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### **Patricia Claro and her water language**

*For the past ten years, the painter has been focused on artistically distilling water from rivers using different techniques and searching for the shapes that emerge from the light on it.*

By María Soledad Ramírez R.

Her workshop is spacious, with the right kind of messiness on the tables where she develops her artwork- one on top of another, half-finished or experimenting what to do - and the precise kind of tidiness to find each brush, pencil or the material required for her creation.

Patricia Claro moves with passion inside it. She declares herself as a studious person and her curriculum vouches for her words: after 40 years, raising children and having studied design at 20, she decided to follow her artistic vocation seriously. She entered the Catholic University's Art Faculty and accepted to be the oldest student among her peers. She finished her career with honors and enrolled herself in the theme that has inspired her work for the past 10 years: the river's fresh water. In Chile she has focused on the *Bueno River*, in the Los Ríos Region, which has concentrated her research and work; in Latin America she has focused in the Brazilian water basins such as the Mato Grosso, the Amazon.

It is in Brazil, where she is now participating in the Curitiba Biennial, one of the continent's main contemporary art show. Inaugurated in September, the art meeting will be open until February 25, 2018, occupying more than 50 spaces in the city. With several areas directed by different curators, Claro was invited by Massimo Scaringella to appear at the "Expanded Vision", exhibition which occupies a space at the Oscar Niemeyer museum and the Curitiba Memorial, and which brings together a video art exhibition.

Chilean artists such as Bernardo Oyarzún, Nury González, Germán Tagle and Pedro Tyler also participate at the biennial.

"Being in Curitiba is very important. For them to have chosen me as part of a project is always a recognition ", says Patricia Claro, happy to be there also with other four other national artists "super known". "Knowing my story, knowing that I started late, I felt fulfilled. Also, to go through the biennial and watch the high level of artwork that exists and being inserted in that circuit, gives me strength to keep working ".

The artist is presenting in Curitiba three video projections, entitled "Water Letters # 1" and also # 2 and # 3. Deployed on two screens, you can see at its bottom water in movement, from which ideograms animation arises- "aguagrams" Claro has called

them – which moves towards the top of the screen, shaping a text, a " water letter ". This letter is exhibited in engraving, next to the video. The video's soundtrack is developed by Max Zegers, produced from an unmounted piano, which strings have been intervened with material waste so that when rubbed they can produce a distorted sound.

These water letters come from observing the light reflections on the water, which transforms into a language. This artwork is linked to projects that the artist has developed since her start, with an acute, methodical and patient look at the plasticity and specific distortion of water. To capture that fleeting moment in a river's evolution, the artist uses a digital camera. The image of a water's moment in movement is transformed into a digital map - which reminds us of topographic maps - in a pattern model that she then works on her canvases.

It was in this line crossing conjunction that Claro began to observe the appearance of ideograms, like Chinese characters. And from there the aguagrama concept was born in search for a language, the "water letters", which she then captured in the videos presented in Curitiba.

This artwork, plus her canvas and paper projects, is what the artist plans to present at the Museo Bellas Artes. But the project still has no answer from the museum authorities. "I presented it in 2016 to do it in 2018, and nothing has been said. So, I really don't know how to keep on pressing", says Claro obfuscated, explaining that she already has new ideas to present and which she is working on, as she is, tidy, patient and methodical, to organize her exhibition in the country's main museum.