

NOHRA HAIME GALLERY 500 W 21st STREET

ADRIANA MARMOREK

FLOWER TO BEE

March 6 – April 11, 2020

Opening reception: Thursday, March 5th from 6-8 p.m.

"There is no eros without a philosophy of love, nor a poetics of feelings without a theory of the body's possibilities"
- Michel Onfray – *Théorie du corps amoureux*



ANIMA, 2013, glass, gold leaf, motor, 8.66 x 13.39 x 9.06 in. 22 x 34 x 23 cm.

For her fourth solo exhibition in New York and her second with Nohra Haime Gallery, Adriana Marmorek presents us with the clues for deciphering the enigmas of love, sexuality and desire. Her decades long enquiry into what she herself has called the “architecture of desire” began with questions around media and how the female body is wielded as a sexualized marketing tool. This path led her to then wonder about love and loss, which in turn led to her current investigation into the nature of love and how we have come to lose its proximity to the spiritual, the sublime, and the highly mysterious.

Marmorek’s search has transformed her into a researcher, an avid reader of post-modern philosophy and poetry, a seeker of meanings concealed behind layers of paint in classical works of art. Her serendipitous encounter with Hieronymus Bosch’s *Garden of Earthly Delights* led her to produce a powerfully poetic piece, *Anima*, which reinterprets the relationship she found between Bosch’s tranquil and protected couple encased in a glass bubble. That piece was the namesake of a solo exhibition she presented in 2013, but the wonderment that it provoked never left her.

NEW YORK, NY 10011 212-888-3550 GALLERY@NOHRAHAIMEGALLERY.COM

In *Flower to Bee*, Marmorek bravely tries to unlock one of the many shielded mysteries of Bosch's *Garden*, and she does so by taking the varied flora and fauna of his triptych outside the landscape and into the gallery space. She offers her viewer a path of discovery into their own interpretation both of what the *Garden's* message on love is, and their own notion of what it has been for them. Her courage lies in facing the many mysteries concealed behind layers of paint and meaning of a masterpiece that is still far from being resolved, and in doing so at a time when our societal definitions of love, gender, connection and marriage are in a state of complete flux. She is therefore establishing dialogue between two mysteries: with the *Garden* itself, and with our collective understanding of how we come to relate to each other amorously and physically, when the rules we held to as a society have crumbled in their own exclusion of others, and are yet to be built again. She does so with the knowledge that this is an ever-changing scenario where what we hold to be true today might not be so anymore in the future.

The works in this exhibition were delicately crafted with five Colombian artisans whose techniques were on the verge of vanishing. They can be many things at once: they can be immensely beautiful and dark, they can be poetic and broken, they can exist in the liminal space between animal and vegetal, in the boundary between installation and two-dimensional works, between technology and the trace the human hand leaves on the material.

This exhibition is a lush, diversely populated garden that, despite this very fullness, is a *tabula rasa* upon which each viewer is able to write their own notion of love, desire, and above all, their experience in how love has brought them closer – even if just for a moment – to infinity.

Marmorek's work has been exhibited in numerous museums and institutions throughout the United States, Europe and Latin America, including important solo shows at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Bogotá; Museum of Modern Art, Bogotá; and Museo Rayo, Roldanillo. She has frequently participated in art fairs and exhibitions such as the Salón de Arte Joven-Arteámara, 2005 and 2007; the Salón Regional de Artistas, Zona Centro, 2015; representing Colombia at ARCO Madrid, 2015; the SITIO section of ArtBo, 2015; and AIPAD The Photography Show, New York, 2017. Marmorek was nominated for the PremioBienal de Arte de Bogotá in 2010, and in 2017, she received the nomination for the most prestigious art award in Colombia: the IX Premio Luis Caballero Award for Contemporary Art. Recently, she held two solo exhibitions in Europe and participated in Barcelona's 2019 LOOP festival.

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For more information: Leslie Garrett at 212-888-3550 or gallery@nohrahaimegallery.com



FLOWER OF DESIRE, 2020, porcelain, 20 x 22 x 25 cm.; *COSMOGONY 35*, 2019, porcelain, 14 x 14 x 18 cm.; and *FLOWER TO BEE*, 2020, porcelain, 18 x 27 x 35.5 cm.