



As a visual artist and poet, Calel engages with topics related to the rich cultural heritage and rituals of Guatemala's midwestern highlands, where he resides. Hailing from a family of Maya-Kaqchikel artists and artisans, Calel works across drawing, painting, sculpture, installation, and performance, often engaging with sites and traditions around his hometown of Chi Xot (San Juan Comalapa) as creative touchstones for works that meticulously interconnect localities, at home and internationally. The artist's primary concerns include exploring the complexities of Indigenous experiences and representing the Maya-Kaqchikel worldview to new publics.

His work, often centered on themes of home and care, reflects a belief in creativity as a communal and inherited endeavor linked to nourishment, continuity, and the preservation and transmission of ancestral knowledge.

In the Maya-Kaqchikel tradition, personhood is a relational status that surpasses the Western notion of individuality. The Kaqchikel language, for example, has no direct word for "art" but rather translates our concept of artistic production as knowledge-wisdom-understanding or a sacred state of thinking. In Calel's practice, art serves as both material expression and sets of rituals intrinsically embodying communal solidarity. His exploration of personhood within Maya cosmology invites a rethinking of kin-based relationships with non-human entities. Calel's work ultimately embodies a philosophy in which the land itself is alive and a reading of human and non-human agency as inextricable from our surroundings.

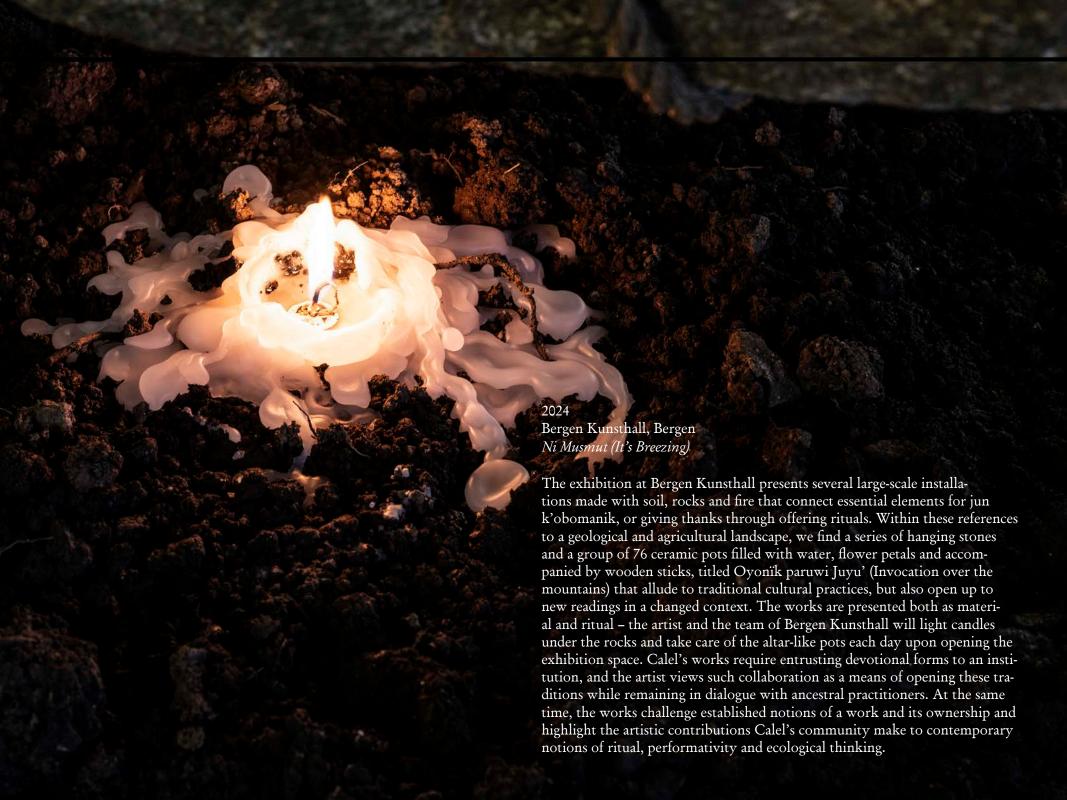
Edgar Calel (b. 1987, Chi Xot [San Juan Comalapa], Guatemala) Lives and works in Chi Xot.

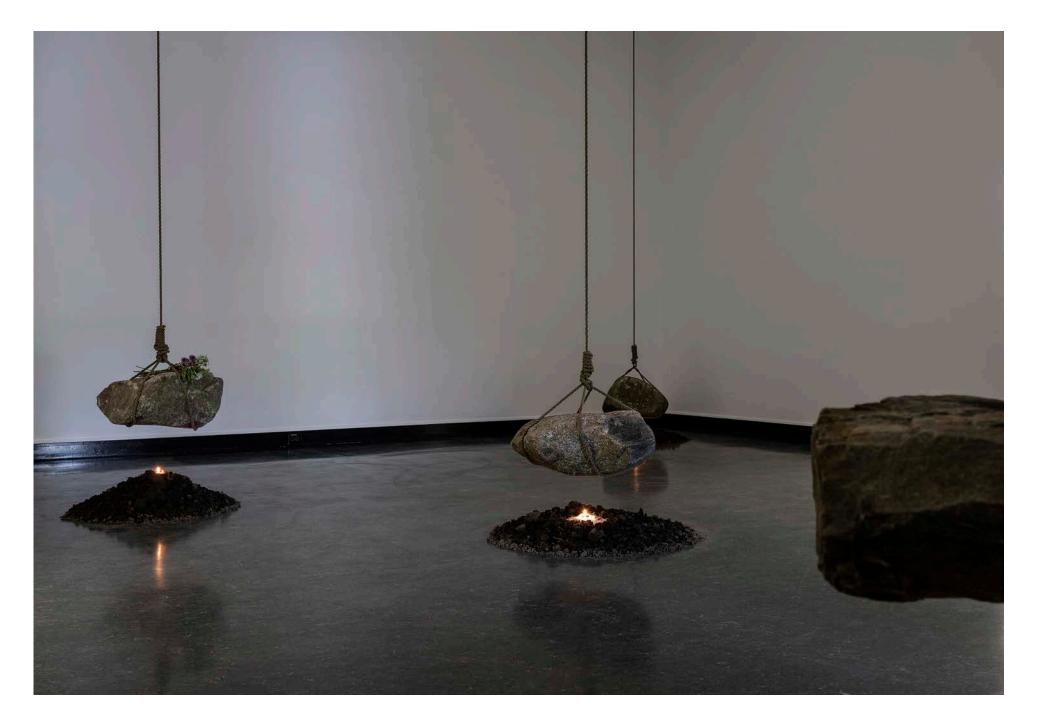
Recent solo exhibitions have taken place at Mendes Wood DM, Archipelago, Germantown (2024); Desanexo do Desapê, São Paulo (2023); Sculpture Center, New York (2023); Proyectos Ultravioleta, Guatemala City (2022).

