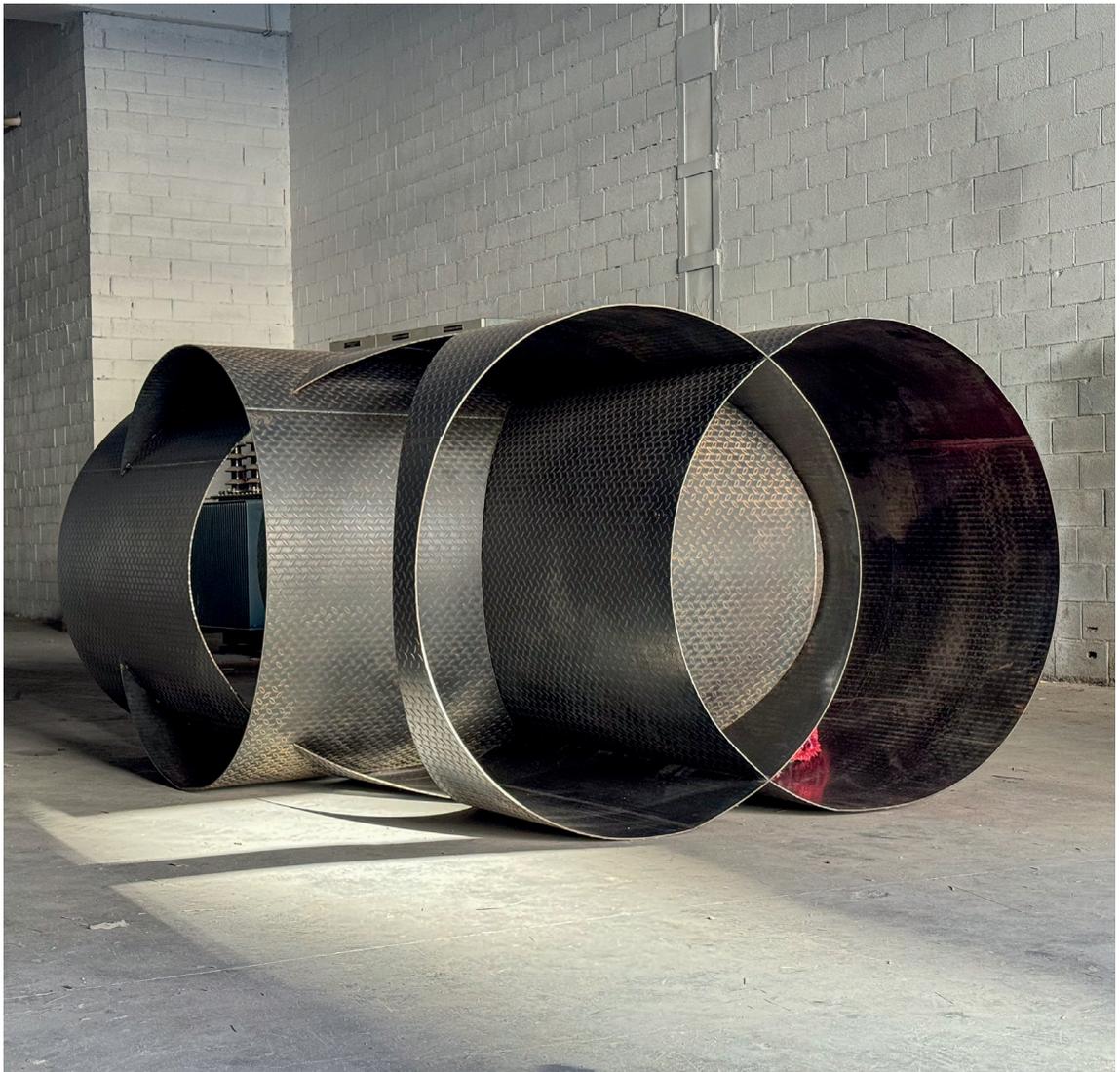


GUGGENHEIM BILBAO

Press release



Opening on March 1

June Crespo. Vascular

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June Crespo. Vascular

- Dates: March 1 to June 9, 2024
 - Curator: Manuel Cirauqui
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- June Crespo's sculptural practice forges a transformative dialogue with the concepts that have marked Basque art in recent decades, yet it also addresses radically contemporary topics like feminist sensibility and awareness of the crisis in natural ecosystems caused by the industrialized world.
 - Crespo's production often integrates recognizable parts of receptacles or building structures like barrels, cement formwork, or iron pieces secured by straps, which are joined in *Vascular* by rescaled flower stems and parts arranged in intensely dynamic sets.
 - Along with a selection of recent works, the exhibition is also organized around new pieces which lend its name to the show. Aspects that recur in many of Crespo's series converge in it, such as the sculptural or architectural use of photographic images and the presentation of industrially-manufactured supports. Both prop up the proliferation of tubular and cylindrical plant forms in space.
 - The exhibition suggests transmissions among all the works, which serve as connecting vessels and capillary networks in a project in which the artist reconsiders her own relationship with space as she recalibrates her oeuvre on a new scale.

The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao presents *June Crespo. Vascular*, an ambitious exhibition devoted to the work of June Crespo (b. 1982, Pamplona), one of the most important emerging figures on the European art scene today. The show brings together a selection of recent works, as well as a large-scale sculptural assemblage designed specifically for the Museum's exhibition space. Both spatially and conceptually, this presentation is planned as a turning point in the exhibitions Crespo has held to date.

June Crespo's sculptural practice is voluntarily situated at the intersection of multiple pathways and contemporary lines of inquiry. On the one hand, she forges a transformative dialogue with the concepts that have characterized Basque art in recent decades, "mobile pairs" like abstraction and gesture, the tragic and the opaque, and lightness and strangeness. She also addresses issues whose urgency was missing from major debates until relatively recently, particularly regarding feminist sensibility and awareness of the devastation that modern lifestyles have wrought on the natural environment, which is now fully subjugated to industrial and post-industrial production and reproduction cycles, as well as the abrasions of the Anthropocene.

In Crespo's work, materials appear as agents of complex operations, each affecting one another in her assemblages. This often means recognizable parts of receptacles or building structures, elements that

