

s o l o e x h i b i t i o n

EMELLY VELASCO

RED ASTRAL

C A T A L O G U E

7th September - 4th October, 2024

Opening: Saturday 7th September, 17:00 - 20:00

Lecture "*RED ASTRAL : From blood to gold*" Saturday 21st September, 18:00 - 20:00

MINA Gallery & Cafe Address: Weteringschans 69, 1017 RX **Amsterdam** RSPV Phone: 0622234838

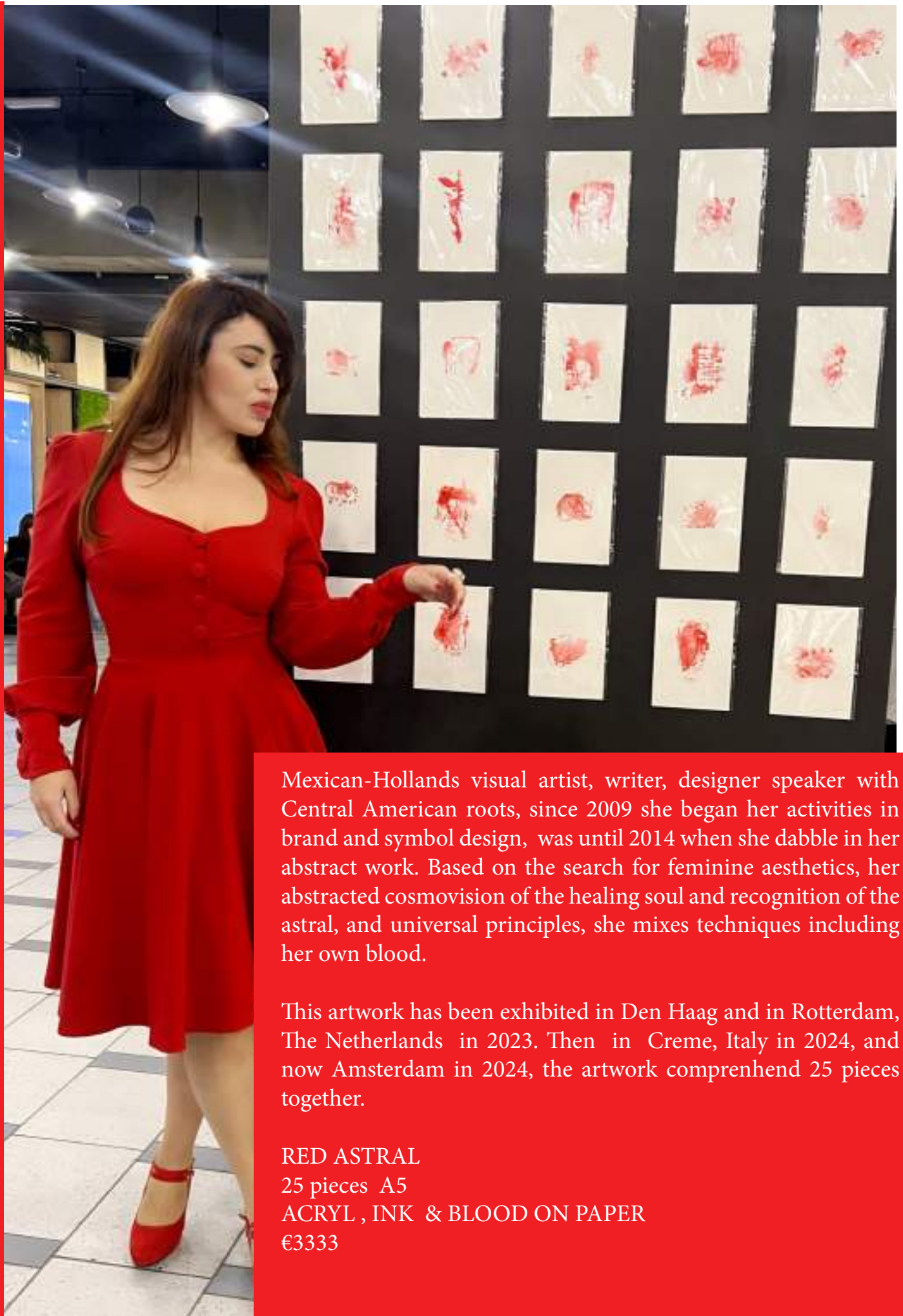
Velasco's artwork not only **honors ancient traditions** but also seeks to **claim and celebrate the power and beauty of feminine energy manifestations** through menstruation in modern society, also as **a memorial to all women that die during childbirth**. Through her art, she invites viewers to contemplate the natural rhythms of the menstrual cycle and recognize **the connection between femininity, nature, and life itself**.