Selected group exhibitions have been held at Tate Modern, London (2025); Armada Galería, Mexico City (2024); Proyectos Ultravioleta, Guatemala City (2023); 35th São Paulo Biennial, São Paulo (2023); Galeria de artistas, São Paulo (2023); Soft Power, Berlin (2023); 12th Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool (2023); 14th Gwangju Biennale, Gwangju (2023); Casa de Hierro, Guatemala City (2023); Proyectos Ultravioleta, Guatemala City (2023); SESC Pompéia, São Paulo (2022); 58th Carnegie International, Pittsburgh (2022); Centro Cultural de España, Guatemala City (2022).

Calel's work is included in institutional collections including Fundación Teor/ética, Kadist Foundation, MADC Museum of Contemporary Art and Design, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, National Gallery of Canada, Rijkscollectie – National Collection of the Netherlands, and Tate Modern.



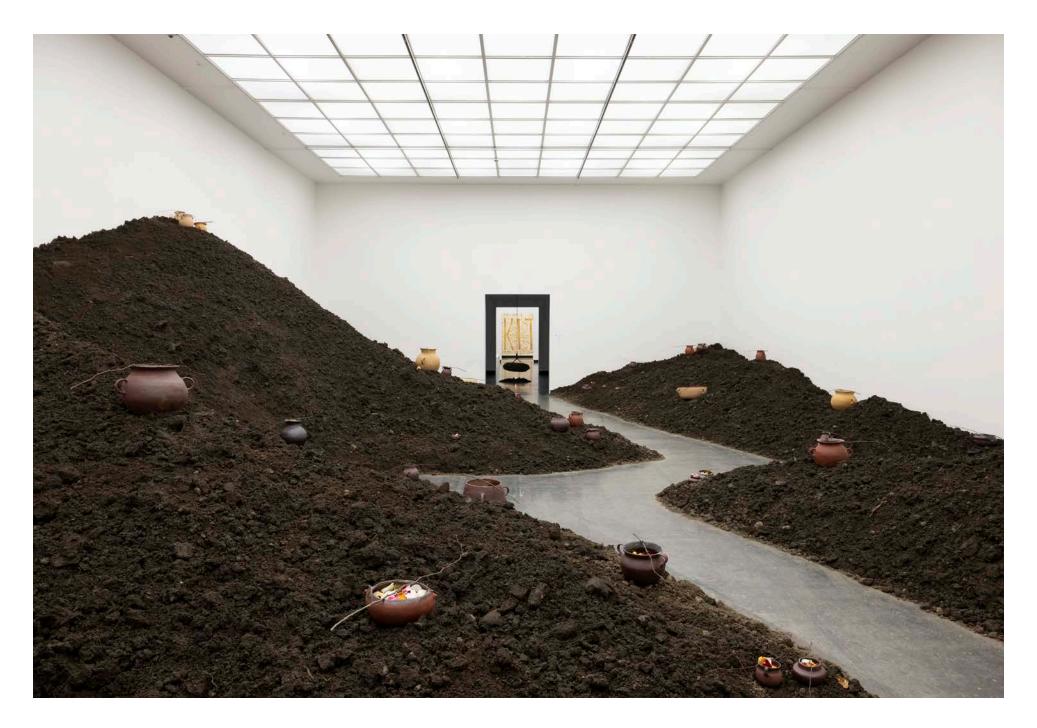
















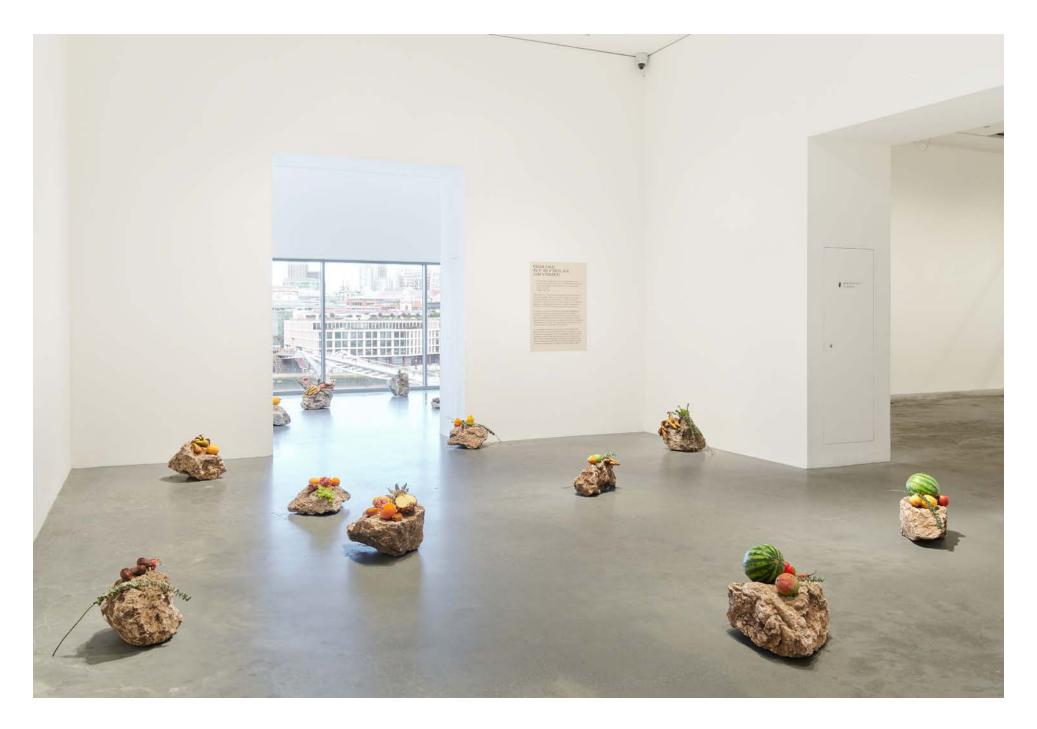








Ru Raxal qa Raybu'äl [The Green of your Desire], La Nueva Fabrica, Santa Ana, 2024

















