

drawing as medicine

Ayesha Ghaoul

materials: ashwagandha, calendula, chamomile, comfrey, lemon balm, milfoil yarrow, purple coneflower, red clover, sage, valerian, clay, soil, and ceramic mosaics

drawing as medicine

by Bárbara Santos

translation by Jari Malta

The living knowledge in the Amazon still preserves the memory of an ancient wisdom that we have lost in most cities. In this originary knowledge, from the people who have cared for these forests and rivers for thousands of years, there is a fractal structure connecting our body-home-world-cosmos. It is a fractal relationship that allows neurons (in the brain, spinal cord, heart, and intestines) to feed on the traces that were recorded both in the passage of the stars, in the territory-nature, and in our internal organs.

drawing as medicine is an exhibition space, small yet infinite, in which Ayesha allows any surface to become a potential portal of perception, activating a memory of spells that appear on the walls, in the narrative of her mosaics, in the clay bodies, or in the microorganisms of the plants and the soil.

Ayesha, whether she knows it or not, channels in her body what is essential, innocent and playful in our society. She reveals, in an amusing way, that unfathomable healing order that connects the works themselves and the people who engage with them. When she draws, her body invokes a combination of lively elements, often spontaneously, that allow her to find resonances between scarecrows, the golem or the Pão de Açúcar hill.

drawing as medicine reveals the fractality that would seem to exclusively belong to people from territories as remote as Vaupés, in the northwest of the Amazon, which knows the drawing and writing of the jungle to heal the territory-home-body-cosmos.

While Ayesha's works cannot be compared to these cosmogonies, there are strange similarities. Her approach to art as a playful philosophy of care, and the constant attention to detail turn her practice into a fractal experience. One that only by relinquishing control allows her to be genuinely sincere, revealing in her drawing (multi-support, multi-species) that healing immateriality.



Marwan (collective artist-run practice space)

open on Saturdays and Sundays between 2 and 5 PM

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