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are reminiscent of the world of industrial functionality like barrels, cement formwork, or iron pieces secured by straps. In the new set of works lending their name to the exhibition, *Vascular*, flower stems and parts, rescaled and arranged in sets, appear suspended, boasting intense dynamism. Even though the point of departure of Crespo's sculpture is often the proportions of human bodies like height, extension, and relation with the ground, her exhibition for the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao gallery 105 resituates the scale of her previous works and takes it to a new level of metamorphosis. Crespo gives her materials, a vivid, empathetic nature, a gestural nature that lies at the foundation of this exhibition project, *Vascular*, presented at the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao to offer a perspective on the artist's work, while also inviting the public to explore a totally new scale in her production. Stockpiling and amalgamating a motley assortment of elements—molds taken from plants, found clothing or fabrics, building materials like bricks or blocks, rods, or press—June Crespo's sculptures underscore the stark contrast of the living or even damaged material with the structural elements which fence in and channel our existence in the guise of conduits, veneers, molds, or formwork. Stems, or pieces of fabric or paper are attached to them or are trapped in their joints. Coupled by turnbuckles or simply propped against each other, these elements interrogate one another.

Along with a selection of around thirty works from the past seven years, *June Crespo. Vascular* is arranged around new production in which forms, gestures, and questions that recur in many of Crespo's series converge. Examples of this include the sculptural or even architectural use of photographic images, turned into large prints on the floor, and the presentation of industrially-manufactured supports, like desks or elevator platforms, not in an autonomous but in a functional role for a sculptural set, both of them propping up the proliferation of tubular and cylindrical plant forms in space. The collision of these gestures and questions enables new material and formal inquiries to be made and an enormous space to be tackled, drawing multiple lines of interaction. Not only does *Vascular* seek to reveal the internal communication within each Crespo piece, stressing the liquid, fluid world of mixes, melted substances, and washes, but the exhibition also suggests transmissions among all the works included in the project, which serve as connecting vessels and capillary networks. Thus, a project emerges in which the artist reconsiders her own relationship with space as she recalibrates her work on a new scale.