Kutenten - kutenten - kutenten, Mendes Wood DM, Archipelago, Germantown, 2024

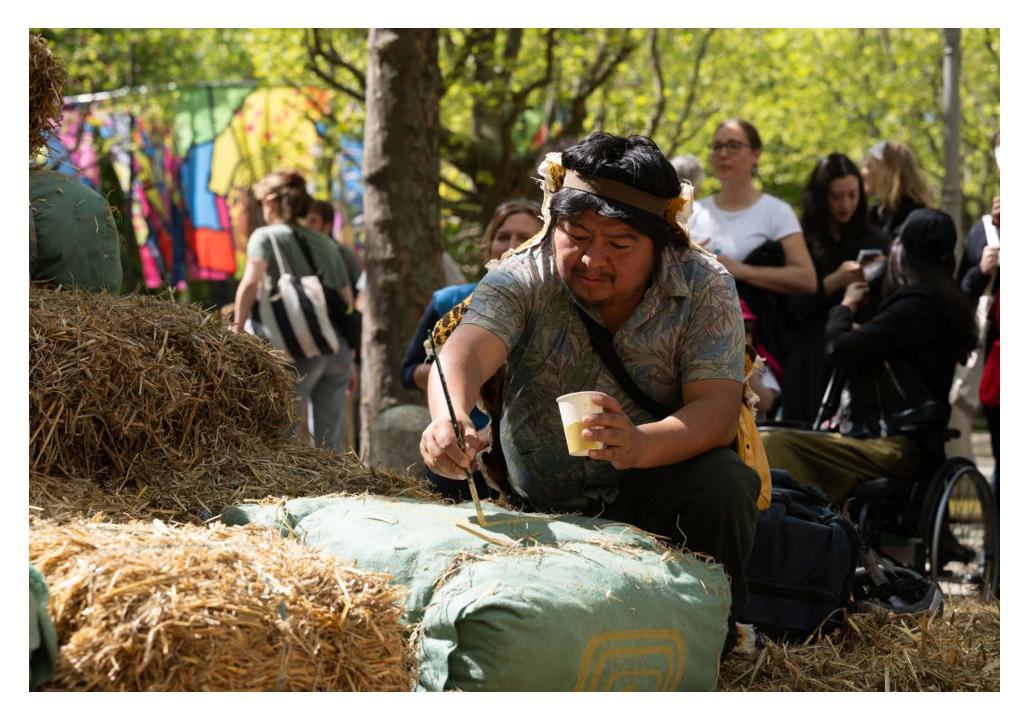


Kutenten - kutenten - kutenten, Mendes Wood DM, Archipelago, Germantown, 2024

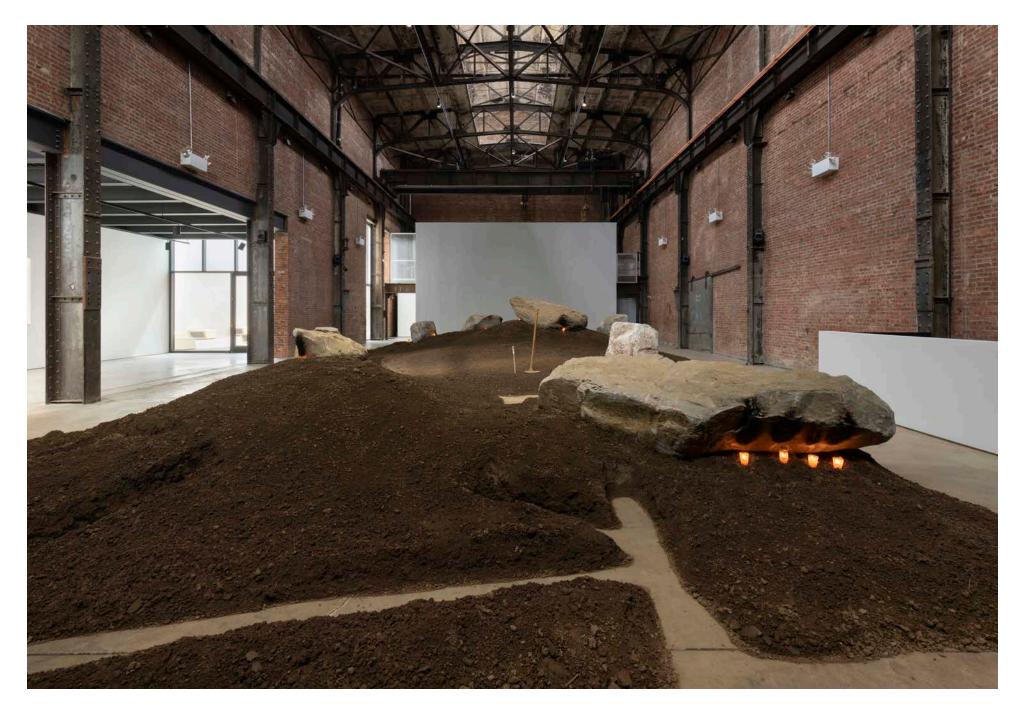










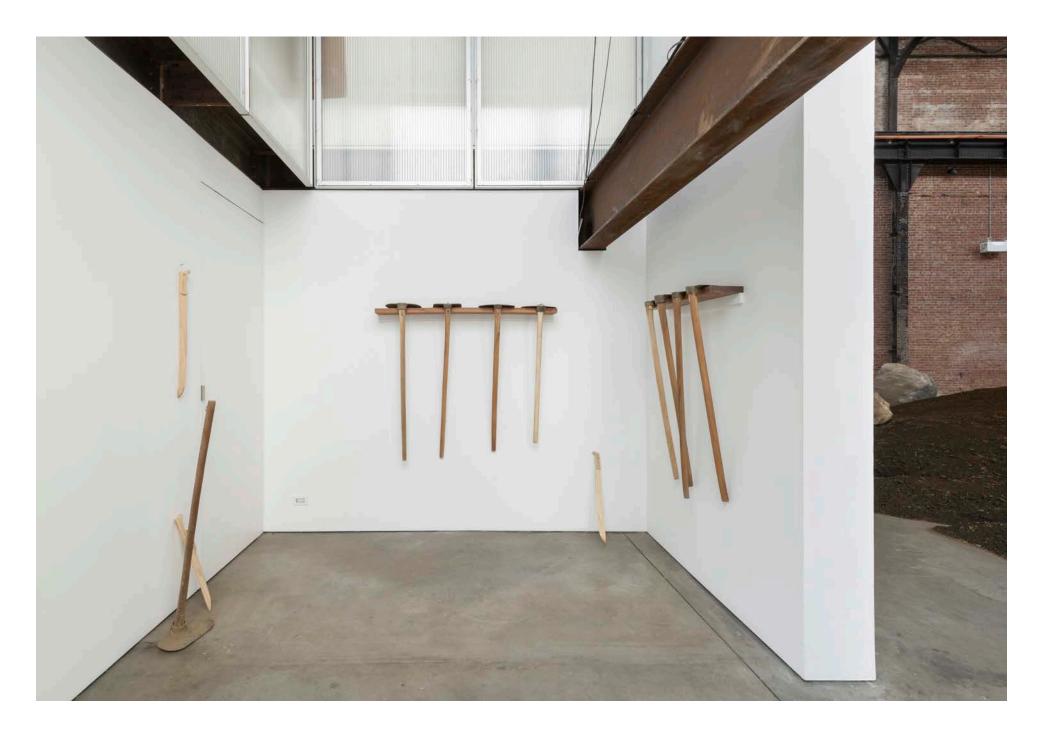




B'alab'äj [Jaguar Stone], SculptureCenter, New York, 2023



