

Animating Principle, copper, 2018
plaster, chemical solutions, ammoniac, water pump and tube.



This piece was part of a site specific installation presented in Brussels last year. The work was spread all over the exhibition space as an attempt of slight contamination, responding to alchemy recipes based on chemical solutions.'

Exhibition view of *Agua del día*, a group show curated by Rodrigue Mouchez (AGUAS), Bâtiment Vanderborcht, Brussels, June 2018.

Tying my work to my environment and personal life, lately it often takes on a sort of mystic quality mainly inspired by my grandmother's work as a healer and the animistic beliefs from people surrounding me. In Brussels, I was invited to a residency where I decided to work on a daily repetitive production while exploring the city in the search for interpreting alchemist recipes hidden in mystic symbols found in Belgian architecture. For the collective show : *Agua del día*, I created a sculptural work inspired by mushrooms, linking both the idea of decomposition and the role of self-realization in alchemist philosophy, indeed the alchemical research is not only about the transmutation of base metals into gold, it is more a secondary phenomenon, but the transformation of the alchemist himself. The resulting like-mushroom sculptures were defined by their incompleteness, and took on a performative aspect as they begin to transform over time. This sculpture in particular *Animating Principle, copper* is dedicated to the star Venus, using copper sulfate responding to alchemical relations that link Venus to copper metal to the day Friday, the day of her production, to circulation, humidity, etc. The water pump system gives the work autonomy and emphasizes a mechanical process while the light smell of ammonia which emerges from it, recalls the interior of a cave.

By subtly criticizing the will of man to mark things in time and space, the work aims for change and transformation. Photography is no longer used as a medium that can freeze instants but light-sensitive chemicals become performers, highlighting a fragile future.

