

Primordial Soups

PV Thursday, July 18th 6 - 8 pm

July 19th - September 21st, 2024

At Mucciaccia Gallery, curated by LATAMesa

21 Dering St. W1S 1AL

LATAMesa is delighted to present *Primordial Soups*, a group exhibition featuring the artwork of five UK-based artists: Emilia González, Hannah Lees, Camilo Parra, Seán Savage Ferrari and Tessa Silva taking place at Mucciaccia Gallery. This exhibition seeks to enrich the dialogue between British and Latin identities, delving into the personal and ecological narratives embedded in the unseen and unsung matter of our world.

Primordial soup is the term given to the aqueous solution where inorganic and organic compounds—some delivered by meteorites—collided and mingled in Earth's early waters 3.7 to 4.0 billion years ago. This rich, ancient broth established the elemental dance from which all living systems evolved.

Matter, in all its ever-changing transformations, bears silent witness to the passage of time. These compounds have seen the rise and fall of civilisations, the ebb and flow of natural forces, and the intimate moments of human life. Whether engaging with organic, inorganic, industrial, or found objects, the exhibiting artists transform materials into conduits and vessels for narratives that bridge the human and non-human worlds. They reshape and redefine human and natural vestiges by overlapping personal cartographies with the transformations on the landscape. Through their work, the artists reveal the interconnections between nature, body, memory and territory, and the enduring dialogues they maintain with the past while shaping our present.

Drawing on Donna Haraway's concept of "making-with," which emphasises the collaborative processes of life in an intricate ecological network, and Anna Tsing's notion of landscapes as dynamic assemblages that radically de-center human hubris, *Primordial Soups* invites us to ponder: What narratives emerge when we consider the collaborative, symbiotic, and interdependent nature of existence? It encourages us to reevaluate our place in the world, contemplating how our stories, cultures, and identities are intertwined with the landscapes we share.

As *Primordial Soups* traces the stratified stories beneath this boiling pot that is our world—chaotic and reactive like said prebiotic waters—we uncover the pulse of a collective mix. After all, are we not ingredients in an ancient, ever-evolving soup, rather than lone cooks? How are we shaping the flavours of our shared earthly existence?

EXHIBITION DETAILS

Primordial Soups

PV July 18th 6 - 9 pm

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Mucciaccia Gallery

21 Dering Street, London W1S 1AL

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21 Dering Street, London W1S 1AL, United Kingdom | +44 20 3302 3440 | london@mucciaccia.com | www.mucciaccia.com
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About the artists

Hanna Lees was born in Kent, UK and lives and works in Margate, UK.

Lees' practice investigates ideas of cycles, constancy and mortality; the sense that things come to an end and the potential for new beginnings. This constancy, be it in religion, science, history or in matter, is made visible through her attempts to make sense of and recognise traces of life. Traditional processes, materials and rituals are often reworked to explore how ideas and beliefs can live, die and be reborn across times and cultures. There is a particular interest in how civilizations form and end around an ever-changing relationship between what is valued and what is discarded.

She has participated in various exhibitions inside the UK and internationally, such as: (TBA) Corbridge Roman Town Museum, Hadrian's Wall, UK (solo); (TBA) Devonshire Collective/VOLT, Eastbourne, UK (two-person); DOOM XMAS, TACO! London, UK Hannah Lees & Laurence Watchorn Sim Smith gallery, London, UK (two-person), Not really now not anymore, Roland Ross/174 Hither Green Lane, London, UK, The material substance of their origin May Hands & Hannah Lees, Collective Ending HQ, London, UK, among others.

From 2014 to 2021, she served as an Associate Lecturer in BA Fine Art Painting at Camberwell College of Art, UAL, London. She was also a Lecturer and Head of Year for BA Fine Art at the University of Kent from 2016 to 2017. She holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Fine Art from Chelsea College of Art (2011) and a BA (Hons) Fine Art from UCA, Canterbury (2004-2006). Her work has been recognized with several residencies and awards, including the Elephants Trust Award (2023) and the Developing Your Creative Practice Award from Arts Council England (2022). She has participated in international residencies such as the Gasworks' International Fellowship in São Paulo (2018) and the British Council UK/ID Exchange Residency in Yogyakarta (2018).

Emilia Gonzalez was born in Quito, Ecuador and lives and works in London, UK.

She is a visual artist living and working in London, UK. She is pursuing an MFA in Fine Arts at Goldsmiths, University of London and previously received her BFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2018. Her exploration of identity seeks to reconcile body and place through the use of unconventional materials and sensory experiences that allow the audience to connect to their own living, feeling and moving bodies.

She is a member of The London Group and as part of her practice has participated in several residencies including the New York Studio Residency Program (Brooklyn, NY), the Programa de Talleres y Residencias at The Center for Contemporary Art (Quito, Ecuador), Carne Fresca III (Guayaquil, Ecuador), PRPG MX (Mexico City, Mexico) and Suttle AIR (Sisters, OR). Her work has been exhibited internationally in venues including: Copeland Parks Gallery (London, UK), Center for Contemporary Art (Quito, Ecuador), AICAD (Brooklyn, NY), ONDER (Guayaquil, Ecuador), Media Agua (Quito, Ecuador), N24 (Quito, Ecuador), Sullivan Galleries (Chicago, IL), OPEN Center for the Arts (Chicago, IL), amongst others.

