

CASTILLA- LA MANCHA DESIGN

BACK TO THE ESSENCE

**ORGANIZED BY,
JUNTA DE COMUNIDADES DE CASTILLA-LA MANCHA.
(REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF CASTILLA-LA MANCHA - SPAIN)**

CURATOR OF THE EXHIBITION, TOMÁS ALÍA, ESTUDIO CARAMBA.

15 - 21 APRIL 2024

LITTA PALACE, CORSO MAGENTA STREET, 24



@Sebastian

CASTILLA-LA MANCHA DESIGN:

Back to de essence

It is an inquiry into the poetry inherent in the identity markers treasured by our land.

It stems from the need to erase borders between disciplines, to create, reformulate, professionalize, and make visible, but primarily, to materialize with the goal of interpreting modernity. A call to discuss plural identities, excellence and mastery, origins...

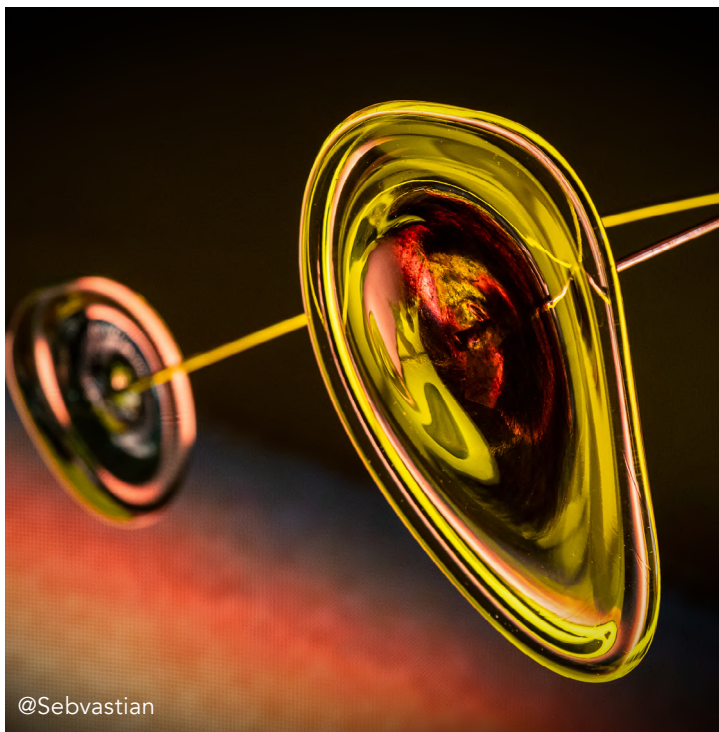
It is a space for stirring up culture where a lot happens, where fascinating figures, artists, and purists meet.

Above all, it is a space for reflection. To ponder the necessity of 'thinking with hands' to reconnect with the essence of craft

Tomás Alía.

**AN INQUIRY INTO
THE POETRY INHERENT IN
THE IDENTITY MARKERS
TREASURED BY OUR LAND**

HANDCRAFTED PIECES



JUAN MANUEL MARCILLA

This “**time capsule**” crafted in wicker by Juan Manuel Marcilla encases these iconic pieces of Castilla La-Mancha’s.

SERGIO ROSA

His pieces are woven using a now-extinct technique known as “**the rose leaf**”.

The warp is cotton, and the weft is local wool. These were crafted in the 1960s by Eustaquio Rosa, founder of the workshop and father of Sergio Rosa, who continues to work on the same looms.

This weaving technique is noted for its large, embossed patterns. Due to their thickness and materials, these items were typically used as blankets and seldom as carpets.

LUIS MACHI

This technique, in its purest form, has seen little change over more than eight centuries, specifically since the 13th century when Venice developed and refined it to the highest standard. Since then, both the technique and the tools and procedure have remained almost unchanged.

All pieces showcased here are made from a **proprietary glass formula**, with exquisite characteristics and high optical quality to meet the demands of blown glass masters.

AURELIO ARCE

Hand-turned pieces from local tree wood: **elm, walnut, and spalted wood**.

This collection features a series of hand-turned bowls, revealing the history of the tree from which the wood originates, with the elegant grain making each piece unique.

MARIAN DELGADO

Her pieces embody a **contrast of emotions**, convey motion, and depict symmetry, tranquillity, an elegant balance.

Her work has its own identity, compelling viewers to envisage additional entities tied to specific moods.

The interwoven compositions of vessels are shifting figures that are part of a whole.