B'alab'äj [Jaguar Stone], SculptureCenter, New York, 2023







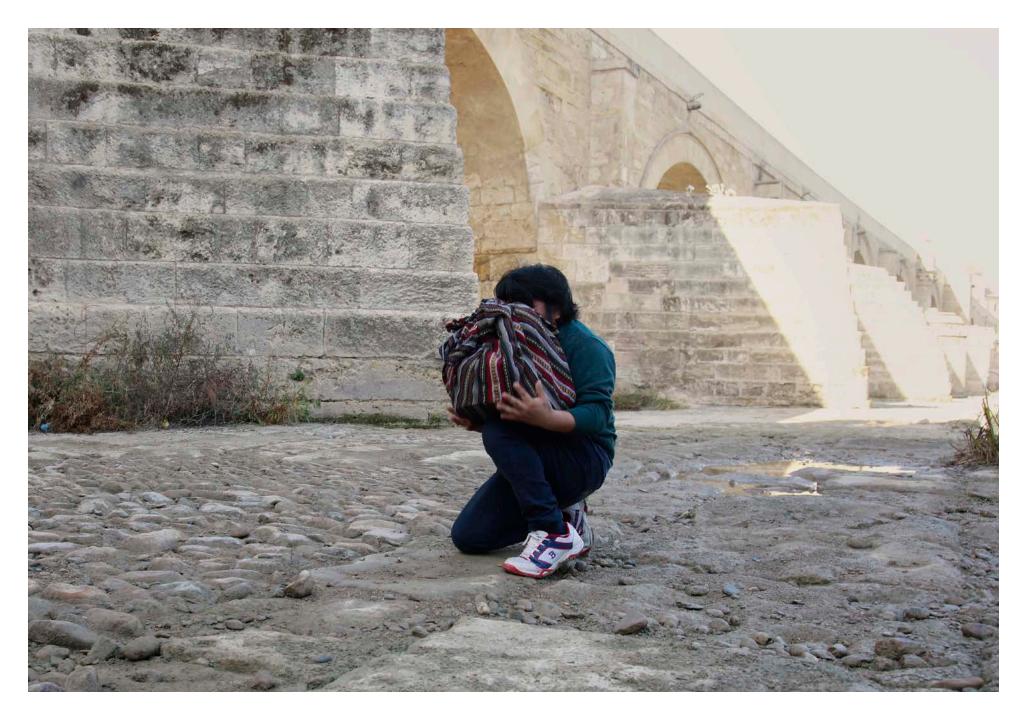












Nab'ey Taj Job [The First Rains], TBA 21, Córdoba, 2022



Nab'ey Taj Job [The First Rains], TBA 21, Córdoba, 2022















Perdidos en medio juntos [Lost. In Between. Together], 22nd Paiz Art Biennial, Guatemala City, 2021