The new installation specifically conceived and produced for this show and bearing the same title is presented alongside other sculptural series, tracing a possible journey through the artist's career. The criteria for grouping the pieces together in the exhibition was not chronological, nominal, or numerical but instead based on affinity, the shared intensity and kinship of the works in space. Thus, we find triangulations between the new series *Vascular* (2024) and *VSCHC* (2023), *Veils* (2022), *Acts of Pulse* (2022), *Dividual* (2022), and *Voy, sí* (2020), among others. And they go so far as to blur the individual beginning of each work, so there is also a vascularity that transcends the morphological and affects the structural levels of her sculptural practice.

Biography

June Crespo (b. 1982, Pamplona) lives and works in Bilbao. She holds a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from the University of the Basque Country (2005) and participated in the *De Ateliers* residency

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program in Amsterdam between 2015 and 2017. Her individual exhibitions include *Vieron su casa hacerse campo* (2023) at CA2M, Móstoles; *Acts of Pulse* (2022) at P420, Bologna; *entre alguien y algo* (2022), CarrerasMugica, Bilbao; *Am I an Object* (2021) PA///KT (Amsterdam); *Helmets* (2020), Artium, Vitoria-Gasteiz; *Voy, sí* (2020), Ehrhard Florez, Madrid; and *No Osso* (2019), *Uma Certa Falta de Coêrencia*, Oporto, among others. She has recently participated in group shows like *L'écorce*, CRAC-Alsace 2023; *The Milk of Dreams*, main pavilion at the Venice Biennale, 2022; *Fata Morgana*, Jeu de Paume, Paris; and *El sentido de la Escultura*, Fundación Miró, Barcelona.

CATALOGUE

The publication *June Crespo. Vascular*, which accompanies the exhibition, offers its own display of contributions, notably a set of notes from the artist's production diary—an unpublished document that attests to her methodology and the existential journey that has accompanied the new production over the past two years. The artist's diary is joined by a series of poems written by Miren Agur Meabe, the only *euskaldun* poet who won the National Poetry Award (2021), as well as two critical essays by activist and theoretician Jara Rocha, and exhibition curator Manuel Cirauqui.

DIDAKTIKA

As part of the Didaktika project, the Museum designs educational spaces sponsored by Fundación EDP and hosts activities to complement the exhibitions as a way to contribute to the appreciation and understanding of the works.

This time, the Didaktika on *June Crespo. Vascular* is being held online through the section entitled *Did you Know...?*, which is available in the exhibition section of the Museum's website. In addition to June Crespo's career, the section will also include a video where the artist reveals the key ideas in her sculptural work, in which the choice of materials and the process play a crucial role.

Educational activities

Opening Talk (February 28)

Conversation about the exhibition between June Crespo and Manuel Cirauqui, curator of the exhibition and of the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao.

Shared Reflections

Tours offering different perspectives on the contents of the new exhibition accompanied by Museum professionals:

- Curatorial Vision (March 1): Manuel Cirauqui, curator of the exhibition and of the Museum.
- Key Concepts (April 17): Luz Maguregui Urquiza, Education Coordinator.

*Sponsored by Fundación Vizcaína Aguirre

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Guided Tour with... (May 10)

Touring the exhibition with biologist and scientific illustrator Izaskun Alberdi, participants will discover features like stems, conduits, and dermises found in the organic forms in June Crespo's sculptures. It is a unique chance to visit the exhibitions from different perspectives and vantage points.

Creative Session. Scientific and artistic illustration (May 16)

The participants in this session will improve their observational skills through drawing. Biologist and scientific illustrator Izaskun Alberdi will help them analyze reality through the anatomy in June Crespo's works and transfer what they see to paper.

Performances by Amaia Urrea and Ion Munduate (May 25)

The actions by Amaia Urrea and Ion Munduate will engage in a dialogue with the exhibition *Vascular* and with June Crespo's inquiry by exploring ramifications and connections between sculpture and performance.

The conscious system for the movement technique (May 31)

In a session taught by the expert Felicitas Estévez, discover a practice that favors self-knowledge based on conscious thinking that enables us to connect with ourselves through bodily movement. Enjoy your body, the space around you, and the sensations and emotions produced by movement. This activity will be held in the Museum Atrium as part of the exhibition *Vascular* and the Museum's Wellbeing program.

