



## **Dominican artist Hulda Guzmán celebrates Nature and all its Mysteries in Dio Horia's new gallery space in Athens.**

**Athens, 10 October 2019** — Dio Horia gallery announces the first solo exhibition of Dominican artist Hulda Guzmán in Athens, opening October 23, 2019. The exhibition is organized along with the artist's participation in the Venice Biennale, where her work is included in the national pavilion of the Dominican Republic and the official Biennale catalogue. Guzmán's will also be the inaugural exhibition of the Dio Horia's pop up space in Neo Psychiko, Athens.

Hulda Guzmán is a figurative painter whose work focuses on narrative and space. An artist living in the tropical jungle with a very liberal approach to life, she creates works that are connected to nature, often using wood as her painting surface and the lush vegetation of her home country as her subject matter. Her works are often a combination of collage made with wood veneer and painting, as she allows the natural grain of each piece of wood to become part of the overall composition. Whether the scene she depicts takes place in a natural space or indoors, Guzmán often structures her composition with an architectural sensibility, creating very defined spaces wherein her narratives intimately take place. Her works are vivid and theatrical, enticing an experiential interpretation from the viewer and encouraging a personal, visceral connection beyond words.

The exhibition at Dio Horia Athens is named *With the Mother*. It is composed of a series of paintings that, as a whole, form a celebration of Nature in all its glory and at the same time stand as a calling back to Nature and a warning for the dramatic consequences that the planet will experience from human's dissociation from Nature. Guzman wishes to convey to the viewers that the trajectory of human history is at this point going towards a direction that is unsustainable and not survivable and invite them to join her in a transition from an industrial materialistic living to a more contemplative existence, one that is based on consciousness and ecological symbiosis.

In *With the Mother* Guzman portrays trees and plants that look glorified, deified, as to inspire worship, respect and reverence upon Nature and depicts human-kind, wildlife, and the environment, in a delicate balance. Poetically oscillating between the personal and the collective, the works evoke sentiments and thoughts of resilience, growth and bonding. The artist seeks to express the wonderment one feels of the natural world by allowing a state of deep connection and harmony with the environment to emerge. Through a series of new paintings, Guzmán invites the viewer to feel, perceive and experience our wild surroundings — the plants, the animals and, most importantly, the elements of life (water, earth, wind, rain, sun, fire etc) — and encounter nature as a Mother/Teacher figure that can reveal to us the magic of existence. Finally, the works seek to show the grandeur of Nature in order to address how nurturing our interconnection with Nature can boost our understanding of ourselves, and transcend psychological, intellectual and moral baggage that humans accumulate.

*As Guzman explains: "I wish the spectator to have an experiential approach and interpretation of the works in the exhibition, rather than a more logical one. The elements*



*intend to provoke an impression on the viewer, an emotion, and through this emotion to bring about the concept of the paintings; not the other way around. The depictions concentrate on how places and elements make me feel, instead of representing them “realistically” – and how I wish for the spectator to experience these similar feelings in regards to the environment. These works intend to depict and integrate all the layers of existence that are not visible to our human and limited eyes.*

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

The exhibition will be the artist’s first in Athens. Hulda Guzmán has presented her first solo show in Greece in 2017, as part of the Dio Horia Residency Program on Mykonos. Her upcoming show in Athens is internationally the only solo show by the artist parallel to her participation in the Venice Biennale.

— **Hulda Guzmán** (b. 1984, Dominican Republic) received a BA from Altos de Chavón School of Design in the Dominican Republic and continued her artistic training at the National School of Visual Arts, Mexico, focusing on photography and mural painting. Her work is included in the permanent collections of Patricia Phelps de Cisneros, Centro Leon Jimenes, Casa Cortes Foundation, Antonio Murzi Collection and Kadist Foundation. She is one of the artists representing the Dominican Republic at the 58th International Art Exhibition at the Venice Biennale. She has had solo shows at Dio Horia Gallery (Mykonos), Arte BA (Buenos Aires), Untitled Art (Miami Beach), Galería Machete (México), Solo Projects at Volta New York and Solo Projects at ARCO Madrid. Her work has been included in exhibitions at Pérez Art Museum Miami, Museo de Arte de São Paulo, Gallery Ariane Paffrath (Dusseldorf), Galería Machete (México), Museo de Arte Moderno (Santo Domingo) and others. Her work is included in the official Biennale catalogue *May You Live In Interesting Times* and also presented in the publication *Vitamin P3: New Perspectives in Painting* by PHAIDON. Her work has been featured in *Wall Street International*, *Artnet*, *ArtViewer*, *MyArtGuides*, *Culture Now* and other art publications. <http://hulda.com/>



— **Dio Horia** is a gallery for contemporary art and culture that was inaugurated in 2015. Dio Horia Gallery strives to be at the forefront of cultural experimentation both in Greece and beyond, by representing young emerging artists from small peripheral countries. At the same time, Dio Horia is running an international residency program and also organizes group shows and publications with established and emerging artists that have not exhibited in Greece. Finally, Dio Horia engages in collaborative projects developed as a result of associations with artists, curators, non-profit organizations and cultural carriers. These fall into categories ranging from social, cultural and literary studies to music and performing arts. The gallery headquarters are based in Mykonos, Greece. <http://www.diohoria.com/>

— **Dio Horia in Athens** is the third pop up space Dio Horia Platform opens in Athens. Following exhibitions in the center of Athens in the previous years, Dio Horia now opens in the suburbs of Athens, and specifically in the Neo Psychiko area. Psychiko is a popular commercial area known also for its many embassies and historical mansions. Dio Horia is opening the only academic cultural space in the area, just as it opened the first cultural platform in Mykonos back in 2015. This brings international contemporary art back to Psychiko some 15 years after the legendary contemporary art space of DESTE Foundation, which used to be located just a block away, closed its doors and moved to a new building. Establishing cultural institutions in communities that lie beyond the central cultural districts of a city or region is part of a worldwide change in cultural planning and one of the ways culture is distributed today. Dio Horia Athens is located on the ground floor of a modern commercial building sitting right at the heart of Psychiko, overlooking one of Athens' busiest avenues. The space is very bright, with two sides covered with impressive floor to-ceiling windows. The view from these windows is double and acts as a background to the art: the traffic and urban landscape of Kifissias Avenue on one side; and the quiet market street of Psychiko with the local supermarket, a flower shop and other small businesses on the other. This is the next chapter in the colorful history of Dio Horia as a vibrant, community-made art platform that remains curious, international and inclusive at heart.

**Download press images here:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/aubwi9j3c34bq5x/AAC8E2pvaqKdZbbJFJ2uKuSYa?dl=0>



## — Exhibition info

Hulda Guzmán  
*With the Mother*  
October 23 - November 21, 2019

Dio Horia Gallery  
Olimpionikon 220 & Likourgou,  
Neo Psychiko 15451 (Faros) Athens, Greece  
Tel: +30 210 6714827  
Email: [info@diohoria.com](mailto:info@diohoria.com)  
<http://www.diohoria.com/>

## — Upcoming

Maja Djordjevic  
*I am Always a Different Person*  
November 29 - January 15, 2019

Dio Horia Gallery  
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Greece  
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<http://www.diohoria.com/>

*UNTITLED Miami, 2019*  
*Hulda Guzman, Aleksandar Todorovic,*  
*Despina Stokou*  
December 3 –December 8, 2019  
*Lummus Park*  
*Ocean Dr &, 12th St, Miami Beach, FL*  
*33139*

**For additional information please contact the gallery.**