Ancient civilizations such as the **Nahuas** and **Mayans** understood the intimate relationship between menstruation and fertility. **Tlaltecuhltli**, the Mother goddess of the earth in Nahuatl culture, was believed to cry out for human blood to bring crops to fruition, her body serving as the matrix from which the world emerged.

Similarly, **Mayan** sacrificial practices included men bleeding their penises as a symbolic imitation of menstruation's fertilizing power, in **mexic mythology** women-goddesses were divine when they died in childbirth, as an act of honor, they were considered warriors, thereby obtaining the right to accompany the sun during its journey through the sky, they were called "**Cihuateteotl**". This series is inspired in **bodily relics of christianity**. Therefore empathy, honor and respect are required.



RED ASTRAL UTERUS
60 X 80
PHOTOPRINT
ON CANVAS
€777



Mexican-Hollands visual artist, writer, designer speaker with Central American roots, since 2009 she began her activities in brand and symbol design, was until 2014 when she dabble in her abstract work. Based on the search for feminine aesthetics, her abstracted cosmovision of the healing soul and recognition of the astral, and universal principles, she mixes techniques including her own blood.

This artwork has been exhibited in Den Haag and in Rotterdam, The Netherlands in 2023. Then in Creme, Italy in 2024, and now Amsterdam in 2024, the artwork comprehend 25 pieces together.

RED ASTRAL

25 pieces A5

ACRYL , INK & BLOOD ON PAPER

€3333



RED ASTRAL SANGRE
40 X 60
ACRYL ,OIL & BLOOD ON CANVAS
€1111



RED ASTRAL FETUS
40 X 65
ACRYL ,OIL & BLOOD ON CANVAS
€1111



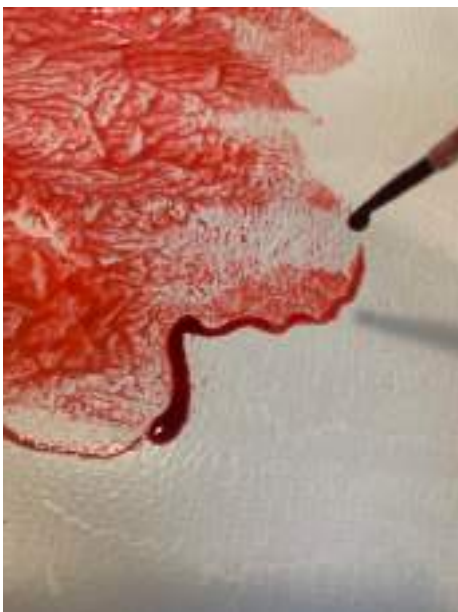
RED ASTRAL MENSTRUATUS
50 X 70
ACRYL ,OIL & BLOOD ON CANVAS
€2222



RED ASTRAL CYCLUS i
40 X 60
PHOTOPRINT ON WOOD
€888



RED ASTRAL CYCLUS ii
40 X 60
PHOTOPRINT ON WOOD
€888



RED ASTRAL CYCLUS iii
40 X 60
PHOTOPRINT ON WOOD
€888

Emelly Velasco - Red Astral

by M.A. Christen Faver -Arts And Culture Postgraduate.

