



PUBLIC SERVICE

*Imaginarium*  
curated by Silvana Lagos  
01.12.2023—12.01.2024

Maria Abaddon  
Hawazin Alotaibi  
Sam King  
Alonso Leon-Velarde  
Luis Zela Koort

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Public Service Gallery is proud to present *Imaginarium*, curated by Silvana Lagos.

A group show presenting works by Maria Abaddon (PE), Hawazin Alotaibi (SA/US), Sam King (UK), Alonso Leon-Velarde (PE), and Luis Zela Koort (PE).

*Imaginarium* presents existing and newly commissioned works by artists that offer new and alternative perspectives on often already cemented worldviews. The exhibition crosses the boundaries of reality and imagination, proposing to the viewer to consider new modes of information.

2022 gave us the word of the year; *Permacrisis*. A dizzying if not over consuming feeling that is ingrained in the years buzz word, and this year not much has shifted away from what is considered our new norm. As much as many were quick to point out that *Permacrisis* is a new word, although what it describes is not, how are we taking the whirlwind, that feels like its rapidly changing our world, when in reality it's been there on going at a pace that time cannot determine.

As we close 2023, the year that gave us both Barbie and Oppenheimer, *Imaginarium* proposes an alternative at Public Service Gallery. Compounded between *Imagination, Consortium and Arium - Imaginarium* explains how partnership, community, and alternative perspectives guide us into moving away from our *Permacrisis*.

In their work the artists explore forward-thinking manifestos, modes of collaborative creation, new ways of imagining society, our environment, and our bodies. The boundaries between inner vision and external reality seamlessly intertwine, converging into a harmonious unity, proposing an inviting space that allows viewers to venture through these notions and embark on an extraordinary journey through time and consciousness, exploring the boundaries of the known and the unknown.

Many of us continue pushing back against the old Western idea that a "Man of Reason" – often depicted as a white male – is the ultimate measure of everything in the universe. The artists are, in contrast, inviting us to broaden our perspective and challenge these long-held beliefs through their works, urging us to rethink what it means to be human and step outside the confines of traditional boundaries. Each artist envisions a fantastical world where life is an ever-changing canvas, shaped by the limitless power of imagination. Exploring themes of climate, AI, the body, and its societal place.

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### About the Artists

Maria Abaddon

Maria Abaddon (b. 1988, Lima, Peru). Maria Abaddon achieved a BA at the National School of Fine Arts in Peru (2007-2014), followed by artist residencies in Nayarit, Mexico (2015) and in Buenos Aires, Argentina (2019). Individual recognitions encompass finalist selections for National Bank of reserve, Alliance Française (2019), IPAE Award (2019 & 2021), ICPNA Contemporary Art (2021). Notable solo exhibitions in Lima, Peru, include the Ginsberg Gallery, Callao Monumental, Abrir Gallery, and an International solo show at 7pp Gallery in Wroclaw, Poland. Participation in institutional group exhibitions includes the Museum of Contemporary art, Centro Cultural de España in Lima, Peru; the Cultural Palace in Warsaw, Poland; the Centro Cultural Britanico in Lima, Peru; the Centro Cultural PUCP in Lima, Peru; and the Centro Cultura de Bellas Arte in Lima, Peru. Her work is part of several private collections including Verme (Peru), Rebaza (Peru), Solari (Chile), Palace of Cultures (Poland), among others.

Hawazin Alotaibi

Hawazin Alotaibi (b. 1993, Wisconsin, US) is a Saudi-American interdisciplinary artist, curator, DJ, and music producer who earned her BA in Painting at the University of the Arts London and an MA in Painting at the Royal College of Art. Her work examines the notions of gender, masculinity, femininity, and self-representation in the ever-changing cultural and political dynamics in the Arab world, specifically in Gulf countries. She explores those themes through her experimentation and research by collecting photographs from social media platforms, personal memorabilia, tacky WhatsApp gifs, and gender portrayal imagery from encountered cultural and religious books. She has shown her work with renowned spaces such as Saatchi Gallery, WeTransfer x Outernet, IRL Gallery, and Incubator. Hawazin works and lives between London and Riyadh and is currently doing a residency at POUSH x Manifesto in Paris.

