

Whale belly

Inhabiting the Entrails

4th generation of the LaBIAR imagination and artistic research laboratory

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El gabinete is a newly established space at the Museo Universitario del Chopo, designed to support and showcase exhibition projects by artists who are currently in educational programs, recent graduates, or independent collectives from recent generations. The 4th generation is presenting the inaugural project of the LaBIAR (imagination and artistic research laboratory). This program, accessible through an open call, is an initiative of LolitaPank—a space and platform dedicated to women+LGBTQ+dissident artists in Santa María la Ribera.

The concept for *Whale Belly. Inhabiting the Entrails* is inspired by a collection of photographs from the Museo de Historia Natural, displayed between 1913 and 1964. These images document a specimen of a large stuffed whale. These majestic mammals possess enormous stomachs, capable of accommodating multiple humans due to their size. This organ is adapted to serve as a reservoir for food and energy gradually distributed during their extensive migrations.

The installation draws inspiration from the group's reading of Ursula K. Le Guin's *The Carrier Bag Theory Fiction*, where she interprets the vessel as the first cultural dispositive shaping storytelling: a book *contains* words that convey meaning. Consequently, the artists envision the whale's belly as a metaphor, symbolizing the imaginative process that embodies Others' experiences and serves as a wellspring of energy, emotion, and care.

Whale belly. Inhabiting the Entrails appropriates this cabinet as the space that contains the viscera, the fluids, the fabrics, the desires, the palpitation of this installation of care and collective affection, but where the bodies also appeal to personal space as a political exercise and enunciation. Inside, the pieces become living organs that are an extension of the corporeality of each individual that is part of this generation of LaBIAR: cavities, braids, and mucous membranes that generate collective networks that connect and sustain.

Karol Wolley R. (curator)