

Song for a chanting fossil  
Rometti Costales

March 30 – August 11, 2019  
Av. República 475  
Santiago, Región Metropolitana, Chile

The exhibition *Song for a chanting fossil* operates as a metaphor for the strata of historical memory, condensing different materials and operations. For the duo made up of Julia Rometti (born 1975, Nice, France) and Víctor Costales (born 1974, Minsk, Byelorussia), the intrinsic appearance and characteristics of the elements with which they work connect to other ideas and stories that echo around them. Skeletal remains, minerals and petrification evoke the successive changes undergone by the building from a family residence at the turn of the 20th century, to the Department of Humanistic Studies, a telephone surveillance center during the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet, to a cultural institution today, whose archives document a crucial part of the political history of art in Latin America. The sculptures conceived by Rometti Costales reflect the instrumentalization and decoding of history, and how interpretations and values modify over time. A gesture is recast, inspired by the hands of the anonymous Chuquicamata mummy (also known as “The Copper Man”). The branches of an araucaria tree and the remains of a desert bird evoke the domestic furniture of the past residence of MSSA. These interventions invite a discussion on the conservation and transmission of the narratives behind social and cultural history, and how spatial and temporal dimensions unfold in different geographical locations.

Rometti Costales, *Song for a chanting fossil* is a collaboration between KADIST and Museo de la Solidaridad Salvador Allende (MSSA) and a commission for *The Missing Circle*, a three year program comprising, seminars, commissions and exhibitions, curated by Magalí Arriola.