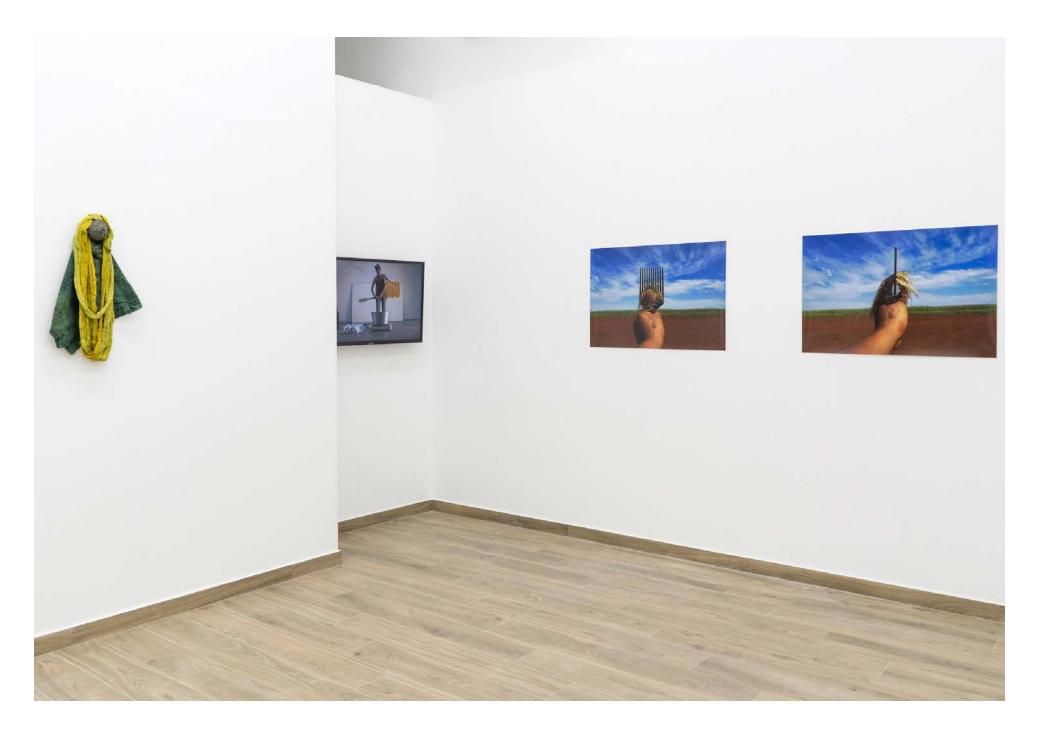












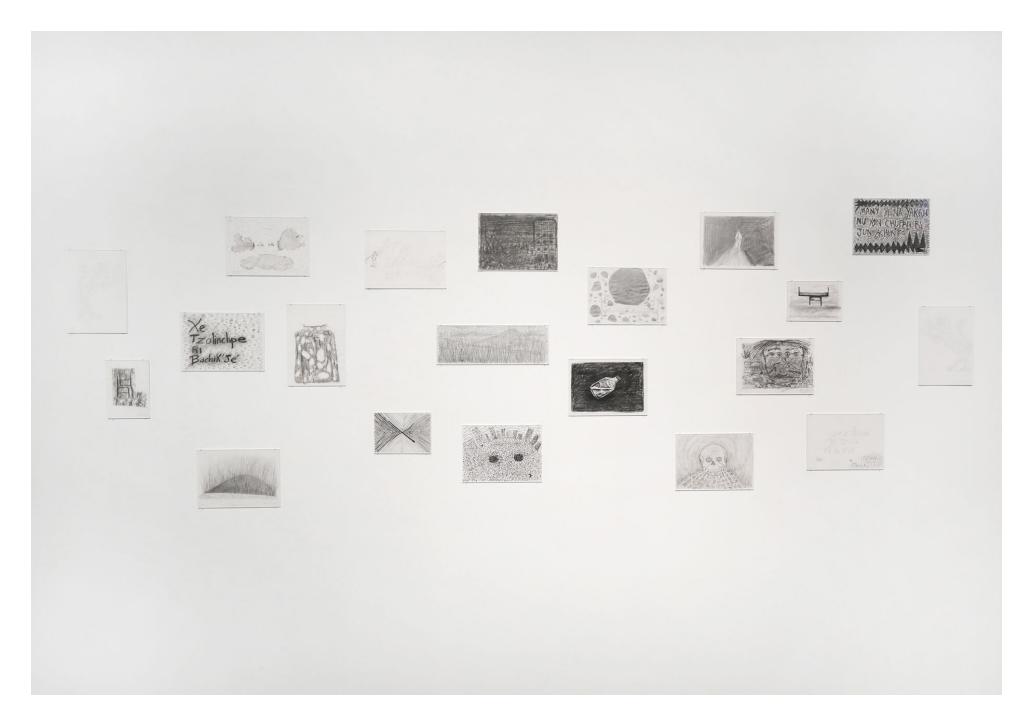








The Crack Begins Within, 11th Berlin Biennale for Contemporary Art, Berlin, 2020









Manjar Re-conhecimento (Recognition of Manjar), Solar dos Abacaxis, Rio de Janeiro, 2019



