

Por: Artishock • 07.12.2020



**Artishock**

[Más publicaciones](#)

f

t

in

p

Eduardo Navarro, Ask Self-Doll, 2020. Online programme accompanying the exhibition. Commissioned and produced ... Gasworks. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Joel Furness

English

## EDUARDO NAVARRO (BREATHSPACE)

**Gasworks** presents the first UK solo exhibition by Buenos Aires-based artist **Eduardo Navarro**. His work moves away from representation, instead creating sensorial experiences with the potential to induce a radical transformation of the self and others.

In recent years, Navarro has sought to adopt the slow metabolism of a reptile, experimented with ways for dancers to embody the physical properties of light, and invited a large group of performers to animate a giant mechanical octopus, in order for them to become part of its decentralized nervous system.



Eduardo Navarro, (breathspace), 2020. Exhibition view. Commissioned and produced by Gasworks. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Andy Keate



Eduardo Navarro, (breathspace), 2020. Exhibition view. Commissioned and produced by Gasworks. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Andy Keate

f

t

in

p

First scheduled for April 2020, Navarro's original plans for the exhibition at Gasworks consisted of transforming the gallery into a living, breathing organism. Developed in the months preceding the Covid-19 outbreak, this immersive installation in the form of a gigantic lung was designed for visitors to synchronize their most vital functions with one another, offering a space for meditation and oceanic breathing. But the construction of Navarro's large-scale prosthetic device would coincide with the onset of a global pandemic with unprecedented effects on our lives.

As the exhibition was postponed until further notice, Navarro made a habit of drawing every day during the lockdown in Buenos Aires. In his words, this practice enabled him to 'relocate the studio to inside my own head'. Produced in self-isolation, the one hundred drawings featured in the exhibition became a portal between unknown dimensions and timelines, past and future visions, unrealized and impossible ideas.

Instead of looking back at what the exhibition could have been, Navarro's drawings resist any melancholy towards the possibilities foreclosed by the pandemic. Inspired by quantum physics, according to which information in the universe cannot be created nor ever destroyed, his drawings metabolize the original exhibition and enact its transformative spirit in a more intimate language.

**GW** **Ask Self-Doll: Episode 1**



Sitting in a corner of the gallery, the viewer encounters *Self-Doll* (2020), a stuffed humanoid covered in orange fleece. Navarro's soft and cuddly robot is fitted with a phone compartment, providing a sense of physical warmth in long-distance communications, where *Self-Doll* is a stand-in for the caller.

This work was conceived as an emotional support tool for children. However, in a time of strict distancing regulations, *Self-Doll* has become a surrogate for the artist, acting as Navarro's proxy in the exhibition and for public events. Throughout the exhibition the artist will communicate through the doll at random times, inviting conversations with the audience [see one of several transcriptions [here](#)].



