetto and Juan and Helen O’Gorman’s Casa Cueva, where the architectural composition responded to the foundations of the volcanic zone and in which gardens with rocks and endemic plants of the area were designed, showing the integration between nature and human development.

The exhibition also seeks to bring us closer to contemplation as an active mental state that, in this case, promotes re-enchantment with the natural world and our consciousness of belonging to it. Contemplating nature allow us to discover not only the strength of living plants, flowers and rocks, but also the human desire for progress that has led, as it has happened in El Pedregal, to create, transform and intervene the environment.

Modthern Nature is a living art installation that leads the public to rethink the sense of belonging to nature, recognizing the knowledge that exists in their ways of life. As **Gabriela Galván** suggests, the project invites us to return to the importance of sowing-in a literal and metaphorical sense: “to become one with the manifestation of life, to sow a common good, to sow empathy, to sow gratitude, awe and humbleness.

We appreciate the support and advice to make this project possible to: Eduardo Berumen, Dra. N. Ivalú Cacho González, Arq. Wilfredo Cahuantzi Sigüenza, Blga. Teresa Castaño, Bettina Cetto, Dra. Silke Cram, Ing. Antonio González Guzmán, Emilio Hinojosa Carrión (sound), Ing. Luis Lin, Dra. María Fernanda Martínez-Baéz Téllez, Pablo Villaseñor, Facultad de Ciencias de la Tierra (UNAM), Jardín Botánico (IB-UNAM), Reserva Ecológica del Pedregal de San Ángel (UNAM) and Taller de Paisaje Entorno.

Modthern Nature. Gabriela Galván

JUNE – NOVEMBER 2023

Tuesday – Friday from 12:00 – 19:00 h

Arte Abierto | Artz Pedregal-2nd floor

Periférico Sur 3720, Mexico City.

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PRESS CONTACT (information, visits, interviews)

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Public Program. The Program Public of *Modthera Nature* to be developed throughout the exhibition, will be focused on expanding several of the key concepts and transversal subjects that inhabit the project, to explore its complexity from different scales and languages. With workshops, performances, special visits, talks and activations, among other activities, it will seek to include a series of interdisciplinary voices that contribute from different readings and visions to topics such as nature and endemic ways of life, transformation and its possibilities, and the natural and urban history of El Pedregal.

As part of its mediation proposal, **Arte Abierto** will propose activities based on the natural interests of visitors, as well as the topics with which the public feels the most interest, affinity or curiosity.

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Gabriela Galván (CDMX, 1974) is an artist and art educator. Her work focuses on exploring the concept of transformation through different media such as installation, public art, sculpture, video, drawing, design and performance. She is interested in the processes of study, production, dialogue and interaction that involve interconnectivity and the open exchange of ideas and sensory experiences. She is currently focused on processes of exploration of time, to develop a body of work in relation to flowers and living plants.

Her work has been part of exhibitions in museums and galleries such as the Museo Nacional de Arte Reina Sofía (Spain), Kunsthhaus Baselland (Switzerland), Künstlerhaus Bethanien (Germany), Museo Tamayo, Museo de Arte Moderno (MX), Museo Carrillo Gil, Sala de Arte Público Siqueiros and Museo de la Ciudad de Mexico, among others. As an art educator, she has been a visiting professor at the FHNW Academy of Art and Design in Basel, the Poznań University of Fine Arts, the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, and the Brooklyn College (CUNY), among others. She is currently living and working in New York.

<https://www.gabriela-galvan.com/>

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Arte Abierto is a non-profit civil association, founded in 2019. It is focused on create and disseminate cultural projects and works of art, through an ambitious, comprehensive and innovative model, which involves the interaction and participation of diverse audiences in order to promote new forms of approach to contemporary art and culture. Its exhibition space is also a space for continuous experimentation that activates collective processes to make connections and transversal crossings between the audiences and the artworks. We invite and collaborate with artists to create interventions and exhibitions that seek to stimulate aesthetic and sensory experiences. Arte Abierto gives artists a voice and space to have a direct connection with our visitors. We commission and collaborate with cultural projects to produce works, exhibitions, collaborative workshops, events, meetings, performances, film screenings, architecture and music meetings, among other activities.

<https://arteabierto.org/>

SOMA

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