Cover image:

June Crespo

Vascular (5), 2024

Curved checker steel plate and rugs

150 × 300 × 293 cm

Courtesy the artist

© June Crespo, Bilbao, 2024

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Images for the use of the Press

June Crespo. Vascular

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Online press image service

In the press section of the Museum's website (prensa.guggenheim-bilbao.eus), registered users can download high-resolution images and videos of both the exhibitions and the building. If you have not yet opened an account, you can register and download the required material.

If you are already a user, introduce your username and password and access the image downloading facility directly.

- The images provided must be used only for editorial publicity related to the exhibition *June Crespo. Vascular* open to the public from March 1 to June 9, 2024.
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For further information, the Press Department of the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao can be contacted by phone (+34 944 359 008) or email (media@guggenheim-bilbao.eus).

Portrait of June Crespo

Photo: Carlo Favero



June Crespo

Vascular Ensemble (1) [*Conjunto vascular (1)*], 2024

Cast bronze, steel tear plate, tables, and steel structure

265 × 716 × 270 cm

Courtesy the artist

© June Crespo, Bilbao, 2024

Image © FMGB Guggenheim Bilbao Museoa. Photo Erika Barahona Ede



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June Crespo

Vascular Ensemble (1) [*Conjunto Vascular (1)*], 2024

Cast bronze, steel tear plate, tables, and steel structure

265 × 716 × 270 cm

(detail of the piece in progress)

Courtesy the artist

© June Crespo, Bilbao, 2024

Photo: Ander Sagastiberri



June Crespo

Vascular (5), 2024

Curved checker steel plate and rugs

150 × 300 × 293 cm

Courtesy the artist

© June Crespo, Bilbao, 2024

Image © FMGB Guggenheim Bilbao Museoa. Photo Erika Barahona Ede



June Crespo

Back of the Tongue, 2022

Steel cast and fabric

90 × 100 × 83 cm

Private collection, San Rafael, Mexique

© June Crespo, Bilbao, 2024

Photo: Ander Sagastiberri



June Crespo

No Osso (occipital), 2021

Acrylic resin, clay, epoxy putty, and textile

48 × 46 × 136 cm

Gherardo Biagioni Collection, Florence

© June Crespo, Bilbao, 2024

Photo: Carlo Favero



June Crespo

Am I an Object, 2022

Polyester resin, fiberglass, and sleeping bag

62 × 35 × 185 cm

MV Collection

© June Crespo, Bilbao, 2024

Photo: Ander Sagastiberri



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June Crespo

Chance Album (Queen), 2016

Polyurethane resin, metal, magazines, crystal glasses, and dried flowers

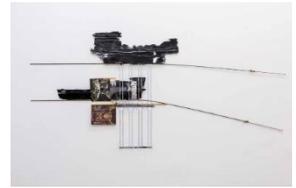
140 × 6,5 × 300 cm

Collection of Museo Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo, Madrid

Partial view of the exhibition at etHall, Barcelona

© June Crespo, Bilbao, 2024

Photo: Juande Jarillo



June Crespo

No Osso, 2019

Textil, latex and copper

56 × 41 × 100 cm

Collection of the artist

© June Crespo, Bilbao, 2024

Photo: Ander Sagastiberri



June Crespo

Untitled, 2022

Wax, bronze and ceramic coating

64,5 × 115 × 58 cm

Alkar Contemporary Collection (ACC), Bilbao

© June Crespo, Bilbao, 2024

Photo Ander Sagastiberri



June Crespo

Untitled (And I Hear Your Steps Getting Closer) [*Untitled (y escucho tus pasos venir)*], 2018 / 2024

Ladder, stainless-steel window frame and structure, silicone mold and acrylic resin, lashing straps, and fabric

202 × 360 × 110 cm

Collection Michael Jenkins and Javier Romero

© June Crespo, Bilbao, 2024

Photo: Jonás Bel



June Crespo

Veils (Winter), 2022

Bronze, stainless steel, ceramic coating, and textile

243 × 106 × 70 cm

Alkar Contemporary Collection (ACC), Bilbao

Partial view of the exhibition *Entre alguien y algo*, CarrerasMugica, Bilbao

© June Crespo, Bilbao, 2024. Photo: Ander Sagastiberri