MARIA CAMISÓN

With these hand-crafted porcelain pieces, the artist portrays various facets of the plant: from its robust nature to its fragile stereotyping. The artist challenges the androcentrism of Western medicine, particularly overmedication and misdiagnoses that affect the perception and treatment of female bodies.

This parallel serves María Camisón to emphasize the need for a paradigm shift. With **Adormidera**, she disrupts the superficial historical construct of femininity to advocate for a more holistic understanding of health and well-being.

FERNANDO GARCÉS

In his work, materials that seem at odds live in harmony, from the pristine white porcelains to the rough refractory clays, enhancing the characteristics and qualities of each. The clays, sometimes bare, invoke earth's hues and bear the potter's marks as their sole adornment.

Metallic sheens, lusters, and gold applications are a hallmark of his work. The clean lines, reduced to their essence and free from any distraction, focus on **simplicity, tranquillity, rhythm, proportion, and motion**, conveying the timeless essence of an ancient craft.

TALLER DE CERÁMICA SAN GINÉS & ANDREA SANTAMARINA

Andrea Santamarina has been actively involved in producing her pieces since 2018 with the San Ginés Ceramics Workshop, led by Mónica García del Pino.

A collection inspired by **Jorge Luis Borges' "The Book of Imaginary Beings"**. It consists of pieces that revive the tradition of Talavera ceramic painting, a craft mainly performed by women. Animal motifs have been a staple in popular ceramic representations.

The ceramic collection consists of reversible, gender-neutral bodies, with silhouettes that emerge on both sides of the pieces, forming a complete whole when flipped and positioned differently.

AITOR SARAIBA

Aitor Saraiba's textile work is **20 years old** and to celebrate it in this exhibition we can see one of the first textile works he made in Manchester in 2003, encapsulating the future direction of his work. Art as catharsis, reclaimed and recycled textiles as the medium, wild stitches, and almost primitive paintings characterize it. This exhibition offers a unique glimpse into the origins and current state of this ICON Craftsmanship Award winner's textile work.

Aitor Saraiba's ceramics, crafted in collaboration with Talavera Ceramic Centre, have been championing design for over a decade.

CENTRO CERÁMICO TALAVERA

A leading workshop in contemporary ceramic production that, since 1992, has been adhering to the Talavera de la Reina ceramic technique, hand-painting as the master potters of the 16th century did, blending **tradition and innovation**.

DEJUAN VAJILLAS & LEANDRO CANO

Designer and craftsman come together to showcase this work of art. The evolution of Leandro Cano's work has progressed hand in hand with his life. From a young age, craftsmen, artists, painters, sculptors always surrounded him, and he leveraged their talent to incorporate their disciplines into his collections. The richness of Spanish craftsmanship in each of his collections.

This time he presents us with this large-scale **"Catalina" necklace**, entirely made of baked clay, crafted completely by hand in Francisco Agudo's workshop.

FERNANDO ALCALDE

From Eastern tradition, he also learned to find inspiration for his craftwork in contemplating nature. **"Nature has helped me see colours"**, he explains. Sometimes, there's no need to seek the extraordinary. We have many things within reach; it's just a matter of seeing them anew". Fernando Alcalde's most renowned works draw inspiration from shapes in the world of botany. They are unique pieces where design intersects with art, without compromising functionality. "Using them connects you to the object through touch. I aim to create delightful ceramics", he remarks.

PEPITA ALÍA

The **"Living Treasure"** Pepita Alía, a Lagarterana embroiderer at 93, presents these "Ras" placemats.

They encapsulate the folding and hemstitching technique of the Ras or leyes shirt, worn by the women of honour in Lagartera (jamallera).

Embroideries of Lagartera: Cultural Heritage Asset with the Category of Intangible Asset. Four-handed: Pepita Alía & Tomás Alía.

WOOLDREAMERS & CONCEPCION MORENO

SANTA MARÍA

"Spinning the Sky" is an artwork by Concepción Moreno Santa María, part of the Wool4life artisan line of the Wooldreamers project. This piece melds the artisanal process of washing, spinning, and weaving transhumant wool with a message of connection between heaven and earth.

Wooldreamers' artisanal process aims to further elevate the excellence of craft, bridging the gap between artists and local shepherds, promoting the sustainability of rural communities and professions at risk of extinction, like that of the Transhumant Shepherd.

The artist Concepción Moreno describes her work as a portrayal of the inseparable relationship between sky and earth. Using wool as the symbol of union, "Spinning the Sky".

JUSTINO DEL CASAR

His works prompt reflection on the ephemeral nature of human production in today's consumer society and the **dignifying power of art**.