Manjar Re-conhecimento (Recognition of Manjar), Solar dos Abacaxis, Rio de Janeiro, 2019





Edgar Calel, Ru Tzubial Jun Xar Paruwi Qa Tikon (mirada de un pajaro sobre nuestra siembra), 2024, oil on canvas, Polyptych (10 pieces total), 12.7 cm (each) | 5 in (each), MW.ECA.006





Edgar Calel, Ru Mujb'al Nu Tz'ub'al #2 (sombra para mis ojos #2), 2024, oil on canvas, 15.2 x 20.3 cm | 6 x 8 in, MW.ECA.017



Edgar Calel, Ru Mujb'al Nu Tz'ub'al #3 (sombra para mis ojos #3), 2024, oil on canvas, 15.2 x 20.3 cm | 6 x 8 in, MW.ECA.018



Edgar Calel

Kit Kit Che (kit kit arbol), 2024 oil on canvas (41 pieces total) 154.9 x 99.1 cm 61 x 39 in MW.ECA.003











Edgar Calel, Ru Setelen Ri Kechelaj (la redondez del bosque), 2024, oil on canvas (polyptyc), 53.3 x 104.1 cm (overall dimensions) | 21 x 41 in (overall dimensions), MW.ECA.002





Edgar Calel, Tuktukitkit, 2024, charcoal on unbleached canvas, 185 x 600 cm | 72 7/8 x 236 1/4 in, MW.ECA.005



Edgar Calel, Tuktukitkit, 2024, charcoal on unbleached canvas, 185 x 600 cm | 72 7/8 x 236 1/4 in, MW.ECA.005





Edgar Calel, Awan Achik' (sueño de maîz), 2024, fabric, embroidery thread, ink on paper, polyptych, embroidery: 12 x 16" (each) and paper: 8.5 x 10" (each), MW.ECA.001



Edgar Calel, Rua Wachoch (rostro de mi casa), 2024, oil on canvas, dimensions variable, MW.ECA.004



Edgar Calel, Ru Chi Juyo (portales del cerro), 2024, oil on canvas, polyptych, 22.9 x 43.2 cm (2 panels), 20.3 x 15.2 cm (1 panel) and 10.2 x 15.2 cm (1 panel) $|9 \times 17 \text{ in (2 panels)}, 8 \times 6 \text{ in (1 panel)}$ and 4 x 6 in (1 panel), MW.ECA.019





Edgar Calel, Q'Ana Kit Kit (Yellow Kit Kit), 2021, acrylic on tarpaulin, 610 x 370 cm | 240 x 145.6 in



Edgar Calel, Retal Qa K'aslemac 2023 (The Trace of Life 2023), 2023, natural pigment on cotton paper, 150 x 210 cm | 59 x 82.68 in





Edgar Calel & Paulo Nazareth, Untitled [At My Brother's Home], 2023, photo printing on cotton paper, 60 x 80 cm | 17.7 x 31.4 in



Edgar Calel & Paulo Nazareth, El cielo sobre nuestras cabezas (The sky Above Our Heads), 2023, photo printing on cotton paper, 60 x 80 cm | 17.7 x 31.4 in

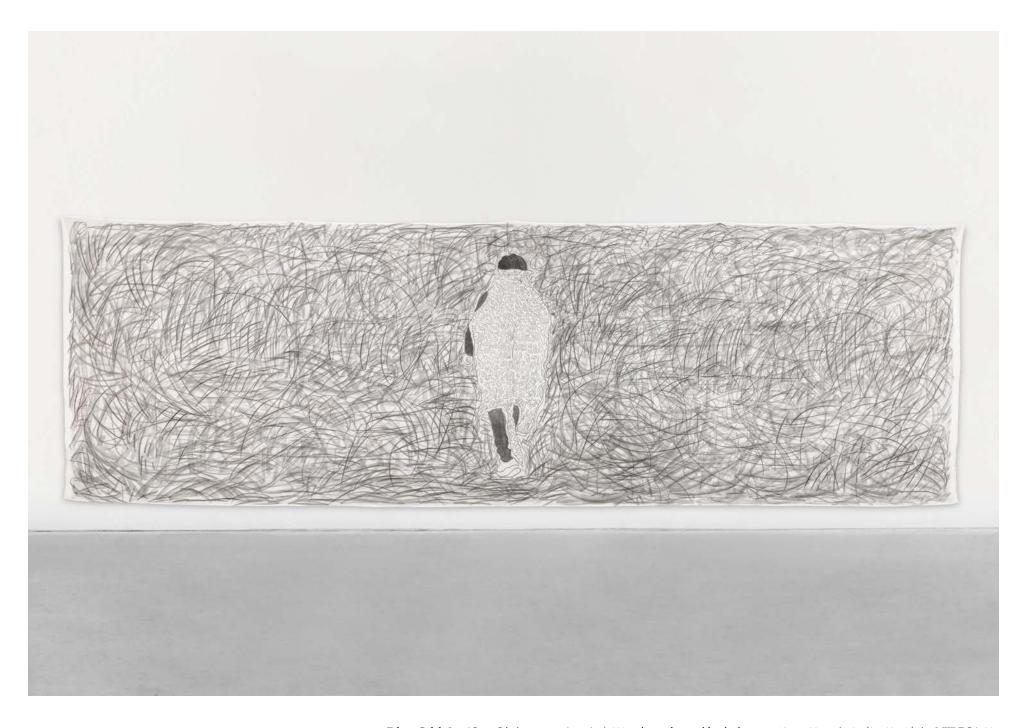


Edgar Calel & Paulo Nazareth, El cielo sobre nuestras cabezas II (The Sky Above Our Heads II), 2023, photo printing on cotton paper, 60 x 80 cm, 17.7 x 31.4 in



Edgar Calel, Sueño de obsidiana (Obsidian Dream), in collaboration with Fernando Pereira dos Santos, 2020, single channel HD video, dimensions variable, 4'12"





Edgar Calel, Juxuj Panu Béy (trazos en mi camino), 2024, charcoal on unbleached canvas, 185 x 600 cm | 72 7/8 x 236 1/4 in, MW.ECA.007





I have always wanted my work to be related to the place where I was born and where my body first learned to vibrate in the world – I carry a culture within me.

