

In Humboldt's Footsteps

MUSAC OFF

1 July, 2022 - 16 October, 2022: Casa de Cultura, Toro

Artists: Natividad Bermejo, Bleda and Rosa, Lúa Coderch, Ana Frechilla, Ruth Gómez, María Lara, Gilda Mantilla, Lola Marazuela and Paco Mesa, Laura Salguero

Curatorship: Kristine Guzmán

Coordination: Raquel Álvarez

Alexander von Humboldt was a man ahead of his time. He contributed a new vision of nature from the humanities, geobotany, zoology, and ethnography, among others. His vocation as a scientific explorer led him to obtain a safe-conduct from Carlos IV to travel freely through the Spanish colonies in South America and in his five years of expedition through this continent (1799-1804) together with the French botanist Aimé Bonpland, he came to collect a huge amount of information that included natural samples, scientific notes, calculations and measurements, correspondences and drawings, which he reflected in several books written over three decades after his return to Europe. Journeys such as his, in a time of geographical discoveries and advances in science, created a new way of seeing nature governed by a sense of order based on the scientific method.

This exhibition is inspired by the life and work of this exceptional character. Beginning with the very idea of travel, of exploration, of imagining other lands or other forms of life, the artists in this show observe, take note, classify, and represent the world they see or imagine. A world with its particular topography, its landscapes, its flora and fauna, represented beyond Humboldt's travel notebooks. A creative naturalism embodied in painting, photography, drawing or video by nine artists from the MUSAC Collection, to remind us of that longing for the unknown; a time of discovery in which reason and feeling, science and letters merged to understand the parts and the whole of the universe.

Kristine Guzmán, 2022