



Ad Astra at Pinta Miami



Agustina Woodgate, *Milky Ways*, 2013. Courtesy of Spinello Projects

Invitation-only EFG Preview:

Tuesday, December 4, 6–9PM

Access VIP Card Opening:

Wednesday, December 6, 5–9PM

Thursday, December 6–Saturday,

December 8, 12–8PM

Sunday, December 9, 12–7PM

MIAMI, November 30, 2018—Mana Contemporary announces *Ad Astra*, an exhibition curated by Ysabel Pinyol Blasi that takes its title from the Latin maxim *Per aspera, ad astra* ("Through hardship, to the stars"). A collaboration with Pinta Miami, *Ad Astra* interrogates the relationship of dedicated hard work and high-flying ambition to big ideas and creative success, often through physically grandiose images and objects. The monumental and the visionary resonate here with the downright strange in an inquiry after the nature of human achievement. Featuring works inspired by real and imaginary spaces identified with its makers' points of origin—many of which are reconfigured for the former soundstage in which they are displayed—*Ad Astra* revolves around hard-won transitions and surprising results.

Agustina Woodgate's *Milky Ways* (2013), for example, takes the form of a gigantic tapestry stitched together from the plush 'skins' of stuffed toy animals. In a neat combination of the earthbound and the celestial, it

confronts us with an unusually approachable, even cuddly, suggestion of the galaxy's vast diversity and scale. Pedro Tyler's *Light House* (2018) also plays with size, featuring surfaces constructed from the tools we use to calculate length, and in the process questioning how we might 'measure' ourselves. A concern with scale permeates Finnish duo Mark Niskanen and Jani-Matti Salo's *Focal Point* (2018) too, as they deploy pinspot lights, a pressure sensor, and an Arduino microcontroller to launch an interrogation of the otherwise unimaginable magnitude of contemporary solitude.

Artists featured in the exhibition include: Camila Cañeque, Hugo Crosthwaite, Sonia Falcone, Franz Klainsek, Luciana Lamothe, Mira Lehr, Mark Niskanen & Jani-Matti Salo, Graciela Sacco, Raquel Schwartz, Stefania Strouza, Francisca Sutil, Pedro Tyler, Cydney Williams, and Agustina Woodgate.

ABOUT MANA CONTEMPORARY

Founded in 2011, Mana Contemporary is dedicated to providing a platform for contemporary art and artists through exhibitions, studio programs, and public programs. Mana's community network began in New Jersey and has since expanded to include Mana Chicago and Mana Miami. Mana Contemporary continues to create new partnership opportunities that explore the intersection of contemporary art, design, new technologies, and music.

For more information, visit manacontemporary.com.

PRESS CONTACT

Alison Roberts

press@manacontemporary.com

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Mana Contemporary
888 Newark Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07306