

**NEXUS Gallery**  
iACADEMY  
Nexus, Makati,  
Philippines

EX

MACHINA

DEUS:

**MANMADE**

24 SEPT. - 06 DEC, 2024

# EX MACHINA DEUS: MANMADE

NEXUS Gallery  
Sept. 24 - Dec. 6, 2024

Participating artists:

ELENA BAJO  
BOHOVEE (Martin)  
JEF CARNAY  
DEX FERNANDEZ  
ARVIN FLORES  
DENVER GARZA  
ROX LEE  
CAROL ANNE MCCHRYSTAL  
MAI SAPORSANTOS  
JAN SUNDAY  
COSTANTINO ZICARELLI

With special Performances from  
ANJELINE DE DIOS, TUSA MONTES,  
and JOEE MEJIAS

Curated by Jon Cuyson



Artwork image borrowed from Elena Bajo

The NEXUS Gallery is pleased to present "Ex Machina Deus", a group exhibition which turns the concept of "Deus Ex Machina" on its head, emphasizing the irreplaceable power of **human creativity** and the intrinsic value of handmade art and design in the digital age. Focusing on the **human-ness**, this exhibition features paintings, sculptures, video works and a series of performances that will explore the psychological and imaginative processes behind artistic creation, and the unique human touch that technology cannot replicate. By celebrating the intuitive and emotional depth of the creative process, "Ex Machina Deus" reaffirms the artist's role in envisioning and shaping our collective dreams and aspirations. In a world increasingly influenced by technology, the exhibition curated for SODA WEEK 2024 reaffirms the irreplaceable role of the artist's hand, voice, body, and imagination. Their man made works invites viewers to reconnect with the tactile, the emotional, and the expressive power of art, emphasizing the timeless value of human touch and creativity combined with the power of dreams in shaping our collective future.

**Jon Cuyson**

Artist and Curator, **NEXUS Gallery**

EX  
MACHINA  
DEUS:  
MANMADE

24 SEPT - 06 DEC. 2024  
**NEXUS** Gallery  
iACADEMY  
Nexus, Makati,  
Philippines

**Elena Bajo** is a Spanish-American artist, educator, and founder of the P-A-D Project in Wonder Valley, Californian Desert, dedicated to ecological research. Her transdisciplinary practice investigates ideas of space, nature, and the body as a political and social entity questioning its relationship to ecologies of capital, from a non-binary and eco-feminist perspective. Having deep ecology as a reference, she mines vibrant plant systems in order to discover their unique form of consciousness. Her focus is on the research and recuperation of ancestral ethnobotanical ontologies.



She works both individually and collectively, using choreography, sculpture, painting, performance, poetry and video. She received an MFA from Central Saint Martins, (London, UK) and an MA in Genetic Architecture from ESARQ UIC (Barcelona, ES), studied Laban and Bartenieff Movement at TanzFabrik, Berlin Contemporary Dance Center. She has presented performances, exhibited and taught internationally. She also received support, grants and residencies from LMCC Governor's Island, NY; Rauschenberg EMGrants, 2022; NARS Studio Relief, 2022; Matadero Madrid Residency, A/CE ES for EKWC European Ceramic Work Center, NL, 2021; Hopper Prize 2020; NY Contemporary Art Foundation Emergency Grant 2019; Botín Foundation, Visual Arts Fellowship Award, ES 2018; Audemars Piguet Award, ARCO Madrid, ES 2017. In 2024 she was a participant in the Wesenberg SkulpturenPark Residency in Germany. She is currently working on Freya's Grove (Eternal Return), a speculative film and publication that envisions plant systems weaving a cosmic narrative interconnecting her own Celtic ancestral lineage with Germanic cosmologies. She is an Artist Educator at Saas-Fee Summer Institute of Art, NY/Paris and will participate in Manifesta 15 Barcelona, Spain.

## ***The Flower who came From the Stars***

Installation View

Medium: Performative Sculpture -Public Artwork

Doramas Park, Las Palmas City, Canary Islands

Size: 10 feet x 7 feet x 5 feet

Materials: Volcanic rocks, carvings on rocks, Poem, Handwriting, Performers-Cosmic

Distress Series.

Year: 2022/2023 La Sala de Arte Social, Las Palmas, ES

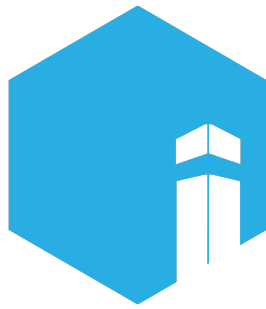
The artwork was commissioned by BIOTOPIAS, a Program on Ecology, curated by PSJM at Sala de Arte Social. Local volcanic rocks were reclaimed and utilized as geological markers of deep time and space. The creation of a space of access, a "portal" to the narratives of the history, myths and magic of the place through natural entities and their relationship with humans: plants, minerals, elements such as water, air, earth, and phenomena such as volcanic activity, energies in which changes occur. Changes of which we are aware through the traces, geological markers, in this case, the volcanic rocks, of deep time and deep space.

A poem written by the artist is carved into 4 volcanic rocks and will function as the score that will activate the sculpture, performed by local dancers as the culmination of a workshop in collaboration with *Cystisus Canariensis*, a local psychoactive plant, used by native ancestral cultures and inhabitants as medicine and as a way to transcend consciousness and as a divinatory tool. Plant research and embodiment through a self-medicating regime of participants using the body in movement, the choreography and the poem is created in collaboration with the non-human plant and under its effects. This is the full Poem that was the score for the choreography and was carved on the volcanic rocks. The poem was also inspired by the stories of the native women and their love for their land, and how they would prefer to commit suicide by jumping off the cliffs into the ocean than surrender to the colonizers.



*The Flower who came from the Stars*  
Elena Bajo September 2022

I  
As I lose myself in your waters  
A wish washed away by the sea  
As I hear the song from the dying bird  
The wind swept your breath away  
II  
As I dive in Neptune 's treasure  
Tell me how to navigate your ship  
As I wait for you at the shore  
Time will pass and heal my sorrow  
III  
As I whisper a Word of Farewell  
My eyes just lit up and remember  
As space and time collapse  
They say to die for love is to live eternally  
IV  
If you Give me a sip of *Cytisus*  
I will fly and I will remember  
That rocks are precise clocks  
That waves break in the shore of time  
that dreams are made out of dust  
V  
If you sing with the sunrise  
I will recite the story  
That the shaman was trying to forget  
That we never planned to tell  
that it will remind us of death  
VI  
If you take me to the garden  
I will keep the secret  
that rocks carry their history engraved  
that the land of unknown pathways  
show you the way while you walk on them  
VII  
She will come back from the ocean  
and she will open up your petals again  
and she will slowly extinguish your fire  
and she will loudly penetrate your silence  
and she will disappear at sunrise  
VIII  
I will join you against the winds  
And we will fight  
As if tomorrow is today  
As if our love expired  
As if all the flowers were dead  
As if our names were erased  
IX  
Canopus my brightest star  
The land of Deep Love and Sorrow  
The land of Cosmic Love and Magic  
The Land of Wild Love and Games  
The land of Goddess  
X  
For your deepest wishes  
We live  
When the sunrise touches your black skin  
We scream and smile  
When the time comes  
We will not surrender



iACADEMY  
SCHOOL OF DESIGN  
AND ARTS