



# The Rhodope Fable

Little Bird Place / Sofia

Paula Flores & Zachari Logan

Curated by Denise Parizek

Vernissage 6th of June, 2025  
Duration 7th - 26th of June, 2025



Zachari Logan Secret Gardem. Jeans No 1 & Weeds No 3



Paula Flores TIKLA



Zachari Logan Pendant for Zlatyu Boyadzhiev



Zachari Logan Pendant for Zlatyu Boyadzhiev



Paula Flores Deconstructed Jaguar / Zachari Logan Pendant for Zlatyu Boyadzhiev

## THE RHODOPE FABLE

Knowing and working with Paula Flores and Zachari Logan for many years an idea of a match emerged in my mind. The idea was to bring these two artists together to realise an exhibition in Little Bird Nest. The two artists, the gallery and I myself are focussed on the theme of nature. The residency in Leshten, in the Rhodope Mountains, inspired me to research the mountain environment, the plants typical of the Rhodopen and the history of this long-inhabited area.

Both artists work with nature, organic materials and fabrics, both are painters and drawers and present their works as installations. Nevertheless, their artistic expressions diverge, which in my eyes represent two different approaches.

Paula Flores, a graduate of Art & Science / Virgil Widrich at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna, focuses on scientific understanding and experimentation in her artistic projects, while Zachari Logan, a graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts in Saska

toon / Sasketchuwan, follows his ideal image of nature. While Logan draws his inspiration from Henry David Thoreau's Walden or Rousseau's romantic conception of nature, virtually inventing his own plants based on natural models, Flores creates living sculptures from growing mycelia or sleeps under an overgrown sheep's wool blanket in order to experience the connection with nature as it is.

During our residency in Leshten, in the Rhodope Mountains, we had the opportunity to explore the botany, culture, religion and people of this region. Influences from Byzantine art in the churches, the icons, the intense colors, the plants and traditional materials of the Pomak group are expressed in the works of the two artists.

It was Paula Flores' first time in Bulgaria. She found fabrics with familiar-looking patterns at the Pomak markets in the Rhodope Mountains. The food also reminded her of her native Mexico.



Curious, she researched possible connections between the two countries, but couldn't find any points of contact. The works she created in Leshten reflect this unknown connection. With the help of Bekir, our good spirit in Leshten, she carved two totem poles which, on the one hand, represent the tradition of her homeland and, on the other, were carved using the traditional pomak method. She used icon panels for her pictures for the first time and covered them, as well as the totem poles, with petals of the region, yellow (calendula) and pink (damask rose). Tikla, the little green icon, a green reference to the forests in the Rhodope Mountains, shows a typical stone shingle used to cover the roofs of the original houses in this region. Through her references, she forges this as yet non-existent bond between the cultures of Bulgaria and Mexico.

Zachari Logan, a guest at the Leshten Residenz for the fourth time, has already used icon panels and combined this tradition this time with chains to create an installative wall creation.

The chains reference the two votive Madonnas in the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Sofia, on which pieces of jewellery were hung with chains as votive offerings. He dedicates his icons to the Bulgarian painter Slatju Bojadschiew, whom he greatly admires.

In his Secret Garden series, Logan paints worn jeans and pants. The cocoons hang between the romantic flower meadows like the stripped shells of an ascended insect. Or are they votive gifts to a frivolous god, Pan from Jitterburg's perfume by Tom Robbins.

The influence of the time in Leshten and the various interpretations of the experiences and research of the two artists makes the juxtaposition interesting and inspires me to create a connection between the two positions by trying to realise an overall installation of both artworks.

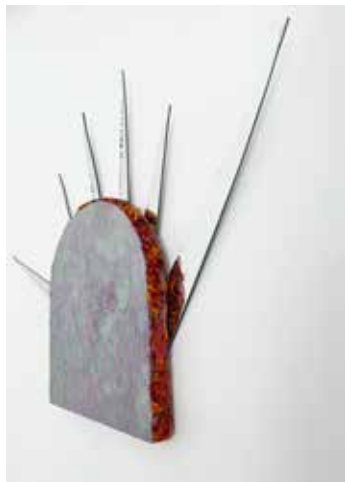
Denise Parizek / Curator



Paula Flores Deconstructed Jaguar



Paula Flores Ghost of the Rhodopes



Paula Flores Ghost of the Rhodopes / Details



Paula Flores Tonal y Nahual & Kóokay 1, Kóokay 2



Paula Flores Tonal y Nahual

## Paula Flores

born and raised in Mexico, draws on her roots and the traditions of Mexico's indigenous population. She traces the loss of connection with nature, visualises an alternative view of nature and entices her audience to immerse themselves in the archaic world through olfactory installations. Paula Flores appeals to all our senses and thus touches deep human emotions. Her relationship with nature felt magical, based on the stories of her grandparents, who introduced her to the human connection to nature and the ancient tradition of living with nature. Their vocabulary was filled with references of nature and all the beings that inhabit within. Herself being from a city didn't fully understand all of these poetic ways of nature that overflow into language, culture and behaviour. Memories of her childhood and own experience over the years influenced her artistic approach and the resulting works.

## Zachari Logan

evolves a visual language that explores the intersections between masculinity, identity, memory and place. Inspired by the strategy of visually quoting places, artworks and experiences, Logan transforms his body into its own embodiment of nature. This shift echoes ideas of ideals of beauty, mortality, landscapes and the contemplation of nature. In his drawings and paintings, he combines nature with his body, blurring the boundaries. Recently, he has been implementing worn, painted items of clothing that represent the connection between temporal realms like a stripped-off shell. Iconographically, he refers to Catholic rites and paintings that he researches while travelling in Europe.





Paula Flores Tol





Paula Flores Tol /Details



Zachari Logan Secret Garden Series, Imagined Wildflowers and Weeds No. 1, 2



Zachari Logan Secret Garden Series Briefs, No. 3, Imagined Wildflowers & Weeds No. 1, 2



Paula Flores & Zachari Logan Installation View



Paula Flores Kóokay 1 & Kóokay 2



Paula Flores Kóokay 1 & Kóokay 2





Zachar Logan Queer Flower Series, Dandelion Seeds & Paula Flores Kóokay 1 & Kóokay 2



Zachari Logan Queer Flower Series





Zachari Logan Leshten Poppy & From Ossuary, 4 Flowers



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<http://pogmahon.com/exhibitions/therhodopefable/>  
<http://littebirdplace.com>

## PRESS LINKS

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