



LUCÍA C. PINO
U Said 'Stay', So I Stayed
23.11.2024 — 25.01.2025

*"Hope" is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
Emily Dickinson*

In certain branches of art interpretation there occasionally arises the use of a non-literal anthropomorphic terminology that it does not involve a 'this-looks-like-that' quality of shapes that resemble human bodies or body-parts, but that rather comes closer to a kind of ersatz animism of that which resides incorporeally in the effect transmitted by the 'presence' of a given artwork: how the work might silently transmit either a chilling distance or an excessive proximity across a room; how it might, imperiously, demand or deny attention; how it might, alternately or simultaneously, confront, shy from or seduce the viewer. Conventions of art history aside, it is in fact a wonderful exercise, thinking of artworks as spirit-people not because they happen to look like *people*, but rather because of how their *look* invokes their *anima*, their spirit, and how that in turn makes *you* (unequivocally a person) *feel*; it also provides an apt approach to Lucía C. Pino's works on view in the exhibition *U Said 'Stay', So I Stayed* at the Galería Elba Benítez.

Galería Elba Benítez

C. Pino's work in general is rooted in the human body, starting with the "I" of the artist's own body (the "first tool", as C. Pino says), as evidenced by the human-scale, hand-made, repurposed quality of works' aesthetics, as well as by the performative quality of these assemblages that show the signs of their own assembly. Intertwined with the artist's use of the body in *U Said 'Stay', So I Stayed* is C. Pino's choice and evocative use of materials and an interest in their agency —the pause of their viscosity, the promise/unpromise of their folds, the gravity of their weight, the strength of their balance, the autonomy of their otherness (their "U")— so as to orchestrate it all within and across associative works and installations. A kind of group dynamic arises, a call and response, a cause-and-effect counterpoint of the "I" within and "U" without.

As a result, a different form of anthropomorphism pervades *U Said 'Stay', So I Stayed*, a human quality of human qualities, not deriving from shape or notions of anthropocentric power (to which is entirely unrelated) but rather from the more elusive fluidity of essence: openness, guardedness, queerness, pride, pleasure and, above all, desire. This is the desire of the creative force, the impetus necessary for any creative act, artistic or otherwise. This is the desire that is not only born of and inseparable from human hope; this is the desire that is human hope. And human hope is the most anthropomorphic quality of all, the thing that, more than anything else, makes us the humans that we indeed are and cannot not be, whether we like it or not. Only we humans have human hope. Because only we need it. And we need it.

George Stolz
November 2024

The work of Lucía C. Pino (Valencia, Spain, 1977; lives and works in Barcelona) spans various formats, including sculpture, photography, drawing, performance, installation, research and interdisciplinary collaborative work. Regardless of format, C. Pino's work creates contrapuntal associations among materials, textures, structures, scales and formats, highlighting their haptic and sensual qualities. Taken as a whole, C. Pino's practice aligns itself with the fluidity of a queer ethos, while also emphasizing the inherently performative aspect of the creative act.

C. Pino has shown their work in different institutions such as the Patio Herreriano Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Español (Valladolid, 2024, 2023); Centro Botín (Santander, 2023); MACBA Museo d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (2023); CA2M Museo Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo (Móstoles, Madrid, 2023); artiatx (Bilbao, 2022); Kunstraum Kreuzberg (Berlin, 2022); La Capella MACBA (Barcelona, 2021); La Casa Encendida (Madrid, 2022, 2021); Fundació Joan Miró (Barcelona, 2021); Centre d'Art Tecla Sala (L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Barcelona, 2021); La Panera (Lleida, 2021); Arts Santa Mònica (Barcelona, 2017); Espai 13 of Fundació Joan Miró (Barcelona, 2018), among others. The artist was invited to participate at the Biennial d'Art Leandre Cristòfol (La Panera, Lleida, 2021).

U Said 'Stay', So I Stayed will form the second installment of a trilogy of exhibitions by C. Pino that began with *But if you love us* at the Centro Botín (Santander) in 2023 and will culminate in a solo show at CA2M Museo Centro de Arte Dos de Mayo (Móstoles, Madrid) in 2025.

U Said 'Stay', So I Stayed will be C. Pino's first solo exhibition at the Galería Elba Benítez, which now represents the artist.