

roberto gil de montes

participates in
the milk of dreams
the 59th international art
exhibition la biennale di
venezia





curator: cecilia alemanni

apr 23 – nov 27, 2022
venice, italy

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mar – jue, 11am – 6 pm
vier – sáb, 11am – 4 pm

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kurimanzutto congratulates Roberto Gil De Montes for his participation at The 59th International Art Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia in 2022. Gil de Montes is one of the two Mexican artists selected by curator Cecilia Alemanni for the show titled *The Milk of Dreams*, joining a list of 213 artists who had never participated in this exhibition before.

The milk of Dreams takes its title from a book by Leonora Carrington (1917–2011) in which the Surrealist artist describes a magical world where life is constantly re-envisioned through the prism of the imagination. It is a world where everyone can change, be transformed, become something or someone else. The Exhibition *The Milk of Dreams* takes Leonora Carrington's otherworldly creatures, along with other figures of transformation, as companions on an imaginary journey through the metamorphoses of bodies and definitions of the human.

This exhibition is grounded in many conversations with artists held in the last few years. The questions that kept emerging from these dialogues seem to capture this moment in history when the very survival of the species is threatened, but also to sum up many other inquiries that pervade the sciences, arts, and myths of our time. How is the definition of the human changing? What constitutes life, and what differentiates plant and animal, human and non-human? What are our responsibilities towards the planet, other people, and other life forms? And what would life look like without us?

These are some of the guiding questions for this edition of the Biennale Arte, which focuses on three thematic areas in particular: the representation of bodies and their metamorphoses; the relationship between individuals and technologies; the connection between bodies and the Earth.”

about the artist

Roberto Gil de Montes was born in 1950 in Guadalajara, Mexico. As a teenager his family relocated to the United States where he later went on to receive a BFA and MFA from Otis Art Institute, Los Angeles. As a young artist he became involved in the Chicano art movement in and around Los Angeles, developing relationships with artists such as Carlos Almaraz. In the 1980s, he returned to Mexico City where he worked at the Museo de Arte Moderno and on Artes Visuales,

the prestigious arts journal that explored visual culture in Latin America. Roberto returned to Los Angeles to concentrate on his painting practice and began to exhibit widely. He also became involved in the creation of LACE (Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions) and began to show with Jan Baum Gallery, the only gallery at that time to show Black, Latinx and Asian artists on the West Coast. In 2000, he and his partner, Eddie, packed up their home in Echo Park and moved, via San Francisco, to La Peñita, a fishing town on the Pacific coast of Nayarit, Mexico, where they had spent many holidays. Roberto continues to live in La Peñita and paints in a studio directly overlooking the town plaza, a block from the coast.

Among many other solo and group exhibitions, Gil de Montes was included in the seminal Hispanic Art in the US: Thirty Contemporary Painters and Sculptors which toured the United States in the late 1980s. More recently, Gil de Montes featured as part of Axis Mundo: Queer Networks in Chicano L.A., at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, and organized by ONE Archives. The exhibition, framed in the important city-wide event Pacific Standard Time LA/LA, mapped the intersections and collaborations among a network of queer Chicano artists and their artistic collaborators from the late 1960s to the early 1990s. In 2017, his personal archival collection was acquired by ONE Archives, University of Southern California.

Roberto Gil de Montes's work is part of various collections such as National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Museum Washington, DC; Los Angeles County Museum, Print department; Museum of Latin American Art, Long Beach California; Mexican Government, Art in Embassies; Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Oaxaca, Mexico and The Arizona State University Museum Phoenix, Arizona.

Roberto Gil de Montes lives and works in La Peñita de Jaltemba, Nayarit, Mexico.

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