

G A S W O R K S

PRESS RELEASE

Mercedes Azpilicueta: Bondage of Passions **19 May - 4 July 2021**



Mercedes Azpilicueta, Detail of work in progress, 2021. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Joel Furness

Gasworks presents the first UK solo exhibition by Amsterdam-based artist **Mercedes Azpilicueta**. Her work brings together marginal historical figures, fictional characters and gendered mythologies from South America's colonial past.

Fuelled by collaborations with dancers, writers, researchers and craftspeople, her installations often take the form of intricate set designs, theatrical props, soundtracks and scores for a live performance that doesn't yet exist, therefore inviting the viewer to take centre stage.

Calling herself a 'dishonest researcher', Azpilicueta navigates across multiple geographies, chronologies and fields of knowledge, ranging from literature and art history to popular music and street culture, in a loving pursuit of subversive and contested historical figures —queer, feminist, exiled and unheard voices from the past— who haunt her videos, sculptures and textiles.

The exhibition at Gasworks offers a speculative vision of Catalina de Erauso, a 17th-century nun from the Basque Country who travelled to the New World, where s/he lived under male identities and became a ruthless lieutenant in the Spanish colonial army. Azpilicueta's show presents newly-commissioned Jacquard tapestries alongside a new body of sculptures, costumes and props.

Mercedes Azpilicueta's exhibition is commissioned and produced by Gasworks. Gasworks commissions are supported by Catherine Petitgas and Gasworks Exhibitions Supporters.

Free admission. Address: Gasworks, 155 Vauxhall St, London SE11 5RH

For high resolution images visit: <http://www.gasworks.org.uk/about-us/press/> or email sheena@gasworks.org.uk

Listings Information:

Gasworks

Free admission

Open Weds - Sun 12-6pm

www.gasworks.org.uk

155 Vauxhall St, London SE11 5RH

Book your free ticket online

Open subject to government Covid19 guidance

Gasworks website: gasworks.org.uk

Facebook/ Twitter/ Instagram/ Vimeo/ Soundcloud: @GasworksLondon

URL: <http://bit.ly/bondageofpassions>

Hashtags: #MercedesAzpilicueta #BondageofPassions #GasworksLondon

Editor's Notes:

About Mercedes Azpilicueta

Mercedes Azpilicueta is an artist born in La Plata, Argentina. She was an artist in residence at the Rijksakademie, Amsterdam in 2015-16, and received the Pernod Ricard Fellowship in 2017. Solo exhibitions include Museion, Bozen (2020); Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven (2019); CentroCentro, Madrid (2019); and MAMBA, Buenos Aires (2018). Her work has been featured at Villa Vassilieff, Paris; REDCAT Gallery, Los Angeles; MACBA, Barcelona (all 2018); CA2M, Móstoles (2017); Onomatopee, Eindhoven (2016); TENT, Rotterdam (2015); and the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2014).

About Gasworks

For over twenty years Gasworks has played a unique role in the contemporary visual arts sector by working at the intersection between UK and international practices and debates. It does this by providing studios for London-based artists; commissioning emerging UK-based and international artists to present their first major exhibitions in London; and developing a highly-respected international residencies programme, mainly working with artists based outside Europe and North America. All programmes are accompanied by events and participatory workshops that engage local and international audiences with artists and their work.

Gasworks is also the hub of Triangle Network, an international network of small-scale arts organisations and projects that support and disseminate the work of emerging artists through artist-led workshops, residencies, exhibitions and outreach events. Gasworks and Triangle Network are registered as a charity in the UK under 'Triangle Arts Trust' and all their activities are free to the public.

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