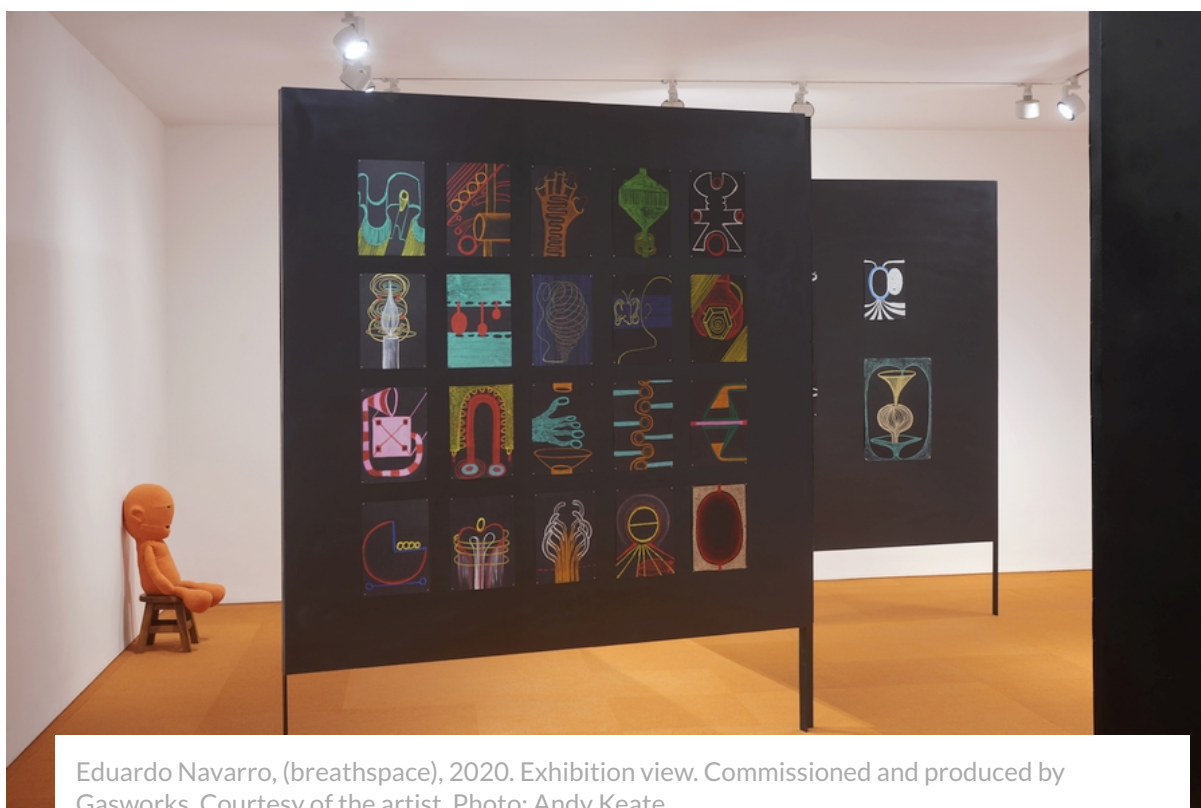
Eduardo Navarro, (breathspace), 2020. Animation film with sound, 3 min loop. Commissioned and produced by Gasworks. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Andy Keate



Projected in the second gallery, a hand-drawn animation features a colossal head with a bellows mechanism, reminiscent of Navarro's unrealized plans to build a large-scale breathing device at Gasworks. Like the universe after the Big Bang, the head expands and contracts at regular intervals. The cyclical nature of Navarro's cosmology is highlighted in the film's soundtrack, a recording of the artist's breathing during a meditation session.

As the sound spills into the main gallery with each exhalation, Navarro's breathing connects the works in the exhibition, encouraging viewers to sync their biorhythms with one another.

Eduardo Navarro's exhibition is commissioned and produced by Gasworks.

