

VISITOR CENTER

ROMINA GONZALES: THE RETURN



MAR 12 - APR 16 2022

233 LIBERTY ST
NEWBURGH, NY

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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Newburgh, NY, February 2022

VISITOR CENTER proudly announces *The Return*, a solo exhibition by Romina Gonzales. An artist renowned for her groundbreaking work in glass, Gonzales will present new sculptures inspired by the transformative healing properties of sulfur, copper and glass. *The Return* is a voyage of transformation in which the artist recontextualizes ancestral practices to incite self-reflection and facilitate individual and collective healing.

Correlating to the title of the [22nd card of the Egyptian Tarot](#) and matching the year 2022, *The Return* represents embarking onto a new route with a renewed sense of self and society; it is the pinnacle of an energy cycle, allowing us to come back to our own essence. As the structures that uphold our society collapse, new ways of seeing, being, and making need to be created, incorporating nature-based understandings of ourselves and our environment instead of forced or pre-established modes of operation.

The Return symbolizes the return of ourselves, to ourselves, from the stresses we have collectively faced in the pandemic over the past two years.

The Return - on view at VISITOR CENTER, from March 12 to April 16, 2022.

Opening reception: Saturday March 12, from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at
VISITOR CENTER, 233 Liberty Street, Newburgh, NY 12550

A New York-based artist born in Peru, Gonzales utilizes her interdisciplinary practice to expand the collective consciousness. Interested in the transfer and transformation of energy, Gonzales draws from spirituality, science, and the dissonant narratives that uphold society.

Gonzales explores the flow of energy in both materiality and configuration to highlight the energy ebbing within our own individual bodies and society as a whole. By juxtaposing dichotomous materials, Gonzales aims to integrate unification into the polarity of cultural significance and the behavior of each material.

Industrial materials represent and capture the flow of energy in her works, both metaphorically and literally. Sulfur, a by-product of the fossil fuel industry, is a crystalline element with a negative ionic charge that neutralizes the positive ions in our bodies and surroundings. As a child, Gonzales was introduced to sulfur by her paternal grandmother, who used it as a tool to heal physical discomfort. Copper, drawn from Gonzales' exposure to pre-Hispanic artifacts while growing up in Lima, Peru, is an excellent conductor, amplifier and transporter of energy, used in wires, water pipes, electronic devices and cars. Glass is a highly versatile everyday and architectural material that captures elemental changes in an aesthetic manner as it transforms from liquid to solid; the artist was first exposed to the medium by her maternal great-grandfather, an Italian glassblower who created what Gonzales saw as "magical objects" in the early 1900s. Using only gravity and heat, Gonzales pulls molten masses of glass as she inflates them with compressed in singular gestural movements.

VISITOR CENTER structures Gonzales' works as an itinerary for a voyage of transformation. The artist shapes works that incite viewer introspection, fusing an

understanding of the past with a vision for a transformative future. After walking through the exhibit, the viewer arrives in a space of self-reflection, healing, and grounding, leading to a larger cumulative unification.

Some of the sculptures on view were created in 2019 thanks to the Creative Glass Fellowship Program at WheatonArts and Cultural Center and Bowling Green State University.

Romina Gonzales The Return is presented by VISITOR CENTER under the auspices of the International Year of the Glass 2022



ABOUT ROMINA GONZALES

Romina Gonzales (b. Lima, Peru, 1989) is a New York-based interdisciplinary artist working towards facilitating the expansion of consciousness from a post-colonial lens. Moving seamlessly between sculpture, printmaking, and performance, she often portrays gestures and narratives through material responses by questioning givens and offering alternative perspectives. Her work is included in the collections of The Museum of American Glass, Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum, and the New York Hall of Science, and has been featured in The New York Times, New York Magazine, Remezcla, Hyperallergic, and New York Post. Past exhibitions include Glass +A at Vitraria Museum in Venice, Italy, Terra/Derma at The Holland Tunnel Gallery in Newburgh, NY, Flammable Statement No2 for the GMTF Film Festival at Northlands Creative in Scotland and The Museum of Arts and Design in New York, NY, and most recently, a long-term installation titled Finding the Window, commissioned by the New York Hall of Science Museum in Queens, NY. Gonzales graduated from New York University after previously attending Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú.

ABOUT VISITOR CENTER

[VISITOR CENTER](#) is a contemporary art gallery that features artists of the Hudson Valley and beyond who work in painting, sculpture, mixed media, sound, video, and virtual reality. Located in Newburgh, NY, it occupies 2,000 square feet on the ground level of the US workshop of Hysteric Glamour, an iconic Japanese streetwear company. VISITOR CENTER is dedicated to supporting artists in the advancement of their practices and careers through a supportive community and curated exhibitions. VISITOR CENTER is run by Eva Zanardi through her creative advisory firm EZARTCONSULTINGNYC LLC. Eva is a professional art advisor and writer who builds and manages collections for international estates, foundations, and individual collectors. VISITOR CENTER is open Saturdays from 1-5 pm, and Thursday & Friday from 1-5 pm by appointment.

For press inquiries, please contact korifrooman@gmail.com or 917-703-9262.

For other inquiries, please contact the gallery at Attila.King@visitorcenter.space

ABOUT NEWBURGH

Newburgh—a jewel in the rough of a city located 60 miles north of Manhattan—has long been hailed as the new Brooklyn or Williamsburg, perhaps due to its demographic diversity or the fact that it boasts the largest historic district outside of New York City. As Julie Laskin perfectly noted in her December 2020 New York Times feature: "Newburgh doesn't just have good

bones—it is magnificent." But Newburgh's narrative is much more layered than that: a city of 28,000 in Orange County has now become a haven for artists, designers, architects, artisans, and all kinds of creative individuals.

