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society and contemporary culture

BILBAO



AZKUNA ZENTROA ASSOCIATED RESEARCHER

Aimar Arriola

Un deseo de forma

Research project and public programming

On November 18, the fourth public activity of *Un deseo de forma* took place, a project that curator Aimar Arriola develops as Associate Researcher at Azkuna Zentroa. Launched in autumn 2020, *Un deseo de forma* is Arriola's response to the invitation to develop his own line of work that accentuates the relationship between queer perspectives and art within the centre's programme. Broadly speaking, the project considers queerness as a



plastic quality related to the changing potential of forms, and therefore, a question that concerns life. The project progresses according to its own research methodology with an emphasis on collaboration with local and international artists. Instead of knowing what to look for in advance, as in big science, the research goals of *Un deseo de forma* emerge in collaboration.

The November meeting had as a guest Sands Murray-Wassink, a cult figure in the Amsterdam art scene, who presented his work, indebted to the legacy of intersectional feminist and gueer art. Murray-Wassink defines himself as a painter, body artist, and perfume collector. His session for Un deseo de forma took a hybrid form between presentation and performance, and concluded with a prolonged action of live painting. This is how Arriola describes what happened there: "A cloud of perfume enveloped the space and the bodies during the Sands performance. The specific use of perfume in a moment of the action, as well as the energy created between the artist and those who came to his call, generated an affective envelope of meaning that still vibrates. The quality of the perfume to wrap, to gently surround bodies and situations, without that wrapping being

permanent or excessively visible, is what I would like to transfer to my work for the next three months, in which I will try to continue writing down part of what happened in my project to date. From there, the process will be open to new guests and public moments."

Furthermore, as an important contribution to the Azkuna Zentroa archive, and as a way of documenting the research process, *Un deseo de forma* proposes the Orriak series of publications, periodically published in digital form on the centre's website. These are free texts commissioned from the participating artists, which expand and complement their public actions. In 2020-2021 the artists Dogartzi Magunagoicoechea, Manu Arregui, Camila Téllez (in collaboration with Eszter Katalin), Pablo Marte and Sands Murray-Wassink have participated in *Un deseo de forma*. The public programming of the project will resume in spring 2022.