Camilo Parra is a Colombian artist currently residing and working in London. He recently completed his MFA in Painting at the Slade School of Fine Art, following undergraduate studies in Fine Arts and a Postgraduate Course in Photography at the National University of Colombia. His work explores and questions imagery used to illustrate alleged invisible realities existing beyond our immediate perception: from outer space to the inner body, from the macro to the micro.

His artwork has been showcased across various countries including Colombia, Uruguay, Spain, France, Canada, Portugal, the US, and the UK. He has been the recipient of several grants and fellowships from the Ministry of Culture of Colombia and the District Institute of the Arts of Bogota (IDARTES), and has participated in different residencies around the globe, including PADA Studios in Lisbon, Sitka Fine Arts Camp in Alaska, Eastern-Bloc in Montreal, and Dos Mares in Paris and Marseille. Notably, he received the Artecámara honorific mention from the jury of the Flora Arts & Natura Prize during the international art fair ARTBO in 2015 and, in 2023, he was nominated for the Max Werner Drawing Prize and the Chadwell Award in London.

Tessa Silva is a British-Brazilian artist and designer. She currently lives and works in London. Her practice explores the impact of materials on society and what they can reveal anthropologically. Her focal body of work, titled 'Feminised Protein', is a study into the use of milk proteins as a material for the handcrafted production of fine objects. Tessa's research and exploration prompts the inspection of our material culture retrospectively and prospectively, using craft as a tool to explore the relationship between humans and animals; particularly the female mammals' role in a patriarchal social and cultural structure. Working with a unique—but historically originated—formula of surplus milk from an organic farm in Sussex, Tessa utilises a precious raw material. The forms created allow milk to re-couple to the mammal: corporeal, living, reactionary, producing pieces that blur the boundaries between solid and liquid, soft and hard.

The Feminised Protein project has been exhibited at institutions such as the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Museum of Applied Arts in Vienna, and Madrid's cultural centre at Palacio de Cibeles.

Seán Savage Ferrari is a visual artist currently based in London. After graduating from UWE in 2018, Seán lived and worked in Brazil, where he developed a place-based approach to art-making, working with local materials that encapsulate the cultural, historical, and environmental narratives of the landscapes he inhabits. His minimal interventions give presence and agency to the materials he works with, recognising that both collective and personal memories are held within them. Through his compositions, he brings these memories into focus, reflecting the rich history and culture of each region.

Seán's artistic practice has evolved through various awarded and funded residencies in Cyprus, Derbyshire, Cheltenham, and Brazil, where he has continued to hone his deep engagement with the materiality of landscape. His recent exhibitions include Palmer Gallery (London), Ateliê 31 (Brazil), SET Woolwich (London), Bloc Projects (Sheffield), Wilson Museum & Art Gallery (Cheltenham), Birmingham School of Art (Birmingham), and Pragovka Gallery (Prague).

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About Mucciaccia Gallery

Massimiliano Mucciaccia opened his first gallery, Galleria Mucciaccia, in the historical centre of Rome, in 2006. Residing now in Largo della Fontanella Borghese, with a focus on XX and XXI century modern with exhibitions ranging from Futurism to Transavanguardia, from metaphysics to the School of Piazza del Popolo. The gallery has a program of contemporary exhibitions including work by Richard Paterson, Ged Quinn, Annie Morris, Jim Lambie, Fiona Rae, Ian Davenport, David Batchelor, Lothar Goetz, David La Chapelle and Philip Colbert.

In 2016, Mucciaccia Gallery opened its London branch, on Dover Street and in 2020 relocated to 21 Dering Street, off Bond Street. The gallery's vision is to explore the works of numerous artists who sought new approaches to art, with a particular attention to the XXI century. Exhibitions include: Jan Fabre Allegory of Caritas (An Act of Love); Gianni Piacentino - Recent Works 2019-2021; Supernature | Dan Perfect; Superimposition | Paul Morrison, Barry Reigate, Michael Stubbs, Mark Titchner; Italian Passion from 1956; Giosetta Fioroni | Silver Years; Oramai è tempo | Anselmo, Castellani, Nagasawa.

About LATAMesa

LATAMesa is a curatorial initiative founded in 2023 by Carolina Orlando and Pilar Seivane with a clear mission: to build and sustain a strong network among Latin American artists and art professionals based in London. Our objective is to foster connections among individuals rooted in Latin American identities, diaspora communities, and supportive structures. At our core, we prioritise collaborative work and embrace notions of community and solidarity.

Our activations are not just an experiment in care and performative action, but also a bold statement of our collective commitment to promoting Latin American culture. We are passionate about creating a supportive community where participants can exchange discourses and experiences, sustaining a network that serves as a framework and safe haven for exploring the vast realm of Latin American identities and amplifying their voices within London's arts ecologies.

LATAMesa's past events and projects includes the curation of the group show "IN/BETWEEN/NESS: Women Tales from Latin America" at Somers Gallery (April, 2024); LATAMesa + Latitud Club Social in collaboration with Daniel Rey's solo show at Koppel Collective (November, 2023); LATAMesa in collaboration with "De, Desde, En, Entre, Hacia" exhibition at SET Woolwich (July, 2023) and LATAMesa Launch Event at HArt Slane (June, 2023).

In November 2023, we launched our editorial branch, primarily featuring interviews with some of the artists who compose LATAMesa's social fabric.

LATAMesa

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