ENG

Odonchimeg Davaadorj
A Poem from the Volcano

AKINCI

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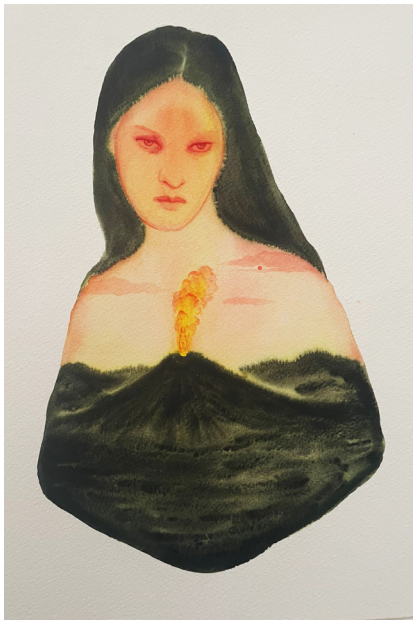

A Poem from the Volcano 1, 2026, watercolor on paper, 25 x 35 cm

AKINCI is proud to present the exhibition *A Poem from the Volcano* by Odonchimeg Davaadorj (1990). In this exhibition, Davaadorj dissolves the artificial separation between human and nature, drawing on ancient myths. In this process, the artist uses these myths to reimagine the human condition, searching for the landscapes within oneself. This is shown through her use of the volcano, a burning mountain embodied by the Greek god Hephaestus. The volcano is a paradox: a place of rebirth and catastrophe, it destroys and creates. The presence of female bodies, the body she knows best, are a canvas in which she explores this tension and tries to imagine dissolving this paradox.

In her practice Davaadorj incorporates the notions of ecology, environment, nature and living beings. Everything is interconnected; conjoining organisms give rise to new forms that defy all manners of classification. The media that Davaadorj uses to explore these concepts is mainly watercolour on paper.

The works in this exhibition imagine entire worlds in microscopic structures. The artist explains that ancient myths already spoke of a continuity: from small cells, to DNA, bodies, landscapes, and into constellations. Davaadorj draws from Publius Ovidius Naso (Ovid)'s *Metamorphoses* (8 CE). This series of poems tell the history of the world, in which metamorphosis plays a central role. The transformation of people and animals illustrate the Roman academic Pythagoras' belief that human souls are transitory, and take on different forms. This metamorphosis expresses an essential belief: we are not separate from the world, we are in continuous transition.

These mythological reflections are discovered through Davaadorj' series of works titled *hybrid families* (2025-2026). The series show how humans, animals, plants and landscapes merge, as if we were rediscovering an ancient memory of life, from a time before categories separated us.

A recurring theme in this exhibition are volcanos. The artist refers to Hephaestus, the Greek god of fire who lives beneath the volcano and is responsible for its eruption. This natural phenomenon symbolises a fiery nature and a raw, transformative power, but at the same time human fragility. This is what Davaadorj sees as a manifestation of the human condition. Just like in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, we are in constant transition.

The artist returns to her own imagined landscape, an intimate geography manifesting in the form of the female body, which she inhabits.

Davaadorj asks the viewer to envision the landscape they would choose to be:

"what would we be if we could choose to become a landscape?
The luminous tropical sea.
The North Sea with its cold wind.
A silent mountain.
I believe I know what I would be.
I would be a volcano.
A quiet force.
An inner energy transforming matter.
Because in truth, we are never separate from the world.
We are made of the same substance as water, stone, and stars.
I exist because you exist.
You, me, the tree, the sea, the earth — all belong to the same breath.
And perhaps that breath has a very simple name:
Love"

Biography

Odonchimeg Davaadorj was born in 1990 in Mongolia and now lives and works in Paris. She graduated from École nationale supérieur d'art, Paris-Cergy in 2016 and Bohemia Institute, Czechoslovakia in 2009. Solo exhibitions include Museum Ettore Fico Turin IT, 2023; Museum Folkwang, Essen, DE, 2023. She recently partook in the group exhibitions at Aranya Art Center China, CH (2026); Singer Laren, NL (2025); Stedelijk Museum Schiedam, NL (2025); Musée des Beaux-Arts de Pont-Aven, FR (2025); AkzoNobel Art Space, Amsterdam, NL (2025); Curitiba Biennial, MON Museum, Curitiba, BR (2024); Maison des Arts, Antony, FR (2024); MuMO, le Musée Mobile, FR (2024); Museo Ettore Fico, Turin, IT (2024); MAMAC, Nice, FR (2023); Maison Caillebotte, Yerres, FR (2023); Domaine départemental de Chamarande, FR (2022); Âme Nue, Hamburg, DE (2021); L'Espace de Christian Brest, Paris, FR (2021); Centre d'art Transpalette, Bourges, FR (2021); CAC, Meymac, FR (2019).