

**immediate release**

Platos's Cave at EIDIA House  
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## PLATO'S CAVE

**EIDIA House presents**

**Jessica Kairé**

**Tasting #2: Sephardic Architecture**

**Opening reception Friday 11, 2015 6-8pm**

Exhibition: December 11, 2015 – January 16, 2016

Hours 1-6pm, Wednesday – Saturday (or by appointment)

EIDIA House announces its continuing exhibition initiative PLATO'S CAVE, with the 23rd artist in the series, Guatemalan artist **Jessica Kairé**.

Entitled: *Tasting #2: Sephardic Architecture*, the exhibition proposes a savory exploration of new perspectives through the act of digestion rather than through cognitive processes – as the artwork gradually disappears from the table, it will become a part of the visitors' bodies.

For this project, Kairé will cast fragments of the Sephardic synagogue located in Guatemala City and built in the 1930s, a site she often visited during her upbringing. Replicas of its architecture are to be reproduced in freshly baked flat bread, and served along with za'atar and olive oil.

In several bodies of work which involve food, Kairé takes on the role of the naive master chef who offers a comedic approach to food preparation—jesting, in part, the new wave of “foodies”, that are the new identifier of “being” Brooklyn. A Mid-eastern blend of spices (Sumac, thyme, salt and cumin), za'atar is a symbol of culture health and intelligence, of ritual, of culture and the appropriation thereof, and of displacement. Now a gourmet product in the U.S., this golden combination of za'atar with olive oil and bread has been an Arab cuisine staple for centuries, consumed by royalty and peasants alike.

As if slowly coming out of darkness into light, Kairé's Plato's Cave installation conjures an awakening. She is in a constant search for new truths, questioning and challenging her own personal history that is deeply embedded, given her upbringing, as Jewish, Syrian, and Guatemalan. These new truths imply being open to new information and perspectives—intentionally putting into question her prior knowledge and beliefs.

This installation offers an occasion to spur new conversations and affinities amongst visitors through food, as well as extend a continuous body of work which resides in the revisitation of Kaire's views and understanding of sensitive global issues currently at hand.

Jessica Kairé is a Guatemalan multidisciplinary artist and educator living in Brooklyn, New York. She is also the Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Nuevo Museo de Arte Contemporáneo –NuMu– in Guatemala City, an egg-shaped museum that aims to satiate the lack of other contemporary art institutions in the city. Her work deals with the Guatemalan and Latin identity in general and specific subjects of her native country: violence, underdevelopment, and “tropicality” as well as gender issues and her Jewish background.

Kairé has presented her work in local and international venues including the Parsons Sheila C. Johnson Design Center, The New School, New York; Proyectos Ultravioleta, Guatemala City, Guatemala; Ciudad Imaginación, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala; Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, NV (2013); Inter-American Development Bank Cultural Center, Washington DC.; El Museo del Barrio, New York; the XVI and XIX Bienal de Arte Paiz, Guatemala City, Guatemala; Museo de Arte y Diseño (MADC), Costa Rica; Museo de Arte Moderno, Guatemala; SWAB Contemporary Art Fari, Barcelona, Spain; Brooklyn International Performance Art Festival, Glasshouse, Brooklyn, New York; Proyectos Sauna, Colombia; Diablo Rosso, Panama; 1er Encuentro Internacional de Medellín (MDE11), Colombia; Longwood Art Gallery, The Bronx Council on the Arts, New York; Praxis International Art Gallery, New York; DUMBO Arts Festival, Brooklyn, Nueva York; Kilómetro Cero, National Palace, Guatemala City, Guatemala; Centro de “Formación de la Cooperación Española”, Antigua, Guatemala; Galería 9.99/Proyecto, Guatemala City, Guatemala; Centro Cultural Metropolitano, Guatemala City, Guatemala and Galería Christinger de Mayo, Zurich Switzerland.

Kairé has also recently participated as an artist in residence at 18<sup>th</sup> Street Arts Center in Los Angeles, USA, alongside NuMu's co-director and in collaboration with Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA).

For PLATO'S CAVE, EIDIA House Inc. Co-Directors Melissa P. Wolf and Paul Lamarre (aka EIDIA) curate invited fellow artists to create an installation with an accompanying edition for the underground space PLATO'S CAVE. EIDIA House functions as an art gallery and meeting place, collaborating with artists to create "socially radical" art forms—framed within the discipline of aesthetic research.

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Plato's Cave Wed-Sat 1-6pm or by appointment. Contact Paul Lamarre or Melissa Wolf, 646 945 3830, email to: [eidiahouse@earthlink.net](mailto:eidiahouse@earthlink.net)

[eidia.com/](http://eidia.com/)

**Jessica Kairé** <http://jessicakaire.com/>

Photo credit: Jessica Kairé, *Tasting #2: Sephardic Architecture*, 2015, detail of installation, bread on wooden surface, variable dimensions.