

# VISITOR CENTER

## ROMINA GONZALES: THE RETURN



MAR 12 - APR 16 2022

233 LIBERTY ST  
NEWBURGH, NY

[WWW.VISITORCENTER.SPACE](http://WWW.VISITORCENTER.SPACE)

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. Gonzales takes the viewer on a voyage of transformation through facilitating individual and collective healing and inciting self-reflection by re-contextualizing ancestral practices.

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; she 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.

The artist shapes works that incite viewer introspection, fusing an understanding of the past with a vision for a transformative future. 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* correlates to the title of the 22nd card of the Egyptian Tarot matching the year 2022 and represents embarking onto this new route with a renewed sense of self. It symbolizes the return of ourselves, to ourselves and our natural essence from the stresses that we have collectively faced in the pandemic over the past two years.

*The Return* will be on view at VISITOR CENTER, 233 Liberty Street, from March 12 to April 16. Opening reception: Saturday March 12, from 4:00 to 7:00 pm

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



233 LIBERTY STREET, NEWBURGH NY 12550  
PRESS CONTACT: [ATTILA.KING@VISITORCENTER.SPACE](mailto:ATTILA.KING@VISITORCENTER.SPACE)

## **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](mailto:korifrooman@gmail.com) or 917-703-9262. For other inquiries, please contact the gallery at [Attila.King@visitorcenter.space](mailto: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

233 LIBERTY ST, NEWBURGH, NY 12550

Press Contact: [attila.king@visitorcenter.space](mailto:attila.king@visitorcenter.space)



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



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 in., 2022



Image: Romina Gonzales , *Rain Guardian II*, glass, HXTAL NYL-1 epoxy , 10 x 10 x 7 in., 2019



Image: Romina Gonzales , *Sibilant II*, sulfur, 14 x 8.5 x 3.5 in., 2020  
233 LIBERTY ST, NEWBURGH, NY 12550  
Press Contact: [attila.king@visitorcenter.space](mailto:attila.king@visitorcenter.space)



**VISITOR  
CENTER**



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

233 LIBERTY ST, NEWBURGH, NY 12550  
Press Contact: [attila.king@visitorcenter.space](mailto:attila.king@visitorcenter.space)

# VISITOR CENTER

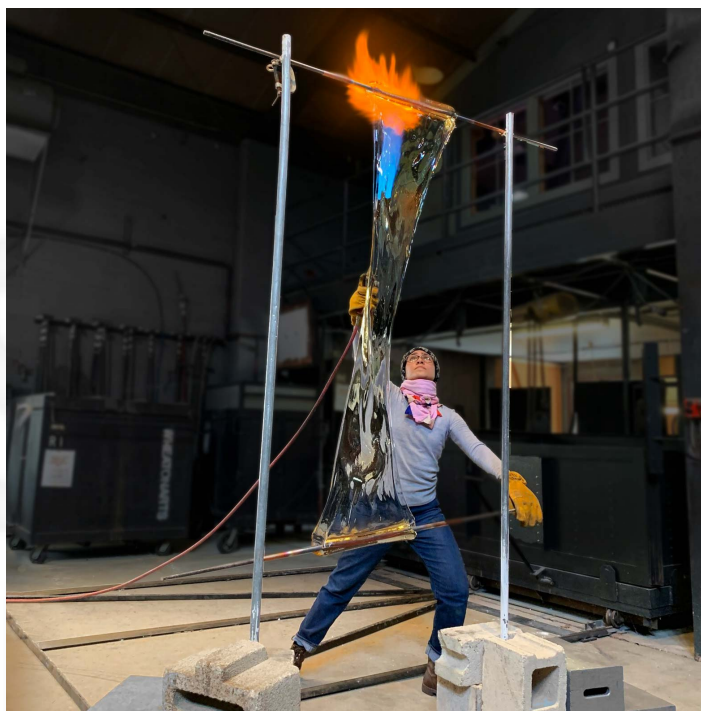


Image: Romina Gonzales in the process of creating her *pulls*, at *Wheaton Arts*, 2019  
233 LIBERTY ST, NEWBURGH, NY 12550  
Press Contact: [attila.king@visitorcenter.space](mailto:attila.king@visitorcenter.space)