Sam King

Sam King (b. 1995, Manchester, UK) is a British/Australian artist, living and working in London. King grew up in Devon, in the South-West UK and studied at the Art Academy, London. Recent exhibitions include *Seeing is Believing*, Eve Leibe Gallery, London; *Between The Bridge And The Door*, Pictorum Gallery, London; *Cacotopia*, Annka Kultys Gallery, London; *Blurred States of Being*, Prior Art Space, Barcelona; *Fever Dream*, Vortic, Curated by Daria Borisova, Virtual Show (displayed at Santa Monica Art Museum); *Water is Not for Sale*, Bloom Galerie, St Tropez; *Touchwood*, Eve Leibe Gallery Hosted by Prior Art Space, Berlin; Soho Revue x The Limle Scarlet Door, London; *Voices for Love*, Prior Art Space, Barcelona.

Alonso Leon-Velarde

Alonso Leon-Velarde (b. 1993, Lima, Peru) lives and works between Lima and Mexico City. Primarily working in painting, his work combines elements of personal history, science fiction, and contemporary subjects. The artist considers the ways western media travels and permeates South American visual cultures, examining traces of orthodoxy embedded in the landscape. Additionally working in sound, Leon-Velarde's compositions often incorporate improvisation and a group of constant collaborators. Leon-Velarde has been included in exhibitions at El Instante Fundación, Madrid; Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City; Whitechapel gallery, London; *Drawing a Blank* at The Parasol Unit foundation for contemporary art, London; O'Flaherty's, New York and Ginsberg Galería, Lima.



Storgatan 1  
114 44 Stockholm

info@public-service.com  
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Luis Zela Koort

Luis Zela Koort (b. 1994, Lima, Peru) lives and works between Lima and Buenos Aires. Recent solo-shows include; *Cosmic Reversal*, Revolver Galería NY (Upcoming); *Fields of Porosity*, Vitrine Gallery - London (2023); *Todos los pulsos posibles*, Proyecto NASAL CDMX (2023); *Retorno Solar*, Museum of Contemporary Art - Lima (2022); *Halo de Espina Rosa*, Revolver Galería - Buenos Aires (2022); *Deseos Modernos*, Centro de Arte Contemporáneo - Quito (2021); *No se puede regresar al polvo*, Revolver Galería - Lima (2019); *Métrica Tensa*, PAIJÁN (2019). Recent group shows include; *Montes No-Visibles III*, MACBA (2023); *Desire is a Spiral*, Revolver Galería NY (2023); *Mirada Queer*, Museo Muñoz Mariño (2023); *Actualizaciones Post-Digitales*, Británico Cultural (2023); *TRANSE. Trauma, Sueño y Fuga*, 13va Bienal do Mercosul (2022). Their work forms parts of several private international collections.

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### About the Curator

Silvana Lagos: Silvana Lagos is a curator and writer based between London, UK, and Stockholm, Sweden. She is the artistic director of Meridian Creative Center – El Anatsui. An independent art professional, with a strong background in curating, project management, and strategic consulting. Demonstrated wide multidisciplinary experience in the field of museums and public art as a project director and curator, with delivered projects in Europe, The United States, Latin America, China, and the Middle East, managing large-scale multi-national projects.

Delivered projects include - *macLYON*, Mfa Boston, Ludwig Museum, SF MoMa, University of Greenwich, Hauser & Wirth, Zurich, Fondazione Prada, Prada Double Club Miami, Museo Tamayo, Luma Foundation Arles, Qatar Museums, Gagosian NYC, Massimo de Carlo, Milan, *Noor Light Festival*, Riyadh, *All the World's Futures* 56th Edition of Venice Biennale, Galleria Continua Beijing, and simultaneous co-running exhibitions at Copenhagen Contemporary and KUNSTEN Museum of Modern Art Aalborg, Denmark. As a curator, Silvana has worked with the development of the Norberg Festival art program and artwork commissions. She co-curated *Silver Sehnsucht* as a b-side exhibition during Frieze London (2017). She is on the board of Amalgama, a cultural program and digital platform devoted to exhibiting, promoting, and publishing the work of women artists from Latin America. Her recent public program: TRAMA saw conversations between Rosana Antoli, and Marta Manen, Director of Index, Paola Torrez Núñez de Prado, with Dr. Giuliana Borea and Cecilia Vicuña and Camila Marambio, curator and Director of the nomadic research program Ensayos. As well as a set of artists conversations during Frieze NYC (2023) at the Standard Hotel with Tschabalala Self and Sanford Biggers.

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