



Image courtesy of Milagro de Amor

## **MARGARITA AZURDIA: A UNIVERSE, DOCUMENTED**

Curated by Rossina Cazali

**November 18, 2023 – April 28, 2024**

Opening: November 18, 4-8 p.m.

La Nueva Fábrica

Callejón Contreras

Antigua, Guatemala

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*Margarita Azurdia: A Universe, Documented* presents over 150 artworks, documents, photographs, videos, and personal objects—many of which have never been displayed publicly before—from the archive of the late Guatemalan artist Margarita Azurdia. The exhibition was commissioned by La Nueva Fábrica and it is curated by Rossina Cazali.

Margarita Azurdia (1931-1998), also known as Margot Fanjul, was one of the most relevant Guatemalan artists of the mid-Sixties. Her best-known artworks are a series of large-format abstract paintings, with unusual color combinations and geometric shapes—mainly rhombuses—inspired by the Indigenous textile designs of Guatemala. In the mid-Seventies, the artist ventured into non-object-based art and produced a series of fantastical sculptures,



*Homenaje a Guatemala* [Homage to Guatemala], consisting of polychromatic wood carvings adorned with clothing, ceramic objects, feathers, and other elements reminiscent of the altars of the Guatemalan highlands.

In 1976, Azurdia moved to Paris and became involved in feminist movements, body-centered art, and media such as poetry, artist's books, and drawing. Upon her return to Guatemala in 1984, she began the project Laboratorio de Creatividad [Creativity Laboratory] with artists Benjamín Herrarte and Fernando Iturbide, with whom she explored movement and the relationship between dance, ritual, and the sacred. From the Sixties to the mid-Nineties, the artist created a body of work that united art and poetry with spirituality and nature.

Through a wide spectrum of materials from the Azurdia archive, the exhibition suggests new ways of thinking about the artist's life and work. The project brings to the forefront an artistic practice that Azurdia crafted slowly over time. The importance of recreating the artist's cultural moment sparked the inclusion of a series of works by her contemporaries, whether due to their interests, aesthetics, complicities, or friendship, including Daniel Shafer, Luis Díaz, Jamie Bischof, and Joyce "de Guatemala" Vourvoulias.

The presentation of textiles and objects she collected, alongside her artworks, shed light on the artist's obsessions, while her drawings—particularly those centered around her childhood—blur the border between art and documentation. Through the accumulation of documents, images, and video documentation found in the artist's archives, publics are invited to explore, digress, and find points of connection with the radical modernity of Azurdia's work and experience the rich contexts, complexities, and conflicts that influenced her artistic trajectory and that form an inescapable part of her creative universe.

The exhibition is made possible by the generous loans of Milagro de Amor, the organization that oversees the works and archive of Margarita Azurdia, directed by the artist's granddaughter, Niki Fanjul.

**The exhibition will be accompanied by a series of free public programs:**

Guided tour of the exhibition with curator Rossina Cazali

Saturday, November 18, 2023, 6:00 pm (exhibition opening and tour)

Saturday, February 17, 2024, 4:30 pm

Saturday, March 16, 2024, 4:30 pm

Saturday, April 13, 2024, 4:30 pm

Open to all ages; pets welcome.



Exhibition visit and conversation with Margarita Azurdia's friends and collaborators

Saturday, November 25, 2023, 4:30 pm

Exhibition visit and conversation with Margarita's friends and Niki Fanjul, granddaughter of the artist in charge of Milagro de Amor, the non-profit organization that safeguards Azurdia's archive.

The Contour Is Not the Limit. Workshop by artist Karma Davis

Saturday, December 9, 2023, 4pm-7pm

Thursday, February 8, 2024, 4pm-7pm

Direct observation drawing workshop, using the line as the main tool of representation. Open to all ages.

Conversation with Emiliano Valdés and Rossina Cazali

January 13, 2024, 4:30 pm

Emiliano Valdés, Chief Curator of the Museo de Arte Moderno de Medellín, Colombia

Rossina Cazali, curator of the exhibition

Emiliano Valdés, Chief Curator of the Museo de Arte Moderno de Medellín (MAMM), Colombia, will discuss Margarita Azurdia's work, her participation in art biennials in the 1970s, the dialogue of her works with the Latin American artistic context of that decade, and her contributions to the development of fundamental terms such as non-objectual art.

Vital Cartographies: Images of the Body. Workshop by artist Mena Guerrero

Saturday, February 24, 2024, 4pm

Saturday, April 6, 2024, 4pm

The workshop opens a space of listening and encounter with our bodies through performance and art as ritual. Open to people 15 years and older.

Common weaving. Workshop by artist Marcela Bulla

Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 4pm

Collage and book workshop inspired by the artist books developed by Margarita Azurdia.



**La Nueva Fábrica** is a non-profit contemporary art space committed to empowering communities through art. We do so through exhibitions, public programs, educational projects, residencies, and multidisciplinary activities in our space in Antigua, Guatemala, and through international partnerships. Recent exhibitions include *Hellen Ascoli: Cien Terras*, curated by Amara Antilla and traveling from the Contemporary Arts Center in Cincinnati (2022-2023); the XXIII Bienal de Arte Paiz (2023); and Regina José Galindo's first institutional survey in the Americas, *Grito*, curated by Mara Juracán (2022).

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Opening hours: Wednesday to Sunday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; Saturdays 10:00 am to 6:00 pm

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