How to get to Newburgh from Manhattan (approx. 1 hour and 30 min): Driving directions are linked [here](#). Metro-North Trains stop at the Beacon station, located just across the Hudson River from Newburgh. The Newburgh side ferry connects commuters to the station. The train runs south to Manhattan and north to Albany. Taxis are available at Beacon's train station; Uber and Lyft also offer rides across the Hudson River (approx. 15-minute ride).

THE RETURN: A SMALL PREVIEW



Image: Romina Gonzales, *Little Pull-Cynthia*, glass, copper, steel, 48 x 4 x 96 in, 2019



Image: Romina Gonzales, *I am*, glass, silver nitrate, copper, stainless steel, HXTAL NYL-1 epoxy, 22 x 6 x 87 in., 2022

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Image: Romina Gonzales, *A Mound, a Corner or a Grotto*, glass, HXTAL NYL-1 epoxy,
22 x 20 x 17 in., 2019

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Image: Romina Gonzales *Downward, Vow*, glass, copper, stainless steel, HXTAL NYL-1 epoxy, 28 x 20 x 22 in., 2022



Image: Romina Gonzales, *Deep Breath*, glass, copper, HXTAL NYL-1 epoxy, 6.5 x 5 x 7, 2022



Image: Romina Gonzales, *Deep Breath*, glass, copper, HXTAL NYL-1 epoxy, 6.5 x 5 x 7, 2022



Image: Romina Gonzales, *Sibilant II*, sulfur, 14 x 8.5 x 3.5, 2020

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Image: Romina Gonzales, *The Return*, glass, copper, sulfur, steel, epoxy, 4 x 4 x 25 in., 2022

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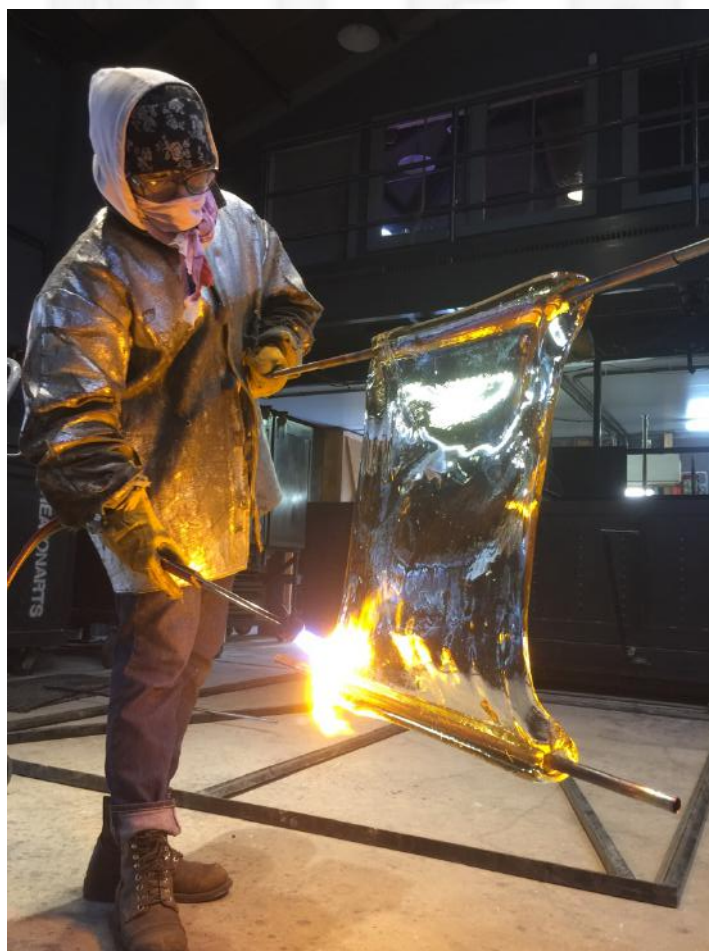
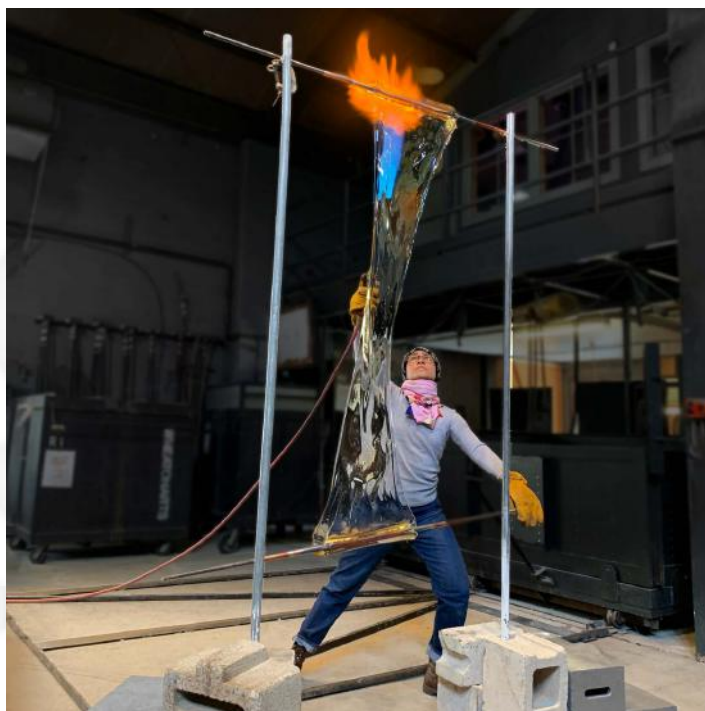


Image: Romina Gonzales in the process of creating her *pulls*, at Wheaton Arts, 2019

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