The debut of “Red Astral” (2022 - 2024), a series of works by Emelly Velasco, is one of **vulnerability**. The presented abstract forms have a strong presence, their color and materiality speaking to the viewer through their symbolic attributes. Resubverting the norm of the color red, Velasco reminds us of the once-masculine hue which has been reappropriated into the feminine through contemporary associations. A proposed intergenerational line of communication is experienced through the artist’s ‘astral experiences’, relying on allegory provided through the menstruation process. The artist sees this period as a sort of personal and spiritual reading, wherein she seeks to understand what her body may be communicating to her. Velasco’s methodology begins with acrylic and ink formations, which are later enlarged, as she transfers these organic shapes onto a more extensive format. It is here that the experimentation with blood and traditional art mediums converge. A homage to maternity, Velasco started this series in an attempt to connect with meaningful figures in her past and present. In that sense, womanhood is also examined in these works through the lens of fourth-wave feminism. These pieces were conceptually formed before current trends of recognizing masculine and feminine energies.

Gender roles are further turned on their head when the artist historicizes Nahua and Mayan civilizations in terms of their cultural legacy, generationally linked to Velasco through her Mexican and Salvadorian relations. These cultures celebrated the sacredness of menstruation and fertility; however, Velasco is not the first to investigate, the potentially termed ‘menstruation art movement’, in her creative explorations. One might cast their mind to Frida Kahlo’s “Henry Ford Hospital” (1932), the significant portrayal of blood in a metaphorical and literal way signaling the formation and introduction of these narratives in the canon of recognized female artists. Similarly, artists such as Ana Mendieta, Kiki Smith, and Tracey Emin have used blood as a medium in order to communicate self-representation. Unifying themes such as gender, regeneration, birth, feminism, and autobiography are present across the spectrum of these artists and works. Nevertheless, these socio-historical contexts are paramount in providing the innate possibilities of “Red Astral” in an ultra-modern setting.

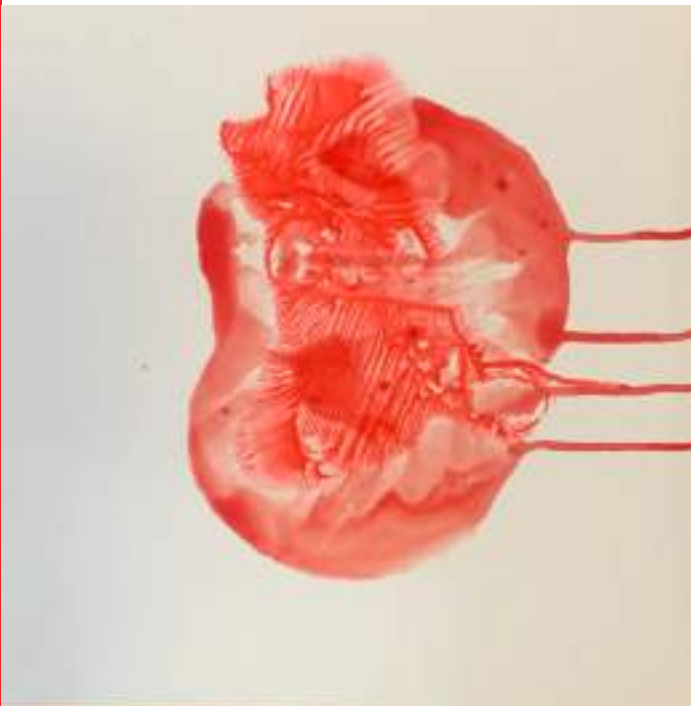
This series of works can be viewed at Spirit del Art Gallery (New York, USA), from the 15th of June 2024, at Museo Tuscolano Scuderie Aldobrandini (Rome, Italy), from the 27th of June 2024, and during the artist’s solo exhibition at Mina Gallery & Café (Amsterdam, The Netherlands), from the 7th of September 2024.



