

The XXIII Paiz Art Biennial announces full program, venues and opening agenda | Guatemala, 13 - 30 July 2023

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bebí palabras sumergidas en sueños (i drank words immersed in dreams)*

Curated by: Francine Birbragher-Rozencwaig and Juan Canela

13 – 30 July 2023

Official openings

Thursday, 13 July 2023: Guatemala City

Saturday, 15 July 2023: Antigua Guatemala

Venues:

- Guatemala City: Centro Cultural de España (CCE), the Centro Cultural Municipal Álvaro Arzú Irigoyen (AAI), and Galería Portal

- Antigua Guatemala: the Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española (CFCE) and La Nueva Fábrica (LNF).

The project's title is a verse belonging to the poem **Nací mujer (I Was Born a Woman) by the writer and poet Maya Cú*



Image: Colectivo Tz'aqaat - Cheen (Cortez) & Manuel Chavajay, *Kawok*, 2023, videoperformance, 3'10".
Photo courtesy: Josue Samol.

Fundación Paiz para la Educación y la Cultura presents the **XXIII Paiz Art Biennial, *bebí palabras sumergidas en sueños (i drank words immersed in dreams)****.

From 13 to 30 July, 131 works will be exhibited by 30 artists and collectives from Guatemala and 12 other countries: Argentina, Guadeloupe (France), Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Spain, the United States, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Panama.

An Art Biennale that weaves a common future

The Arte Paiz Biennial is the most important contemporary art event in Central America. Founded in 1978, it has offered access free of charge to a range of exhibitions and art presentations. In this edition, the curatorial team, formed by Francine Birbragher-Rozencwaig and Juan Canela, was inspired by a fragment of the poem *Nací mujer* by the Guatemalan writer Maya Cú. It is from this that the biennial found its title: *bebí palabras sumergidas en sueños (i drank words immersed in dreams)**.

This edition of the Biennial stands out for its collaborative framework, in which the themes, ideas, participants and structure were part of a collective work process, together with a curatorial assembly formed by the curatorial team and participating artists: Minia Biabiany (Guadeloupe); Marilyn Boror Bor (Guatemala); Duen Neka'hen Sacchi (Argentina); and Juana Valdés (Cuba-USA).

It also highlights the work of five pioneering women artists who opened paths to become the inspiration, anchor, and point of departure for the Biennial: Margarita Azurdia, Ana Mendieta, Fina Miralles, María Thereza Negreiros, and Cecilia Vicuña.



Image: María Thereza Negreiros, *Incendio Amazónico (Amazon Fire)*, 1997, Óleo sobre lienzo – Oil on canvas, Colección de la artista – Artist's collection. Photo courtesy: Erik Bongue.

131 exhibited artworks, 30 artists and collectives, 12 countries, 5 venues

Guatemala City:

Venue: Centro Cultural de España (CCE)

Artists: Marilyn Boror Bor (Guatemala), Josué Castro (Guatemala), Fina Miralles (Spain), Eliazar Ortiz Roa (Dominican Republic), Itziar Okariz (Spain), Juana Valdés (Cuba-US), Martín Wannam (Guatemala-US)

Venue: Centro Cultural Municipal AAI

Artists: Carolina Alvarado (Mexico-Guatemala), Lourdes de la Riva (Guatemala), Yavheni de León (Guatemala), Verónica Navas González (Costa Rica), Duen Neka'hen Sacchi (Argentina), Risseth Yangüez Singh (Panamá)

Venue: Galería Portal

Artists: La Nueva Cultura Material - Bryan Castro and Valeria Leiva (Guatemala); Sallisa Rosa (Brazil), Ix Shells (Panama)

Antigua Guatemala:

Venue: Centro de Formación de la Cooperación Española (CFCE)

Artists: Minia Biabiany (Guadalupe), Zoila Andrea Coc-Chang (Guatemala-US), Roberto Escobar Raguay (Guatemala), Adler Guerrier (Haití-US), Julieth Morales (Colombia), Collective Tz'aqaat - Cheen (Cortez) and Manuel Chavajay (Guatemala), Collective Tz'aqol - Victor Manuel Barillas y Marta Tuyuc (Guatemala)

Venue: La Nueva Fábrica (LNF)

Artists: Margarita Azurdía (Guatemala), Minia Biabiany (Guadalupe), Marilyn Boror Bor (Guatemala), Laia Estruch (Spain), Collective Ixqcrear - Elena Caal Hub, Ixmukane Quib Caal and Ixmabay' Quib Caal

(Guatemala), Ana Mendieta (Cuba-US), Fina Miralles (Spain), Helen Mirra (US), María Thereza Negreiros (Brazil-Colombia), Duen Neka'hen Sacchi (Argentina), Juana Valdes (Cuba-US), Cecilia Vicuña (Chile)