He plays with the concept of dignification, endowing new attributes to materials destined for destruction, prevalent in our daily lives: bank statements, postal packaging, commercial flyers... These are overlooked objects, stripped of their value yet integral to the passage of daily life.

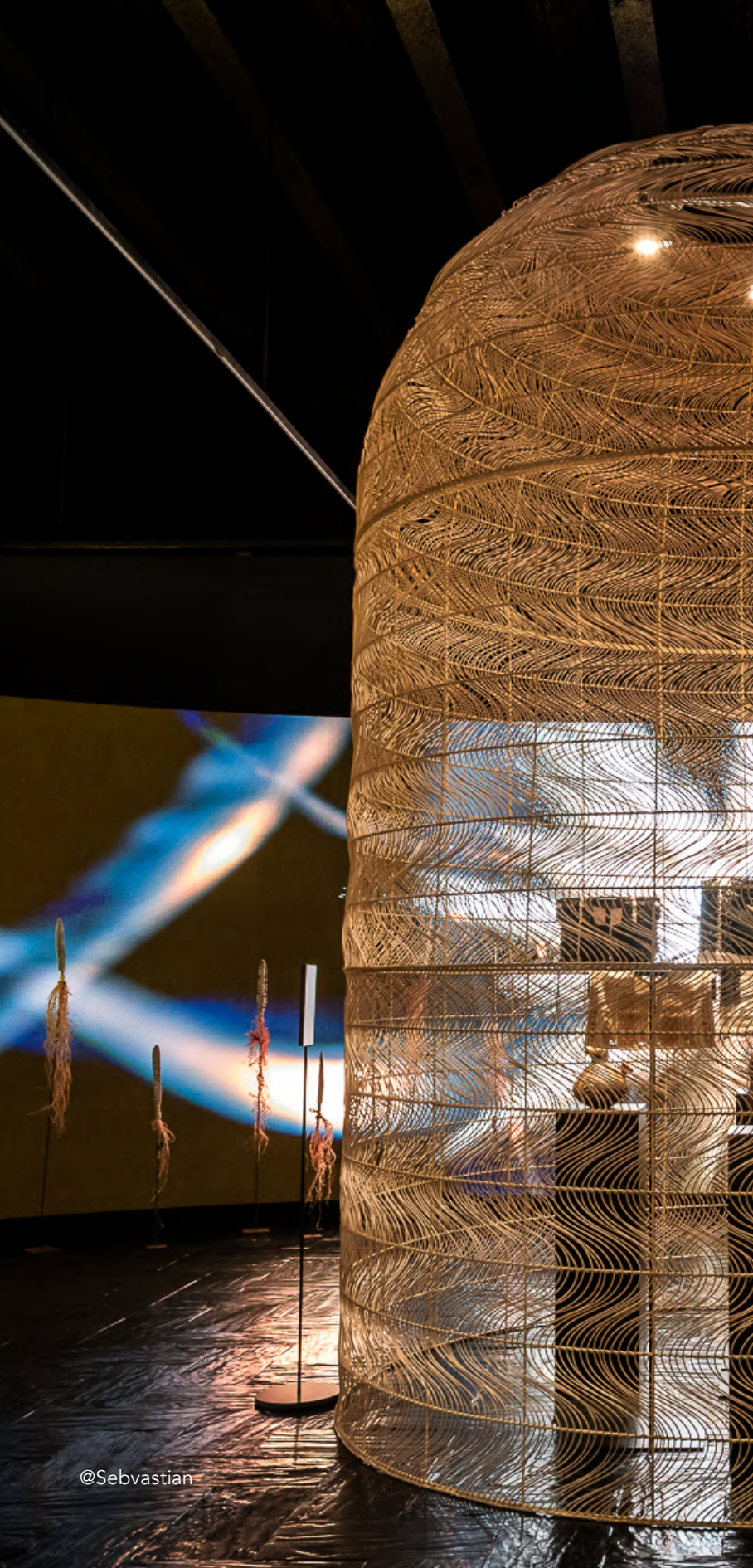
His work invites us to reflect on the concept of temporality. The new forms taken on by these consumable materials are reminiscent of Roman amphorae, tribal masks, funerary vessels.

MONDEMA

All the pieces are exhibited on structures handcrafted in the restoration and carpentry workshop of Juan Carlos and Rocío.

EUGENIO RECUENCO

The audiovisual piece enveloping the space is a creation by Eugenio Recuenco for the Castilla-La Mancha Artisan Legacy. This photographer and artist, regarded as one of the world's most creative, manages with his distinctive style to evoke the dreamlike and artistic nature of the region's artisanal crafts.



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