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Cuerpos Celestes

Rafaela Astudillo



Rafaela Astudillo, *Datamosh*, 2025, laser print

Public opening reception: April 21st, 2026

BOSTON- (April 20-26)- The Glass Gallery at the University of Massachusetts Boston is hosting a special solo exhibition of work by Rafaela Astudillo, *Cuerpos Celestes*, on view from April 19th until April 26th. *Cuerpos Celestes* features a combination of sculpture, painting, collage, and video, densely layered on panels and forms with imagery pulled from Astudillo's personal archive. Drawing from a history of extensive medical experiences, Astudillo's work engages the body as both an archive and a site of vulnerability. Through extensive movement in different countries, from being born in Ecuador, living in Canada for most of her life, and moving to the US, making the work function as an extension of memory transformed, fragmented, and reconstituted into tangible form. How does repeated physical displacement affect the physical body and the memory of home?

A crucial component of the exhibition, the relationship between the video works and sculptural “bodies” acts as a translation for how physical trauma/medical pain manifestations are present in her life. With this, living memory isn’t a space of the past but rather a place for reconstruction towards forgotten experiences. How do these physical “objects” of memory interact with the viewer?

Rafaela Astudillo (b. 2004) is an interdisciplinary artist based in Boston, MA, born in Quito, Ecuador. Her practice centers on the exploration of personal memory and its inscription on the body, investigating how lived experience is carried, translated, and reactivated through material form. Deeply interested in the ways digital spaces preserve and mediate memory, her work often combines moving images with painting, sculpture, and photography, creating layered visual languages that move between the physical and the virtual.

Most recently, her short film *Rosa* was screened at GRRL Haus’ Best of 2024 screening. She also co-curated the exhibition *States of Being* at UHGallery at the University of Massachusetts Boston, where she has been actively involved in curatorial research and exhibition development.

For more images and more information, contact:
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