

Katia Miranda

Guatemala

Visual Artist - Oil on canvas

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Project Description

Dance has been a way to express myself from infancy until maturity. Movement draws on space, enveloping the body and generating shapes.

I have been working with *envoltorios*—a topic that I am passionate about because everything in life, even our selves, comes in wrappers and layers - I use recycled plastic market bags as inspiration to prepare my artwork, in other words is a visual recycling.

I have also created various plastic installations and sculptures made of PLA bioplastic. However, the majority of my work are oil paintings—I am fascinated and intrigued by hyperrealism—and photographs.

I am powerfully attracted to this mania of ours to envelop most things in our lives: to protect, but more specifically, to conceal. Through wrappings we reflect the twists and turns of our own inner being. We wrap everything, from the most commonplace of objects (bread, vegetables, flowers, gifts) to our most valuable possessions.

Lately, I have been working with plastic bags in order to aesthetically assault the spectator. I have noticed that these bags seduce us, but they quickly wear us out. We use them, but we also get tired of them. Our surroundings are saturated and we depend on them for our necessities. We wrap, hide, protect, transport, contaminate, and recycle through them.

Their short life in our hands turns into forever on the face of the earth.

Nevertheless, these plastic carryalls which so easily capture our attention have, with their everlasting plastic, grave consequences for the natural world. The average useful life of a plastic bag is less than 15 minutes, yet the billions of metric tons that are discarded every three years take more than 500 years to decompose.

My goal is to create awareness by visually recycling these polymers, I intend to change the way of looking at things uncovering the aesthetic potential that plastic bags have giving them a tasteful appearance, so that they do not go unnoticed, and so they are not discarded without memory and remorse.

I want us to pledge to actively recycle, raise awareness and to educate inviting people to support programs and projects that help reduce the amount of plastic that plagues our environment.

Obtained Impact

- My work has inspired an international fashion designer in Colombia to launch a collection with my peculiar paintings of plastic bags over silk. Together we merged an art show with a fashion show to support Proyecto Titi (white head monkey) in Colombia. They create and sell totes made out of recycled plastic bags in order to support the cause and improve the lifestyle of the people in the area.
- The presence of the bags in this artistic way has created a dialogue in Guatemala, creating awareness and educating the public about recycling.



"Ellipsis..." Oil on canvas 92x92 cm. 2015



"Puntos Claves..." Oil on canvas 92 x92 cm. 2015



"Water you thinking of?... Oil on canvas 85 x 95 cm 2016



"time is up..." Oil on canvas 1x1 Mt. 2016



"Vortex" Oil on canvas 1.50x1 Mt. 2016



"Plasti-coso"

Digital photograph on cotton paper 54x71 cm 2016



“Smooth and slippery” Oil on canvas 92x92 cm. 2016



“No one told them...” Oil on canvas 1x1 Mt. 2016



“In the meantime...” Oil on canvas 91x91cm.



“350 mL of soda” 3D printing

