



Save the date: the 22nd Bienal de Arte Paiz Guatemala will take place from May 28 to June 29, 2020

lost. in between. together

Preview:

Thursday, 28 May

Public Opening:

Friday, 29 May

Ciudad de Guatemala

Saturday, 30 May

Antigua Guatemala

Symposium “Perverse Geography / Cursed Geographies”:

Friday, 29 May

Centro Cultural de España

Curatorial Team: Alexia Tala, chief curator, Gabriel Rodríguez, adjunct curator, Esperanza de León, educational programme.

An Initiative of: Fundación Paiz para la Educación y la Cultura

Venues:

Ciudad de Guatemala: Alianza Francesa, Casa Ibargüen, Casa Municipal de Guatemala, Centro Cultural de España, Centro Cultural Municipal, La ERRE, Museo de Arqueología y Etnología de Guatemala

Antigua Guatemala: Centro de Formación de La Cooperación Española, Museo del libro Antiguo, La Nueva Fábrica – New Roots Foundation

Titled *lost. in between. together* (a reference to one of the great thinkers of presentism, Reinhart Koselleck), the 22nd Bienal de Arte Paiz explores the complexity of interpreting the past and looking to the future from the cultural and geographic diversity of Latin America.

For the first time in its history, Bienal de Arte Paiz will be entirely focused on issues affecting the Global South. Its approach will not be from a European or colonial position, but rather, from an indigenous perspective.

With Guatemala as a point of departure to investigate issues around violence, interculturality and contemporary and ancestral history, *lost. in between. together.* hopes to establish points of encounter between art and the current Latin American context. Themes such as ancestry, human rights and the power of geographies, as well as other narratives and forms of knowledge, will be examined from a non-colonial perspective; particularly relevant as Guatemala is a country with the one of the largest indigenous populations on the continent.

Based on an exercise of dialogue between local and international artists, with the participation of specialists such as archaeologists, historians, architects, healers and botanists, among others, the 22nd Paiz Art Biennial proposes a deep process of integration, exchange, collectivity and activation that transcends borders and conventional ideas and frameworks.

Curated by Alexia Tala, chief curator, and Gabriel Roriguez, adjunct curator, the 22nd Bienal de Arte Paiz opens to the public in Guatemala City on Friday, 29 May and in Antigua Guatemala on Saturday, 30 May. Prior to its official opening, two film screening events will take place in both cities in March and April. In addition, the activities of the educational program that began in November 2019 will continue until September 2020.

Biennial curator **Alexia Tala**: *“The phenomena of technologized lives reflect the complex reality of our contemporary times, creating a sense of disorientation sometimes known as presentism. The Global South has a radical experience of this, as a territory whose history is an itinerary of violence, often coming from the North. The 22nd Bienal de Arte Paiz is an effort to break free of the inertia of this sense of presentism by exploring issues we face from an Indigenous and regional perspective: the Guatemalan reality.”*

About Paiz Arte Bienal

Founded in Guatemala in 1978, the Bienal de Arte Paiz is the second oldest in Latin America and the sixth oldest in the world. It has been held continuously since then and aims to propose a reflection and experimentation with contemporary art from Latin America and Guatemala. The Bienal de Arte Paiz is accompanied by an educational project that extends beyond the dates of the biennial to root the event in the local context while working among local communities.

About Fundación Paiz para la Educación y la Cultura

Established four decades ago as a corporate social responsibility organization, the Foundation promotes educational, cultural and artistic programs. It is a non-profit organization committed to the development and transformation of Guatemalan society to improve the current educational system with multidisciplinary programs in art, culture and

education. The Bienal de Arte Paiz is its major event and has historically adhered to the need for dialogue, dissemination and internalization of contemporary art produced in Guatemala.

Alexia Tala is an independent curator, critic and researcher. She is currently chief curator of the 22nd Bienal de Arte Paiz in Guatemala, curator of Solo en SP-Arte in São Paulo (Brazil 2019 - 2020) and artistic director of Plataforma Atacama, a project focused on the relationship between art and place, based in the Atacama Desert. Over the last 12 years, she has participated as a curator in more than five biennials in Latin America. She writes for art publications both in Latin America and internationally, and is the author of *Installations and Experimental Printmaking* (UK, 2009) and a forthcoming monographic publication by Lotty Rosenfeld.

Gabriel Rodriguez is an artist, curator and teacher trained in architecture. He works as a curator at the Centro Cultural Municipal in Guatemala City. He is currently adjunct curator of the 22nd Paiz Art Biennial in Guatemala and is co-curating the exhibition *Inquieta Imagen* at the Museo de Arte y Diseño de Costa Rica. He has curated monographic exhibitions of artists such as Moisés Barrios and Rodolfo Abularach and has held group exhibitions for independent projects such as *Sótano 1*, *Concepción 41* and *1001 noches*.

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