RED ASTRAL Utherea I
40 X 40
PLEXIGLASS
€2222



RED ASTRAL Utherea III
40 X 40
PLEXIGLASS
€2222



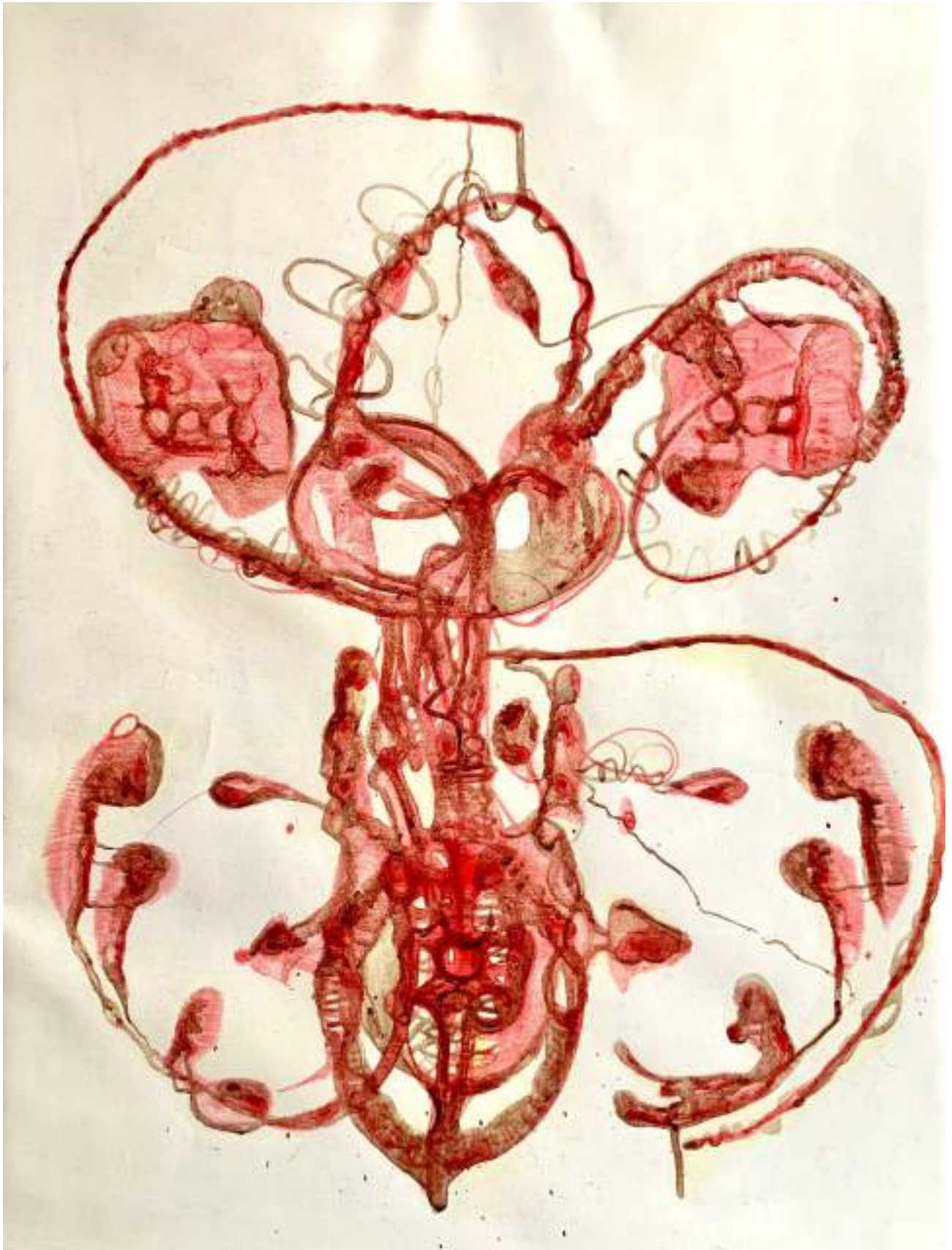
RED ASTRAL Utherea II
40 X 40
PLEXIGLASS
€2222



RED ASTRAL Utherea IV
40 X 40
PLEXIGLASS
€2222



RED ASTRAL QUETZAL
180 X 80
ACRYL, GOLD LEAF & BLOOD
€4444



RED ASTRAL RENACER
60 X 70
ACRYL, OIL & BLOOD
ON CANVAS
€2222

EMELLY VELASCO

RED ASTRAL - FROM BLOOD TO GOLD



MEMORY OF
WOMEN WHO DIE
GIVING BIRTH. **SIGNED**
140 X 90
PHOTOPRINT ON A
TOWEL
€444