- Edgar Calel

Edgar Calel

b. 1987, Chi Xot (San Juan Comalapa), Guatemala

Lives and works in Chi Xot

Education

2007

Bachelor in Fine Arts, Rafael Rodríguez Padilla National School of Fine Arts, Guatemala City, Guatemala

Solo Exhibitions

2025

Ni Musmut (It's Breezing), Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen, Norway

2024

Kutenten - kutenten - kutenten, Mendes Wood DM, Archipelago, Germantown, USA

2023

Kaqchikitkit pa Copán, Desanexo do Desapê, Brazil

B'alab'äj [Jaguar Stone], Sculpture Center, New York, USA

2021

Pa ru tun che' [From the Treetop], Proyectos Ultravioleta, Guatemala City, Guatemala

Group Exhibitions

2025

Gathering Ground, Tate Modern, London, UK

2024

Aventar la piedra y enseñar la mano, Armada Galería, Mexico City, Mexico

2023

En la casa de mi hermano (At My Brother's House), Proyectos Ultravioleta, Guatemala City, Guatemala

Choreographies of the Impossible, 35th São Paulo Biennial, São Paulo, Brazil

B'éy, GDA, Galeria de artistas, São Paulo, Brazil

Plural Perspectives, Soft Power, Berlin, Germany

uMoya: The Sacred Return of Lost Things, 12th Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool, UK

Soft and Weak Like Water, 14th Gwangju Biennale, Buk-gu, Gwangju, Korea

El suceso es en la Casa de Hierro..., Casa de Hierro, Guatemala City, Guatemala

The Night Dies by the Day..., Proyectos Ultravioleta, Guatemala City, Guatemala

2022

A Parábola do Progresso, SESC Pompéia, São Paulo, Brazil

Is It Morning for You Yet?, 58th Carnegie International, Pittsburgh, USA

La Imagen Quema..., Centro Cultural de España, Guatemala City, Guatemala

2021

República (Republic), La Nueva Fábrica, Guatemala City, Guatemala

Radical Empathies, Callirrhoë, Athens, Greece

Perdidos. En medio. Juntos: Universos de la materia, XXII Paiz Art Biennale, Guatemala City, Guatemala

La puerta del jardín (The Garden Gate), Pagoda Imaginaria Residencia, Guatemala City, Guatemala

Primeros Amaneceres en la Tierra (First Sunrises on Earth), Proyectos Ultravioleta, Guatemala City, Guatemala

2020

11th Berlin Biennale, Berlin, Germany

To Weave Blue // Poem to the Weaving, Martha and Robert Fogelman Galleries of Contemporary Art, University of Memphis, Memphis, USA

Los Jardineros (The Gardeners), Proyectos Ultravioleta, Guatemala City, Guatemala

Constelação de Saberes, Espaço de Tecnologias e Artes do SESC Avenida Paulista, São Paulo, Brazil

2019

Manjar Re-conhecimento (Recognition of Manjar), Solar dos Abacaxis, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Àbadakone | Continuous Fire | Feu continuel, National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Canada

This might be a place for hummingbirds, Gallerie im Körnerpark, Berlin, Germany

Laberinto de los pájaros (Bird Maze), Uqbar, Berlin, Germany

Virginia Pérez-Ratton. Centroamérica: deseo de lugar, MUAC Museo Universitario de Arte Contemporáneo,

Mexico City, Mexico

Jun kai paj Ch'ab'el, Galeria Do Sol, Porto, Portugal

2018

Naturaleza incierta..., Proyectos Ultravioleta, Guatemala City, Guatemala

2017

Actos de transgresión, Cesc Santo Amaro, São Paulo, Brazil

2016

Lastro em Campo/Percursos Ancestrais e Cotidianos, Sesc Consolação, São Paulo, Brazil

2014

Transvisible..., XIX Paiz Art Biennale, Guatemala City, Guatemala

2013

Y entonces? (And then?), The 9.99 gallery, Guatemala City, Guatemala

2011

Sexta 2011: Triángulo CSC..., ExTeresa Arte Actual, Mexico City, Mexico

Hoja blanca / Weisses Blatt [White Sheet], Arte-Centro Paiz, Guatemala City, Guatemala and Schmuck Inc,

Zurich, Switzerland

2010

+/- Esperanza [+/- Hope], MADC, San José, Costa Rica

Ver para Creer [Seeing is believing], XVII Art Paiz Biennial, Guatemala City, Guatemala

Tiempo y espacio [Time and Space], MARTE, San Salvador, El Salvador

2009

Estrategias para medir el universo [Strategies to measure the sun], Sol del Rio, Guatemala City, Guatemala

ValorartE VII Edición, National Gallery of the Children's Museum, San José, Costa Rica