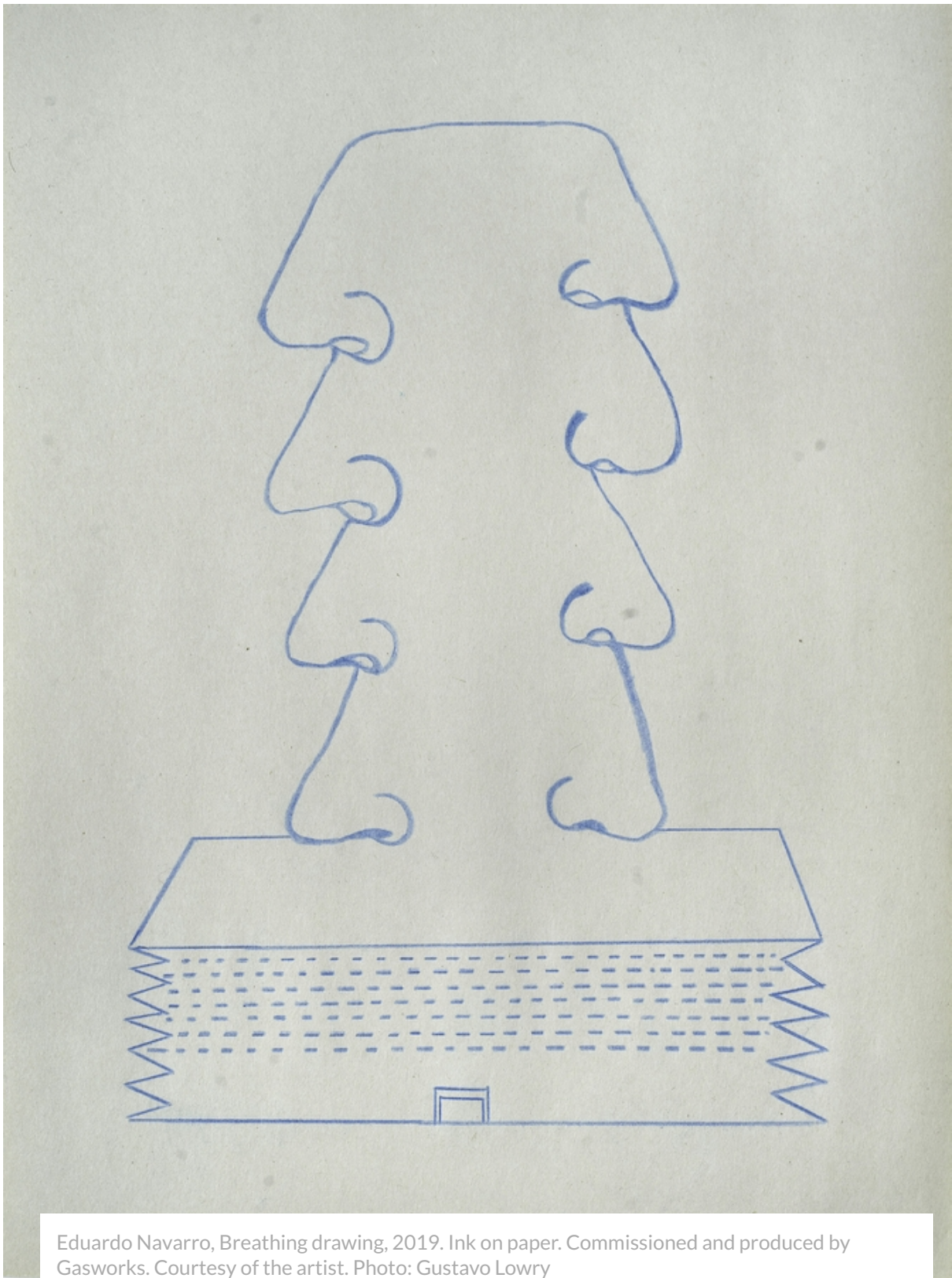


Eduardo Navarro, (breathspace), 2020. Exhibition view. Commissioned and produced by Gasworks. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Andy Keate



Eduardo Navarro, (breathspace), 2020. Exhibition view. Commissioned and produced by Gasworks. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Andy Keate





Eduardo Navarro, Breathing drawing, 2019. Ink on paper. Commissioned and produced by Gasworks. Courtesy of the artist. Photo: Gustavo Lowry

EDUARDO NAVARRO (BREATHSPACE)

[Gasworks](#), 155 Vauxhall St, London

1 October – 20 December 2020



## También te puede interesar



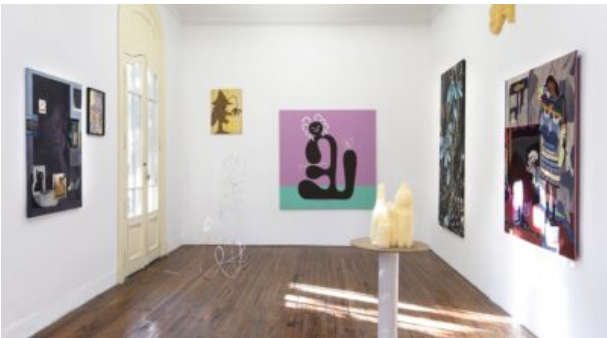
[Artículos](#)

Artishock • 03.10.2018



[Artículos](#)

Rodrigo Barcos • 29.10.2020



[Artículos](#)

Artishock • 29.12.2020