

**Press Release**

May 23, 2024

New Exhibition:

Let Us Go Back to the Beginning

Itziar Barrio

May 23 – September 29, 2024

Salt Galata

**Itziar Barrio’s exhibition “Let Us Go Back to the Beginning” is now open to visit**

**at Salt Galata.**

Founded by Garanti BBVA, **Salt**’s new exhibition, [***Let Us Go Back to the Beginning***](https://saltonline.org/en/2735),is a new iteration of **Itziar Barrio**’s *Material* trilogy, comprising film-based projects and newly commissioned sculptures that explore the intersections of technology, labor, identity, and matter.

How do scientific breakthroughs transform our understanding of what it means to inhabit this world? What is the social function of technology, both as a product of human labor and as an agent shaping collective perception? Drawing on these questions, Barrio weaves together discourses from various fields, including astrophysics, anthropology, and robotics engineering, with speculative narratives that address the interplay between social constructs, cultural values, and the production of “objective” knowledge.

The first part of the trilogy, ***A Demon That Slips into Your Telescopes While You’re Dead Tired and Blocks the Light***(2020), looks at scientific discoveries charting the course of technological progress and astronomical phenomena at the edge of human perception. It probes into the notion of planetary imagination through astronomical studies that seek to materialize the indeterminate or non-visible. Employing video and robotic sculptures, ***ROBOTA MML***(2019-ongoing) follows the etymological origins of the term robot, first used in Karel Čapek’s science-fiction play *R.U.R.* (1920). The characters of this play, set in a factory where robots are built to alleviate human labor, are repositioned in a contemporary context sensitive to the function of the body, identity, and gender. The final chapter, ***Particle Matter*** (2021), presented in the Salt Research space, is a materialist inquiry into manifestations of the micro, incorporating audio recordings from the anechoic chamber at Nokia Bell Labs (New Jersey, USA) with images of dust, pollen, steam, smoke, and various geological events. Produced with the collaboration of sound artist Seth Cluett, the video highlights the interactions between seemingly distant or opposing forces. Site-specific interventions accompanying the first and second chapters spread across Salt Galata.

***Let Us Go Back to the Beginning***is a multilayered exploration of the material world, scientific inquiry, and the sensory dimensions of lived experience. It expands on the idea of communal existence and how bodies constitute the locus of memory and perception. The entanglements between human, non-human, and machine-driven come to the fore, prompting a reflection on the constructed nature of our social realities.

Programmed by Fatma Çolakoğlu and designed by Emirhan Altuner from Salt, the exhibitionis on view at **Salt Galata** until **September 29**. Public programs accompanying the exhibition will be announced at saltonline.org and Salt’s social media channels.

*Let Us Go Back to the Beginning* is realized with the contributions of Bankerhan Hotel, Eureko Sigorta, and Jotun.

Itziar Barrio’s *A Demon That Slips into Your Telescopes While You’re Dead Tired and Blocks the Light* (2020) is produced as part of the BBVA Foundation’s MULTIVERSO Grant for Video Art Creation.

**Itziar Barrio** is an interdisciplinary artist producing long-term research-based projects that involve different agents and collaborators. Her survey exhibition *BY ALL MEANS*, curated by Johanna Burton, was held at Azkuna Zentroa (Bilbao) in 2018, and her monograph was published by SKIRA in 2023. Barrio’s work has been presented internationally at the 14th Shanghai Biennale, Onassis ONX (New York), MACRO (Rome), PARTICIPANT INC (New York), MACBA (Barcelona), Museum of Contemporary Art (Belgrade), Museos del Banco de la República (Bogotá), and the Havana Biennial. She is a member of the New Museum’s incubator, NEW INC, and has received awards from the New York State Council on the Arts, Brooklyn Arts Council, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, and the Spanish Academy in Rome, among others. Her work has been featured in various publications, including *Artforum*, *Art in America*, *The New York Times*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *ART PAPERS*, and *BOMB*. Barrio has recently been awarded a 2024 Guggenheim Fellowship. She teaches at the School of Visual Arts and Sarah Lawrence College in New York.

Founded by Garanti BBVA, Salt is a not-for-profit cultural institution engaging in research, exhibitions, publications, web projects, and public programs at the intersections of visual practices, the built environment, social life, and economic history. The BBVA Foundation, as the corporate social responsibility of the BBVA Group, is committed to advancing society by promoting and disseminating knowledge through research-based, artistic, cultural, and scientific projects.

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**Design:** Emirhan Altuner

**Text:** Ezgi Yurteri

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