"XOCHITLA"

Anabel Juarez

March 14 - April 26th 2020 Five Car Garage and Lefebvre et Fils Gallery, Paris. Opens at Five Car Garage March 14th 12-5pm rsvp <u>info@emmagrayhq.com</u>



"Dalia Azul (hybrid)"Ceramics 60x46.5x15.5"

Five Car Garage and Lefebvre et Fils Gallery, Paris, are delighted to present Anabel Juarez's solo exhibition, "XOCHITLA," Nahuatl for "garden" or "place of flowers." For this exhibition, Juarez presents new large-scale ceramic sculptures developed from her ongoing interest in floral representation in Mexican culture. Civilizations like the Aztecs cultivated and harvested several types of flowers for ornamental, religious, ritual, medicinal purposes, and often represented these flowers in stone and ceramics. Juarez draws inspiration by the simplified plant depictions of Mesoamerican cultures, from the brightly painted flowers in popular art, and from the symbolic portrayals of flora in Mexican Art, as well as the references of plants in Mexican idioms. Juarez is particularly interested in how the Mexican landscape and flora can serve as a of language to speak about identity.

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The works in "Xochitla" specifically reference the cactus, a plant often associated with Mexico which is portrayed in the national flag as part of the coat of arms, and the dahlia, the Mexican national flower. However far from creating realistic representations of these plants, Juarez makes imagined sculptures that portray a synthesis of her inspiration sources. "Dalia Azul (Winter)," for instance, resembles a type of cactus grafted with a dahlia in which the cactus cladodes are outlined with simplified leaves and flowers. Juarez' ceramic floral garden invites the viewer to walk around the exhibition and experience the wonder of nature in her larger than life sculptures.

Anabel Juarez was born in Michoacan, Mexico (1988). Juarez and her Family immigrated to the Los Angeles Greater Area in 2003. Having spent most of her formative years in Mexico, it's deeply vibrant and historical culture has greatly influenced her practice and artistic works. Juarez earned a BFA in ceramics from California State University, Long Beach in 2013, and an MFA in Art from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2017. She has exhibited her work in the Greater-Los Angeles Area in California, Paris, and Mexico. Also, her work is held in the permanent collection of the French National Ceramics Museum-Sevres. Juarez is the recipient of scholarships such as The UCLA Graduate Division Award, the UCLA Graduate Opportunity Fellowship Program Scholarship, and others.