



## PRESS RELEASE

Isabel Croxatto Galería

### **Speculative Bodies, Imagined Landscapes: Juvenal Barría and Tomás Bravo at Isabel Croxatto Galería**

**Opening:** April 15, 2026

**Exhibition dates:** April 16 – May 9, 2026

**Venue:** Isabel Croxatto Galería, Santiago, Chile

Isabel Croxatto Galería presents two solo exhibitions that explore the body and landscape as sites of transformation in contemporary art. *Entomancia*, by Chilean artist Juvenal Barría, and *Balneario*, by Tomás Bravo, bring together two distinct yet resonant approaches to figuration, proposing visual languages that address ecology, perception, and the symbolic construction of experience.

The exhibitions reflect the gallery's ongoing commitment to practices that expand contemporary figuration from Latin America, foregrounding artistic research that engages the political, sensorial, and speculative dimensions of the present.


### **Entomancia, el conjuro con los insectos de los pulmones agobiados — Juvenal Barría**

In *Entomancia*, Juvenal Barría investigates the intersections between biology, memory, and ritual, proposing a contemporary reading of entomancy—the observation of insects as a form of knowledge—not as superstition, but as a critical epistemology in the face of ecological collapse.

Drawing on vestiges collected from the tailings of a gold mine in Copiapó, Barría constructs a symbolic ecosystem that addresses the violence of extractivism upon both territories and bodies. The project unfolds through a video performance, sculptures, and photographic works that explore transformation as a technology of collective survival.

The video performance opens with an image of birth: a trans body gives rise to other species—extinct insects or organisms yet to be classified—continuities of life that challenge colonial taxonomies. Three sculptural works, metallic armour-like structures filled with translucent wax containing remnants of bee life, operate as ritual devices or amulets that invoke alternative ways of inhabiting the living world.

Curated by Carolina Arévalo, the exhibition reflects on the persistence of what resists classification, proposing transformation as both a poetic and political gesture within contemporary ecological discourse.



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### **Balneario — Tomás Bravo**

In *Balneario*, Tomás Bravo constructs a pictorial environment in which the summer landscape appears suspended in an ambiguous temporality. The paintings present an imagined seaside setting composed of recurring elements—swimming pools, palm trees, coloured skies, and partially submerged figures—generating an atmosphere in which action seems perpetually deferred.

Rather than narrating events, the paintings establish conditions for narrative potential. Figures inhabit threshold states, suggesting situations that never fully resolve. Through repetition and subtle variation, Bravo develops a visual language that reflects on painting as both structure and speculation.

His practice examines the capacity of figurative painting to operate as a proto-narrative device, allowing viewers to construct personal associations from minimal pictorial cues. The imagined balneario becomes a conceptual space in which time, memory, and perception intersect.

Together, the exhibitions propose two distinct approaches to transformation: Barría situates the body as a site of resistance shaped by ecological and historical tensions, while Bravo explores the instability of pictorial space as a field of perceptual possibility.

With this dual presentation, Isabel Croxatto Galería continues to support artists whose work expands contemporary visual discourse from the Global South.

### **Entomancia | Juvenal Barría**

**Curator:** Carolina Arévalo

**Exhibition dates:** April 16 – May 9, 2026

**Opening:** April 15, 2026

**Venue:** Isabel Croxatto Galería

Napoleón 3242

Las Condes, Santiago, Chile

### **Balneario | Tomás Bravo**

**Exhibition dates:** April 16 – May 9, 2026

**Opening:** April 15, 2026

**Venue:** LOCAL 2

San Crescente 72, Local 2 (int)

Las Condes, Santiago, Chile

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## ARTISTS BIOS

### **Juvenal Barría**

Juvenal Barría is a visual artist, photographer, and arts manager based in Valparaíso, Chile. Their practice combines archival material, performance, photography, and installation to examine structures of power, class, sexuality, and historical memory. Through the alter ego La Martuca, a transvestite domestic worker, Barría constructs speculative narratives that challenge normative frameworks of representation, drawing on their Huilliche heritage.

Barría has exhibited internationally since 2004 in Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, and France. In 2009, they received the Critics Award for Emerging Artist for Fictional Bodies at CENTEX (Valparaíso). In 2018, their solo exhibition *INFILTRADAX*, curated by Felipe Forteza and Isabel Croxatto at Isabel Croxatto Galería, received the Best Exhibition Award at Galería Weekend Santiago.

Barría has participated in residencies across Latin America and has served as evaluator and juror for Chile's National Fund for Cultural Development and the Arts (FONDART). They currently direct Gálvez Inc / Judas Galería in Valparaíso.

He lives and works in Valparaíso, Chile.

### **Tomás Bravo**

Tomás Bravo is a Chilean visual artist whose practice focuses on painting as a space for open-ended narrative construction. Working within figurative language, his work explores the relationship between memory, fiction, and pictorial structure, developing images that suggest latent or unresolved events.

Through recurring motifs, ambiguous actions, and formats such as diptychs and triptychs, Bravo constructs pictorial situations that invite multiple interpretations. His work reflects an interest in painting as both a material discipline and a conceptual device capable of generating speculative associations.

Bravo has exhibited in Santiago at Sala Juan Egenau, Galería 1712, and Centro Cultural Las Condes (CLAC), and has participated in young artist competitions at MAVI UC, Centro Cultural La Moneda, Matucana 100, and Lo Matta Cultural.

He lives and works in Santiago, Chile.



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## ABOUT THE GALLERY

**Isabel Croxatto Galería** is an international contemporary art platform founded in 2012 by Chilean choreographer and performing arts researcher Isabel Croxatto. With a curatorial focus on new figuration, the gallery represents artists whose practices examine and challenge the relationships between body, memory, and archive, proposing visual languages that engage with the cultural, political, and perceptual questions of our time.

Committed to advancing contemporary art from the Global South, the gallery has developed a strong track record in discovering and supporting emerging and mid-career artists, accompanying the sustained development of their practices across local and international contexts. Through a robust annual exhibitions programme, participation in leading international art fairs, the residency programme **La Embajada**, and strategic institutional collaborations, Isabel Croxatto Galería fosters the visibility and circulation of its artists within diverse cultural networks.

In 2022, the gallery launched **LOCAL 2**, a dedicated space for experimental projects and emerging artists, expanding its curatorial programme and reinforcing its commitment to new generations of contemporary practice.

Isabel Croxatto Galería is a member of **Arte y Punto, the Chilean Contemporary Art Galleries Association**.

## ISABEL CROXATTO GALERÍA

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