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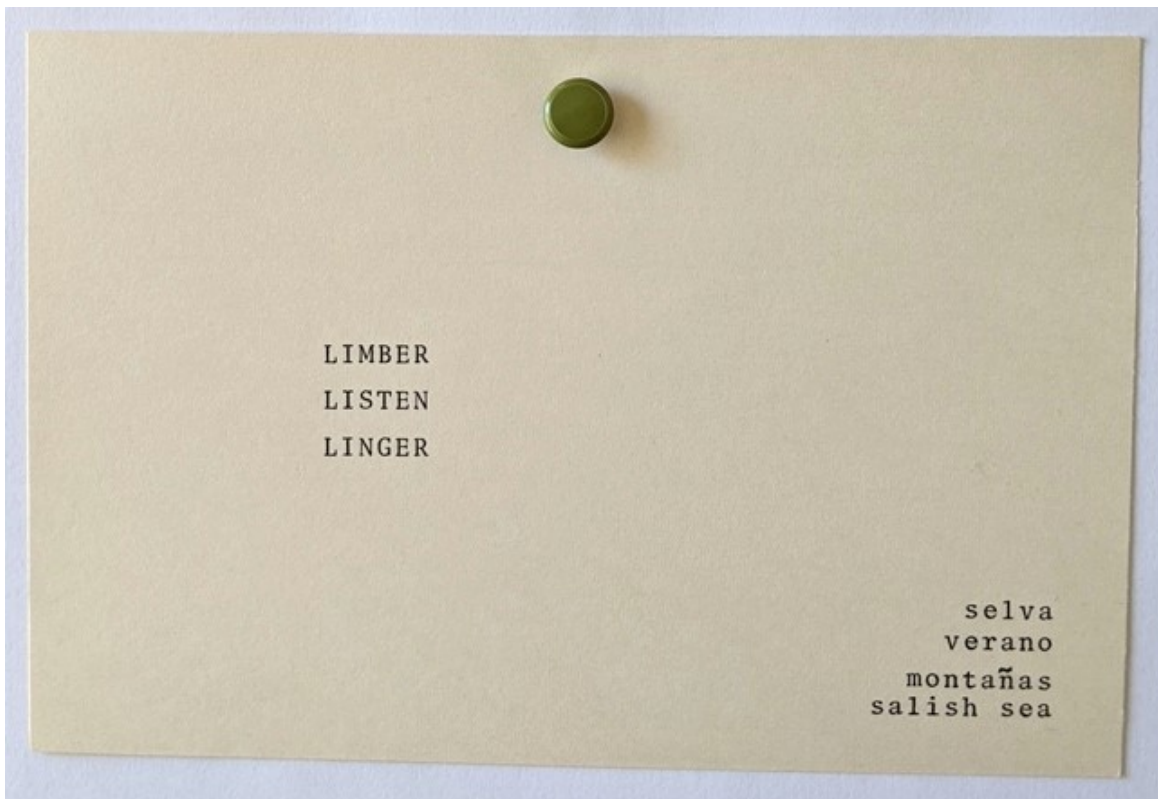


Image: Helen Mirra, *mar salish (salish sea)*, Tinta sobre papel – Ink on paper , 2023 Photo courtesy: the artist.

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The title of the XXIII Paiz Art Biennial comes from a fragment of a poem by Maya Cú, one of the most renowned Mayan poets in Guatemala, whose body of work represents the search for identity establishing a feminine genealogy and a legacy in resistance. Her verses accompany the construction of this project.

Writing, orality, story, corporality, presence, movement, community, territoriality, landscape, nature, and community are some concepts that emerge from these relationships, articulating narratives that challenge hegemonic stories and imagining futures that delve into the possibilities of lives in common.

Since 30 March, the Biennial has been accompanied by the “Shared Knowledge” educational program, curated by Esperanza de León. It unfolds in a plan of mediation resources designed to introduce the Biennial in gradual steps that aim to bring its themes closer to the public.

With this in mind, a Whatsapp number has been activated, in which it is possible to receive excerpts, audios, and exclusive information on the exhibited works: <https://wa.link/ggc7fs>.

Sonia Hurtarte, executive director of Fundación Paiz, notes: *“At Fundación Paiz we create spaces that promote art, education and culture for the development and transformation of Guatemala. We foster a space where people can express themselves and connect through art and culture. With the Paiz Art Biennial we seek to commemorate and give visibility to Guatemalan artists. We are convinced that art and education are generators of personal and social change”*.

About the Paiz Art Biennial

Founded in 1978, the Biennial is a cultural project of the Fundación Paiz, a non-profit entity that for more than 40 years has dedicated itself to supporting the development of education and culture in Guatemala with the conviction that art is an essential tool for social development.

The Paiz Art Biennial is a pioneer in the projection and development of art in Central America. Through exhibitions and events, the Biennial presents to the public, for free, various ways of accessing knowledge of contemporary art, bringing together artists, curators, critics, and local and international personalities.



Image: Eliazar Ortiz Roa, *Trueke Kouture I*, Digitally intervened photograph 2014. Photo courtesy: the artist.

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