

Isabelle Albuquerque

Mother and Child

07.07.2026
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MASSIMODECARLO Pièce Unique is pleased to present *Mother and Child*, Isabelle Albuquerque's first solo exhibition with the gallery.

Mother and Child is the inaugural work in Isabelle Albuquerque's latest series, *the Meadow*, in which she envisions a landscape of hybrid human-floral forms tracing the parallels between cultural and ecological evolution. The sculpture, a stainless steel human-orchid figure, features an intricate root system that probes themes of generational knowledge, symbiosis, empathy, and the chemical exchanges between generations.

Originally conceived for an exhibition placing Albuquerque's practice in dialogue with Louise Bourgeois, the work re-contextualizes the art historical theme of mother and child through new forms possessing organic, render-like precision that collapse the hierarchies between the human and non-human, the organic and the artificial, and reality and science fiction.

In her mother and child, Albuquerque was especially interested in the expression of microchimerism and women as chimeras that hold the genetic material from both their parents and children - a kind of simultaneous state - that reaches both into the past and future.

The materiality of the sculpture further reifies this pluralism. Advancing her "multitudinal" material logic, Albuquerque treats stainless steel to contain the luminosity and shifting aesthetics of glazed

ceramic while retaining the industrial strength and durability of the metal. These uprooted, seemingly ephemeral blooms are, paradoxically, forged in time with the permanence of steel.

For its presentation at Piece Unique, *Mother and Child* grows out of a mound of fresh earth, continuing to bridge the rendered and the natural world. A single pearl blossoming from each orchid deepens these metamorphic forms as potent signifiers of desire and further enacts an allegorical process, eternalizing expressions of exchange, regeneration and renewal across multiple species and temporal registers.

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Isabelle Albuquerque's formally powerful and psychologically charged sculpture invites multiple, simultaneous readings and perspectives. With a background in performance, Albuquerque uses her own body to investigate the protean nature of identity and to create a trans-temporal conversation that centers the experiences of women and their own connection to desire, sexuality and embodiment.

Albuquerque (b. 1981) studied architecture and theater at Barnard College and lives and works in her native Los Angeles. Exhibitions include *Alien Spring*, Nicodim, New York (2025, solo); *Isabelle Albuquerque and Louise Bourgeois: The Wandering Womb*, lumber room, Portland (2025); *Witchcraft, Magic, and Occult Knowledge*, Cantor Arts Center

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at Stanford University, Palo Alto (2025); *It Smells Like Girl*, Jeffery Deitch and Company Gallery, Los Angeles (2025); *The Amber of this Moment*, Galeria Nicodim, Bucharest (2025); *Portals to Unwritten Time*, Perrotin, Paris (2025); *The Neverending Story: The Dream*, Vito Schnabel Gallery, St. Moritz (2024); *Isabelle Albuquerque X Robert Therrien*, The Studio of Robert Therrien, Los Angeles (2024); *Post Human*, Jeffrey Deitch, Los Angeles (2024); *Orgy for Ten People in One Body*, Jeffrey Deitch, New York (2022, solo); *BodyLand*, curated by Lauren Taschen, Galerie Max Hetzler, Berlin (2022) *The Emerald Tablet*, curated by Ariana Papademetropoulos, Jeffrey Deitch, Los Angeles (2021); *Nuestrxs Putxs*, Human Resources, Los Angeles (2021); and *Sextet*, Nicodim, Los Angeles (2020, solo). Albuquerque's work has appeared in numerous publications including The New York Times, Artforum, L'officiel, and Flash Art. Her most recent publication *Orgy for Ten People in One Body* (Jeffrey Deitch, Nicodim, Pacific, 2023), is a 450 page monograph about the sculptural series that includes conversations with the artists Miranda July and Arthur Jafa.

Artwork

Isabelle Albuquerque

Mother and Child, 2025

Stainless steel, freshwater pearls

148 × 45.7 × 108 cm / 58 1/4 × 18 × 42 1/2 inches