Artist Statement

Interactive Sculpture Exhibition is the media I choose to show my artistic work, where form, scale and senses merges. The connection between concepts is a strong ingredient in it that unites what seems separate. My research goes around Social Law and the Animal, Mineral and Plant Kingdoms, these silent Masters that shape our physical reality.
Biography

Eliana Veronica Hernandez was born in Venezuela, raised in the Canary Islands and nowadays based in Oslo, Norway.

She is a sculptor and an interior designer who has been working for more than a decade with interior and urban spaces. Throughout her career and professional experience she has studied various artistic disciplines, geometry, product design, science and poetry, which flow freely within her artwork. Working this way, she enjoys the opportunity to explore the potential around the subject. Her interdisciplinary work includes art installations, murals, recycling sculpture, photography and restoration. This results in an interesting portfolio that brings together knowledge and imagination.

I move frequently, this fact stimulates my curiosity and opens my mind to learn the secrets of nature. I studied science, but chose art to understand the alchemy of materials. I moved from my home in the mountains of La Gomera in order to achieve greater understanding of art and culture, willing to work as a bridge between cultures.
’30 seeds’ is an Interactive Sculpture Exhibition that merges two known concepts ‘The Universal Declaration of Human Rights’ & ‘Phytotherapy or Herbal Medicine’.

The target is to open the dialog between cultures about law and alternative medicine by giving the visitors an organic approach to their human senses that will evoke ancestral memories, recognizing from the bottom of their hearts that humankind is strongly united to creativity.

The concept is really simple 😊

1^ The Exhibition_ Introduction

* The experience begins when I ask the visitors if they can please take off their shoes before they come into the dark room where the pieces shine, this room is also aromatized with a touch of lavender. Nowadays this pedagogical method of ‘shoes off’ is used in Finland’s primary schools and they affirm that this simple action relaxes the body, making kids and teachers feeling at home. Some visitors at the first exhibition told me, “I felt more humble after I took off my shoes”...

* After a brief introduction into the dark room, the narrator will explain the heart of this exhibition/experiment and then s/he will turn on the lights that would reveal the form. The unusual part starts when I explain that this is a sculpture exhibition where the seeds can be touched. The petals and leaves at the bottom of the nest evoke the Autumn, when seeds repose.
Size: The largest seed is around 48cm and the smallest 12cm. Here are some artistic examples of how they look like.

* Each Seed Contains Life. A photo-luminescent pigment (non-toxic) made from crystals that absorb natural or artificial light and after dark they release energy in the form of a long-lasting glow. The pigment is located inside the natural cracks, so symbolically speaking, this phenomenon represents ‘The potential of life that all seeds have on them’. Many visitors already told me about Leonard Cohen lyrics, “There is a crack in everything, that’s how the Light gets in”...
Two seeds join the group of 30, I call them +1 and +2. These new seeds are talking about changes, and they say: 'The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a document that can be improved and developed through the new times and real needs.'
2^ The Seeds

Rye  Art.29_ Responsibility
Heart  Art.1_We Are All Born
       Free & Equal
Tamarind  Art.27_Copyright
Lentil  Art.20_Public Assembly
Coffee  Art.15_Right to Nationality

Cherry  Art.13_Freedom to Move
Cocoa  Art.12_Right to Privacy
Lotus  Art.24_The Right to Play
Rice  Art.10_The Right to Trial

Bean  Art.5_No Torture
Seedbox  Art.14_Right to Seek a
         Safe Place to Live
Date  Art.9_No Unfair Detainment
Sunflower  Art.28_A Fair and Free World
Buckwheat  Art.25_Food and Shelter for All
* The way to present the information still in a Beta phase, where the Rights and the Body parts would be shown in a digital format. At the moment each seed have an explanation card:
Corn Art.30_No One Can Take Away Your Human Rights
Avocado Art.16_Marriage and Family
Rheedii Art.18_Freedom of Thought
Flamboyant Art.11_We’re Always Innocent Till Proven Guilty
Mustard Art.23_Worker’s Right
Apple Art.3_The Right to Life

Chickpea Art.21_The Right to Democracy
Watermelon Art.26_The Right to Education
Lemon Art.8_Your Human Rights Are Protected by Law
Passion fruit Art.6_You Have the Rights No Matter Where You Go

Melon Art.7_We’re All Equal Before the Law
Annatto Art.19_Freedom of Expression
Pomegranate Art.22_Social Security
Maple Art.2_Don’t Discriminate
Echinacea Art.4_No Slavery
Ayoyote Art.17_The Right to Your Own Things
In a fast developing world, the consequences of forgetting our cultural knowledge and connection with the kingdoms (plants, animals and minerals) is leading us into inner conflicts. Globalization treats the law and the medicine as a business and not as a harmonious service, prioritizing money before life when the healthiest path is the other way around.

‘The Universal Declaration of Human Rights’ A document written after World War II, signed on December 10, 1948. I’m using the Human Rights Declaration as an educational tool of universal values because the true core of these rights is to create an ethnic world beyond financial/private interests. One thing is true, knowing these rights will not guarantee that we learn the great message behind the words, but we must try to make them come true. The book called ‘Human rights and social justice’ written by Joseph Wronka (Professor of Social Work at Springfield Collage, U.S.), helps me to consider widely the rights for this project when he said: “Human rights instruments can serve as tools to “till the soil” and create a foundation from which human needs can flourish” (Wronka 2008, 36).

‘Phytotherapy or Herbal Medicine’ Grandma’s remedy.
Preventive medicine is not entirely recognized by modern medicine, even though their fundamentals are based on it. Ayurveda for example, is an alternative medicine that comes from India and is based in phytotherapy. Ayurvedic considers diet and patient’s lifestyle, their psycho-physical state and recognizes that the ultimate cause of all diseases is violating the laws of nature. It seeks to balance and rejuvenate the body through “Simple life and Higher thoughts", increasing longevity using herbs. It has been called "the mother of all cures" as it’s considered the most completed
preventive medicine in the world who embraces science, philosophy and body health. With Phytotherapy, a doctor will only need the knowledge about emotions and the secrets from nature.

From the 17th to 19th centuries doctors were deeply rationalists and came to the conclusion that the human body is like a mechanical machine, leads to the conclusion that out there is not a disease, only ill bodies. In the 20th century, medicine was boosted by science and technology, giving rise scientific medicine, based on evidence that uses the fundamentals of biology and chemistry to produce synthetic drugs. However, after years of use, the drugs don’t work as well as they should, developing serious side effects in patients who only went to the doctor for a small issue.

Beauty awakens the soul to act. Dante Alighieri.

‘30 Seeds’ was exhibited for the first time in Gamlebyen Fredrikstad 2016, Norway. The whole concept grows up in Norway and it was produced with wood from the islands of Hvaler, except 3 seeds made in Mahagoni. I used: Prunus cerasus (Kirsebær), Prunus avium (Morell), Prunus domestica L. (Plomme) og Swietenia mahagoni (Mahogni).

This sensorial project is inspired by my ancestors who were the indigenous people from Canary Islands and by self-sufficient emergent communities around the planet. “To find balance and hope we must collaborate and promote new creative paradigms suitable to local and global real needs”