

Since 1973, a gallery promoting the work of women artists and serving the community through public events

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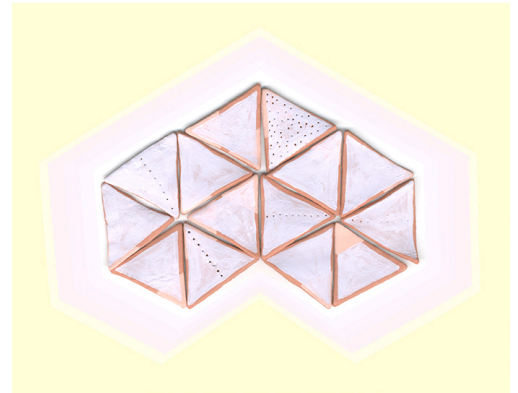
For Immediate Release:

Maria Jose Duran Steinman *...From the Kitchen*

October 29 – November 23, 2013

Opening Reception:
Thursday November 7, 6-8pm

Above: Floor I, Clay and Acrylic, 2013



Maria Jose Duran Steinman presents *...From The Kitchen*, a site specific installation of drawing and clay sculptures, on view at SOHO20 through November 23rd. The exhibition, which shifts her kitchen-based studio into the gallery context, offers up sustenance and samplings of discovery, refuge and play.

The kitchen was the pin of Steinman's formative experiences, where teaching, communication and sense of family ripened around a meal. Sentimentality and autobiographical narrative emerged from within this positive social environment; it has since evolved into a springboard for meditative creative practice, and in turn, a space for emotional healing.

Automatism plays a key role in Steinman's creative process; it is often a spontaneous act which extends beyond the realm of conscious control. While grasping for physical re-organization and psychological reorientation, she finds comfort in both structural repetition and elemental tactility. She savors spatial configuration and patterning to form geometric objects, considering how they are felt and experienced by the eye, like pieces of a puzzle. Simultaneously, she relishes in experimenting with rudimentary materials such as clay, to produce soft plasmic forms that reflect somatic qualities and embrace rituals of organic transformation.

Maria Jose Duran (b. 1982, Chile) received her BFA in Fine Arts at Finis Terrae University in 2006. In 2008 she was awarded with the Fulbright Scholarship and the Chilean international Scholarship to pursue graduate studies in NYC. On May 2010 she graduated from the MFA Fine Arts of the School of Visual Arts and received the Alumni Scholarship award. MJ has exhibited in Chile and New York; more recently in Galería Arte Espacio, Local Project, No Longer Empty, Perry Rubenstein Gallery, Lower East Side Cuchifritos Gallery, Creon Gallery and her first solo show in 2011 at the Governor Island Art Fair. She also has collaborated with El Paper Magazine (Local Project) and the Push Pops Collective. Her work has been featured in Revolt Magazine, Visual Arts Journal, Vivienda y Decoración, the online Exhibition curated by Mariangeles Soto-Diaz in partnership with the University of Iowa Museum of Art and the Project Space at the Wignall Museum of Contemporary Art (Chaffey College, CA), among others. She worked as personal assistant to Lynda Benglis and currently as an archivist to the artist and collector Speed Carroll.

For more information please contact the gallery at 212-367-8994 or