

The Essence of Existence, the History of an Individual

Artist Keka Ruiz Tagle

The universe is an endless evolving energy that is far greater than what human beings are able to control. It is beyond our inventions that are advancing at a rapid speed. Yet because of high technological developments human beings are losing their basic instincts. The five senses that we are originally born with, today functions differently as our life style is changing. However the essence of matters have existed for millions of years far beyond our high technological inventions. History proves this and we can only remain true to the development of our own era. Even so artists have always questioned the existence of human beings and the universe through the understanding of individual ancestral lineage. Keka Ruiz Tagle reaches deep into the roots of her being questioning her existence and her individual identity in search of her own meaning on life in this huge cosmos. Her work over the years has become bold and confident, experimenting in many different ways. At times she creates monumental one-off installations, simultaneously as creating figurative sculptures and paintings – her figurative expressions sometimes become vessels and containers. Her source of inspiration is her living environment and she has created her own figurative language which is both abstract and narrative. She reinterprets nature, native cultures and historical remains. Over the years she has mixed clay with different materials depending on her method of expression particularly in her installations.

The role of an artist is to educate the general public through the process of understanding one's own self. The confrontation to create something using different materials is a difficult one for any artist. It is comparable to a religious oath or obligation. One has to discipline the self to lead a life that is extremely routine based. Keka's approach to the material clay has matured enough that she know exactly what to make. Furthermore, she has developed ease and confidence in her delivery of different concepts and ideas.

Each year, she continues without losing her lineage of history in terms of her work. They are different yet connected comparable to one's ancestral descendant. In other words, her oeuvres are not detached but a link from year to year. Eventually she will create her own history referring to her own roots, culture and topography. The undeniable fact is that we are where we live because the influence of nature is so great. Keka is not afraid to make reference and develop her own creative ideas based on her culture. Her perception captures her experiences and past memories to tell her individual story as her five senses carry the essence of her artistic sensibility.

Untainted by the fast moving world of the 21st century Keka has remained true to her research on

cosmogonies, geomancy, traditional rituals and customs. Her sensitive approach to these subjects has enabled her to interpret them in artistic methods which are both versatile, raw and strong. I remember Keka stating that all elements in nature has a memory, and she endeavors to include this fact into her work. Each piece is a reference to those matters that carry different stories.

It is inspiring to see Keka Ruiz Tagle's evolution of oeuvres crossing over different art genres and mediums.

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General Secretary, Korea Craft and Design Foundation (Ministry of Sports, Culture and Tourism)

Adviser and Jury, Ishikawa Prefecture, Kanazawa City, Japan 2016, 2017, 2018

Asian Scout, Loewe Craft Prize, 2019, 2018

Guest Curator, Fondation Bernardaud, Limoges, France

Art Director, Cheongju International Craft Biennale 2015

International Commissioner, Gyeonggi International Ceramic Biennale 2013

Member of the World Crafts Council, and IAC