

CONNECTION MOLECULES

by Ariel Wilner

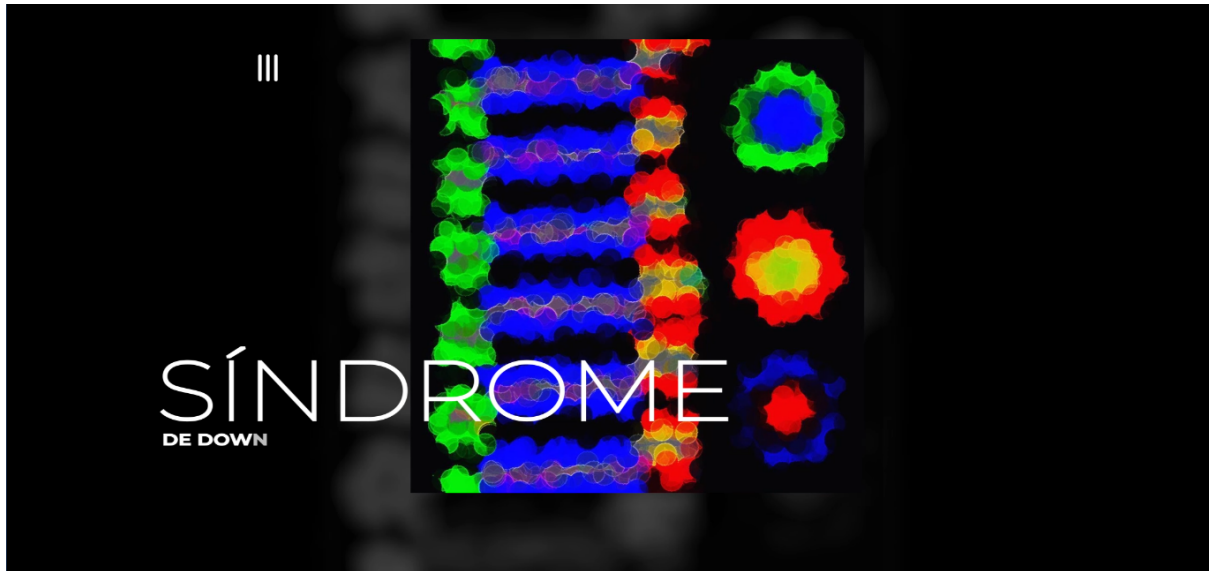
Commissioned by Fundación Julio Bocca for ASDRA (Asociación Síndrome de Down de la República Argentina)

Audiovisual work

Polymer

Series Molecules

2 min 10 seg



CONNECTION | INCLUSION | PASSION

The hegemonic culture, which has managed to write in our bodies ideologies and habits, is in permanent mutation. The changes have many consequences and they happen very often at the expense of all the people that fight for this hegemony to incorporate transgressions of its own system. Thus, in recent years a series of modifications have been achieved. For example, the main idea of being a Family has become more diverse and inclusive. This piece is precisely a testimony of those changes; an emotional piece in which the necessary values to establish a family are transparently expressed: love, inclusion and passion. Genetics no longer represents the one and only necessary concept to describe family.

Alma has Down Syndrome, a genetic disorder of the chromosome 21. She and her biological sister share everything that culture would dictate as necessary to consider them family. However, it is not genetics (which does determine Alma's intellectual disability or the filial bond between them) that generates the connection here: the emotionality between these two girls tightens their bond. Innocence and passion are enough for two sisters to be able to teach the hemenogic world two: first, that a person with a disability is not a sick person and, second, that the family is the nucleus of and for inclusion. Alma and her sister stand for a concept which this play serves as a medium; it is necessary to deal with the struggle of connection and inclusion in each of the spheres of society, because if these processes are natural within the family, they must also be natural in the public sphere.

Cultural borders are always invisible; we only need our eyes to open to have the chance of crossing them. This artwork makes us see how fragile and artificial are the prejudices that enclose us

as adults and vindicates that it is necessary (but very painful) to disarm them. The spectators will feel moved by this, because when we dignified pain and conceived it as a constituent part of life, sadness is not disvalue then it adquieres a great power.

THE PIECE

This polymer of the *Molecules* Series is organized on a concrete aesthetic premise: the relationship between figure and background, form and content is always visually contrasting. All the figures are perfectly delineated and separated from their background; in this contrast there is no room for mixture, for any hesitation. This procedure is what allows the piece to generate a time for reflection without mediation, with no veil. Everything that appears is pure concreteness, pure matter; and this is precisely because the work deals with the documentary record of an emotion, on a spontaneous act of speech.

Contrast and transparency between the speech and the work make figuration one of the main characteristics of the artwork: every emotion, every story, almost every word has its sonorous and visual materiality. The artist interprets each feeling and attaches to it a material that represents it visually. Also the text becomes a visual material and therefore it is also a protagonist. This achieves a direct connection between the piece and the spectator, an analogy of the relationship between the protagonists.

However, the work has a deeper level of decoding. Once the first and direct connection is fully established, it stimulates the viewers to make a more complex artistic and social analysis. The images are placed in front of a background with which they contrast by color, but that background is precisely a black and white representation of that figure in the foreground; a kind of copy. Figure and background can be identical but drastically different; perhaps that is what happens between the sisters, or perhaps that is what we as a society do with those who are only slightly different. This overlapping, this lack of inclusion is what the piece wants to question. In addition, the piece also constantly presents a mark of genetics, Alma would never escape from it; it is the spectator who has to understand the other as different in order to integrate him, not to expel him. Thus, the work symbolizes with the three parallel lines the tension between genetics and culture: three chromosomes instead of two is a mark that science allowed us to understand but it is the society who still misjudges it today.

THE BACKGROUND

This work was commissioned by the Julio Bocca Foundation for ASDRA (Down Syndrome Association of Argentina). Two sisters connected by dance found in the Julio Bocca Foundation a place to express a shared passion. The work is a documentary record of the connection between two beings that are, from a hegemonic perspective, very different. In a series of interviews (the testimony in the piece is the result of one of them) the artist manages to capture the emotional process that happens in a girl when she knows that her sister was born with Down Syndrome. What is manifested

in that process and in the work is very similar. Love and passion have a lot of power even though their task is very difficult: there are many barriers that will have to be broken down in the future. Innocence could be not enough for us to see how difficult it is to practice inclusion, because, as the years go by, genetics and culture still delimit our bodies and minds.

HOW TO EXHIBIT

This piece can be exhibited in analogue or digital spaces. For spectators in domestic environments the use of headphones and a place without any other external or natural light sources are recommended.

The exhibition in professional spaces may vary and can be defined together with the artist; although a space with optimal lighting (blackout) conditions will be mandatory.

For a comprehensive approach to the series, it's recommended to exhibit each piece of the series.

ARIEL WILNER (1960)

Buenos Aires

<https://www.arielwilner.com> | <https://www.instagram.com/ariel.wilner.art/>

ariel.wilner01@gmail.com