

ELVIRA SMEKE

Elvira Smeke (Mexico, 1978) is an artist trained as an art historian and photographer. She is currently a multidisciplinary artist exploring sculpture, painting, drawing, installation, photography and video. She uses everyday materials, specifically objects of domestic use, as well as found objects such as tree leaves and stones. She also uses delicate objects like lace, but combines them with materials that are mainly used by men, creating both a tension between them, and also a harmonious fusion.

Smeke's critical route in her work hinges on a feminist philosophy, with an important influence from Simone de Beauvoir, Hélène Cixous and the gender issues posed by Judith Butler. In addition, she reaches into literature, the use of language and writing. Her work also has an ecological facet from the point of view of the Anthropocene theory.

Smeke analyzes what it means to be a woman in our contemporary era, evoking ideologies and tasks imposed on women throughout history, but recapturing them from the perspective of the joy of being a woman. Her work touches on the problematic of femicide and the suffering of women in a phallogocentric society.

On the other hand, her work is performative. She takes long walks and sometimes collects found objects which she uses as a starting point to create, uses her own body as a form, uses her own life to tell a story and is aware of what she calls the accident: which is the uncontrolled resulting part of an action.

ELVIRA SMEKE

CV

EDUCATION

- 1998 Colegio Americano de Fotografía Ansel Adams; Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2003 Bachelor's degree in visual arts, Academia de Artes Visuales (AAVI); Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2007 Workshop in Portrait and history of portraiture, Academia de Artes visuales (AAVI); México City, Mexico.
- 2009 Bachelor's degree in Art History, Instituto de Cultura Superior; Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2009 Bachelor's degree in Art History, Instituto de Cultura Superior; Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2016 Diploma in Contemporary Art, Museo Jumex; Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2017 Diploma in Gender Studies, UM Dartmouth.
- 2018 Diploma in Philosophy, Universidad Iberoamericana; Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2019 Diploma in Contemporary Philosophy, Instituto de Cultura Superior; Mexico City, Mexico.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 I AM NOW NAKED, PR20, curated by Alberto Ríos de la Rosa; Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2017 Yo soy antes, yo soy casi, yo soy nunca, Museo de Arte de Sonora (MUSAS), curated by Octavio Avendaño; Hermosillo, Mexico.
- 2016 Distorsión, Centro Israelita de México; Ciudad de México, Mexico.
- 2015 Desvelar, Kaah Siis; Ciudad de México, México.
- 2011 Between the dots, Aventura Lakes, curated by Flor Broitman; Florida, USA.
- 2010 Yes, Aventura Lakes, Florida, USA.
- 2009 Despertares, Ex-convento de San Hipólito; Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2007 Música y luz, Ex-convento de San Hipólito; Mexico City, Mexico.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019
Foto México, LMI Gallery; Mexico City, Mexico.
Laberintos, Casa de la Cultura San Rafael; Mexico City, Mexico.
Epifanía de los sentidos, Galería L; Mexico City, Mexico.
12 horas, Mártires de la conquista; Mexico City, Mexico.
Piso, Mártires de la conquista; Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2018
Masters, Latitud Polanco, curated by Octavio Avendaño; Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2017
Details, Marco Antonio Patrizio Gallery; Padova, Italy.
Feminicidio en México YA BASTA, Museo Memoria y Tolerancia; Mexico City, Mexico.
AyudARTE, Centro Sefaradí; Mexico City, Mexico.
Híbrido, Monte Líbano 930, Mexico City, Mexico.

- 2016
Proyecto Medellín, Galería Jimena Carranza; Mexico City, Mexico.
Por las calles de Amsterdam, Amsterdam 70; Mexico City, Mexico.
Colecciones, Festival Internacional de Fotografía, AAVI; Mexico City, Mexico.
Commfest Festival; Toronto, Canadá.
Curadurías, Centro Cultural Luis Nishisawa; Estado de México, Mexico.
Entre Líneas, Casa de Cultura Puebla; Puebla, Mexico.Nueva, Cárcamo Gallery; Monterrey, Mexico.
- 2015
Colecciones, Festival Internacional de Fotografía, AAVI; Mexico City, Mexico.
Commfest Festival; Toronto, Canadá.
Curadurías, Centro Cultural Luis Nishisawa; Estado de México, Mexico.
Entre Líneas, Casa de Cultura Puebla; Puebla, Mexico.Nueva, Cárcamo Gallery; Monterrey, Mexico.
- 2007
El común, Academia de Artes Visuales; Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2005
Yo estoy, FotoSeptiembre, AAVI Academia de Artes Visuales; Mexico City, Mexico.

ART FAIRS

- 2020 Zona Maco, LMI Gallery; Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2019 Pinta Miami, IK Projects Gallery; Florida, USA.
- 2017 Arte Genova, Galeria Marco Antonio Patrizio; Genova, Italy.
- 2016 JustMad, Proyectos especiales; Madrid, Spain

AWARDS

- 2005 Honorable mention, FotoSeptiembre por el proyecto de auto-retrato Yo estoy.