2008

Pintura Emergente Centroamericana (PECA), San José, Costa Rica

2006

Mapas Blancos [White Maps], XV Art Paiz Biennial, Guatemala City, Guatemala

Residencies

Tropical Papers, The Internet, 2021

Residência Kayssa, São Paulo, Brazil, 2020

Residência Ateliê Xakra 88, Brumandihno, Brazil, 2020

Residência Rua do sol, Porto, Portugal, 2019

Resiliência: Residência Artística, Silo - Arte e Latitude Rural, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2018

Residência Lanchonete, Lanchonete Associação Espaço Cultural, São Paulo, Brazil, 2016

Residência Ocupação São João, São Paulo, Brazil, 2016

Lastro Research Platform, Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala, 2015

CABRA Project Art Residence CentroaméricaBrasil, CEIA/Clovis Salgado Foundation, Belo Horizonte, Brazil, 2014

Phronesis La Perla, Proyecto Demolición Construcción, Córdoba, Argentina, 2011

Residencia Taller imagen tiempo, Jinotega, Nicaragua, 2010

Espira la Espora; pintura Fase 2, Escuela Superior de Arte, Managua, Nicaragua, 2007

Lectures & Talks

Plattform:Edgar Calel, Bergen Kunsthall, Bergen, Norway, 2024

Sustainable Communities: Indigenous Perspectives and Worldviews, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, USA, 2024

Publications

Work in Progress: Edgar Calel, Frieze, 2024

"En la casa de mi hermano": Una exposición que borra las fronteras entre Guatemala y Brasil, Andrea Ortiz, Prensa Libre, 2023

Artist Edgar Calel Leads a New Wave of Institutional Critique, Alex Greenberger, ARTnews, 2023

Guatemala's Proyectos Ultravioleta gallery offers new models for the art market, Oliver Basciano, The Financial Times, 2023

The Tate Accepts a New Trade Agreement as the Guardian of an Artwork by Edgar Calel, ArtNexus, 2023

Obras artísticas de Guatemala llegan a Brasil para la 35ª Bienal de São Paulo, Andrea Ortiz, Prensa Libre, 2023

Latin American Artists: From 1785 to Now, R. Fonseca, Phaidon, 2023

Edgar Calel: B'alab'äj (Jaguar Stone) [Piedra Del Jaguar], M. Carri, Artishock, 2023

B'alab'äj (Jaguar Stone), Hartwig Art Foundation, 2023

Edgar Calel's Scattered Secular Rituals, J. Wu, Art Review, 2023

Don't Miss: The Living Altars of Edgar Calel, F. Abdessamad, Observer, 2023

What to See in N.Y.C. Galleries in July, The New York Times, 2023

Tate Liverpool Exhibition Showcases Radical New Approach to Collecting Art, Professional Liverpool, 2023

Mayan Custom Inspires Custodianship Agreement at Tate Liverpool, Museums and Heritage, 2023

Losing and finding my cool in Gwangju, H. Thu-Hong, The Japan Times, 2023

Ru k'ox k'ob'el jun ojer etemab'el (The Echo of an Ancient Form of Knowledge), Tate Liverpool Biennial, 2023

Liverpool Biennial: 5 Artists to Know, Aesthetica Magazine, 2023

Liverpool Biennial Takes on the City's Unique Role in the Transatlantic Slave Trade, The Art Newspaper, 2023

Edgar Calel: B'alab'äj (Jaguar Stone) / In Practice 2023 / CFGNY in residence, e-flux, 2023

Edgar Calel: B'alab'äj (Jaguar Stone), Sculpture Center, 2023

Edgar Calel: B'alab'ăj (Jaguar Stone) Solo Exhibit at SculptureCenter LIC, La Voce di New York, 2023

Gwangju Biennale 2023: Artists To Watch, A. Downes, Ocula, 2023

Eco-Lógicas Latinas, F. Ticoulat, M. Dias Teixeira, Y. Abdalla, Act, 2022

Power 100, ArtReview, 2022

Desaprender lo moderno. Arte e indigeneidad en América Latina, Time Out, 2022

58th Carnegie International: Is it morning for you yet?, N. Simblist, e-flux, 2022

9 Highlights from the 58th Carnegie International, P. Laster, Galerie Magazine, 2022

Solidarity and Resistance: Sohrab Mohebbi on Curating the 58th Carnegie International, T. Trouillot, S.

Mohebbi, Frieze, 2022

In Celebration of Artists and Their Truth, J. Hooper, Carnegie Museums, 2022

A World Of Art Comes to Pittsburgh, L. Davidson, Pittsburgh Magazine, 2022

It Matters What Stories We Tell, M. Estrada, Yet Another Art Blog, 2022

On the rise at Art Basel in Basel, U. Uttam, Art Basel, 2022

Art Basel Welcomes Newcomers..., M. Gerlis, Financial Times, 2022

Should Protest Art Become Big Business?, A. Shaw, The Art Newspaper, 2022

Is It Morning for You Yet? 58th Carnegie International, S. Mohebbi et al., Carnegie Museums, 2022

Custodianship & Mayan Cosmovision, H. Broome, Flash Art, 2021

Tate Has Brokered Its First-Ever Deal..., A. R. Abrams, Artnet News, 2021

Six of the best experimental works by emerging artists..., B. Luke, The Art Newspaper, 2021

ARTnews in Brief, T. Solomon, ARTnews, 2021

Edgar Calel cuestiona los fetichismos en torno a lo indígena, Arte al día, 2021

Edgar Calel, Tropical Papers, 2021

I Drag You With Me: Ancestry and Contemporary Practice, R. Daibert, E. Calel, Arts Everywhere, 2021

Collections

Fundación Teor/ética

Kadist Foundation

MADC Museum of Contemporary Art and Design

Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía

National Gallery of Canada

Rijkscolectie - National Collection of the Netherlands

Tate Modern

