

Biography

Elena Bajo · Transdisciplinary artist, choreographer, and educator · Madrid / New York

Some intelligences don't speak; they photosynthesize, root, and remember across geological time.

Elena Bajo (b. Madrid) is a Spanish-American transdisciplinary artist, choreographer, and educator, and a 2026 John Simon Guggenheim Fellow in Fine Arts / Choreography, nominated for the 2026 Prix COAL for Artemisia Noctis: A Grammar of Darkness, presented in Sans Réserve at the Musée de la Chasse et de la Nature, Paris. She composes with plants, minerals, bodies, and algorithmic or more-than-human intelligences held in sustained relation, treating matter as archive — stone, root, ash, and woven fibre as containers of time, memory, and the subjugated knowledges the human record has erased.

Her Fellowship project, The Quantum Leaf Speaks in Ancient Tongues, carries matrilineal Celtic botanical knowledge into contact with speculative computation through choreographic scores, Jacquard weaving, and sculptural installation — movement performed alongside plants rather than about them, with the body as the instrument through which vegetal signal becomes legible. Underwriting the work is quantum entanglement taken as compositional law: what has once been in relation never fully separates, and keeps acting across distance and time.

She founded S.L.A.B., an eco-space in Wonder Valley, California, conceived around absence and ecological relation. Recent projects — SHIH: Thirteen Moons — Artemisia / Wallada at C3A Centro de Creación Contemporánea, Córdoba, and SPOIL at Marble House Project, Vermont — carry directly into the Fellowship and are generating material toward her first monograph, gathering her writings and poetry.

Her honors include the Fundación Botín International Visual Arts Award, a Robert Rauschenberg Foundation Emergency Grant, and Foundation for Contemporary Arts Grants, alongside residencies and fellowships at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, LMCC Arts Center on Governors Island, C3A Córdoba, Matadero Madrid, and Marble House Project.

Bajo studied Art at University of the Arts London, Pharmacology at Universidad Complutense Madrid, Architecture at ESARQ-UIC Barcelona, and Laban/Bartenieff movement technique at TanzFabrik Berlin. She is Faculty Coordinator for Integrative Art Studies at the Saas-Fee Summer Institute of Art, and has taught at Goldsmiths, RISD, and Sheffield Hallam University, and was a panelist for Aaj Aur Kal at the 27th Karachi Biennale, Gulgee Museum, Pakistan. Her work has been presented at Manifesta 15 Barcelona, the Lyon Biennial, Performa Biennial New York, Socrates Sculpture Park, La Casa Encendida, Centro Botín, and Artium Museum, with press in Frieze, Artforum, Hyperallergic, and The New York Times.

She works toward an anarchive of the more-than-human: a language still being grown.

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