

FEATURED ARTIST: VICTORIA EUGENIA GARCÍA MORENO



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<http://victoriagarciamoreno.com>

<https://victoriaeugeniagar.wixsite.com/hilosdeoro>

Look at the complete work at:

<http://diposit.ub.edu/dspace/handle/2445/176258>

Victoria Eugenia García studied architecture at Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, in Medellín, but the turn of the century marked her return to her original penchant for art. At Universidad de Barcelona, she earned a master's degree in Artistic Creation and later a doctorate in Fine Arts. These, she says, have allowed her to explore nature, and the light and color of the territories she inhabits. Victoria García seeks both material and symbolic elements at these places to create pictorial events through techniques such as photography, audiovisual recording, performance, painting, weaving, installations, soundscape recording, and the creation of artist's books.

The exhibition she has shared with us for this issue is unique in that it combines these techniques and complements our special issue on *Endangered Languages and Varieties in the Americas* with an in-depth immersion in the languages weaving cultural expressions by the Wiwa community from Gotsezhi (El Encanto) village, at Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (Colombia). This experience allowed her to establish a genuine communication with members of the community through weaving, dialogue, songs, and their close relation to the river. The bridges woven by the artist allow us to participate in the communal fabric, in the culture transmitted from one generation to the next, in "golden threads," as she calls them. For the artist, inhabiting this territory represented "the encounter between art and anthropology," as well as receiving ancestral knowledge from community women has interwoven her own being with the community to the point that she cannot talk of her and them, but of us. Her work stands as a testimony to the closeness born from unrelentless respectful engagement.

The art project *Hilos de oro* ("Golden Threads"), developed between 2015 and 2020 as her doctoral project, explores pagamento ceremony and is made up of five artwork series. As she tells us, *Espacios de El Encanto* ("Spaces of Enchantment") presents the river as a sacred place for contemplation; *La sombra diluida* ("Diluted Shadow") seeks to confront human beings with their vulnerability and limitations; *La comunidad* ("Community") portrays its members in their moments of joy through a photographic archive; *Los hilos que nos unen* ("The



Threads That Bind Us Together”) gathers ancestral weavings representing human connections; and *Canto al agua* (“A Song to Water”) is a musical work that pays homage to this territory. These works delve into our relationship with place, with shadow and light, with other people, with the threads of our ancestors, and with the river. As she highlights in her doctoral dissertation, this process allowed her to integrate with the community, recognizing herself as a part of it, which translates into her saying “we” instead of “I and they.” That connection and trust made it possible for these images to reach us.

It is worth emphasizing that the dialogue with the community was reciprocal. Once the work was completed, she returned to the Wiwa community at Gotsezhi village to share with them the result of her work. For the community, it was exceptional that a researcher would complete the dialogue by returning her findings—a beautiful example of the reciprocity expected in dialogue, a *pagamento*.

In other contexts, this work led her to be one of the winners of the call organized by the Embassy of Colombia in Spain on the occasion of the Gabriel García Márquez Cultural Center launch in Bogotá (2023). This and other works of hers have been exhibited in Colombia, Spain, France, Monaco, Italy, and Mexico.

We are delighted to share the gift that is *Hilos de oro* (“Golden Threads”), as her work not only beautifies this thematic issue but also contributes to the dialogue woven through the social, linguistic, and anthropological perspectives that shape contemporary debates around language, culture, and society.

Photographic artwork

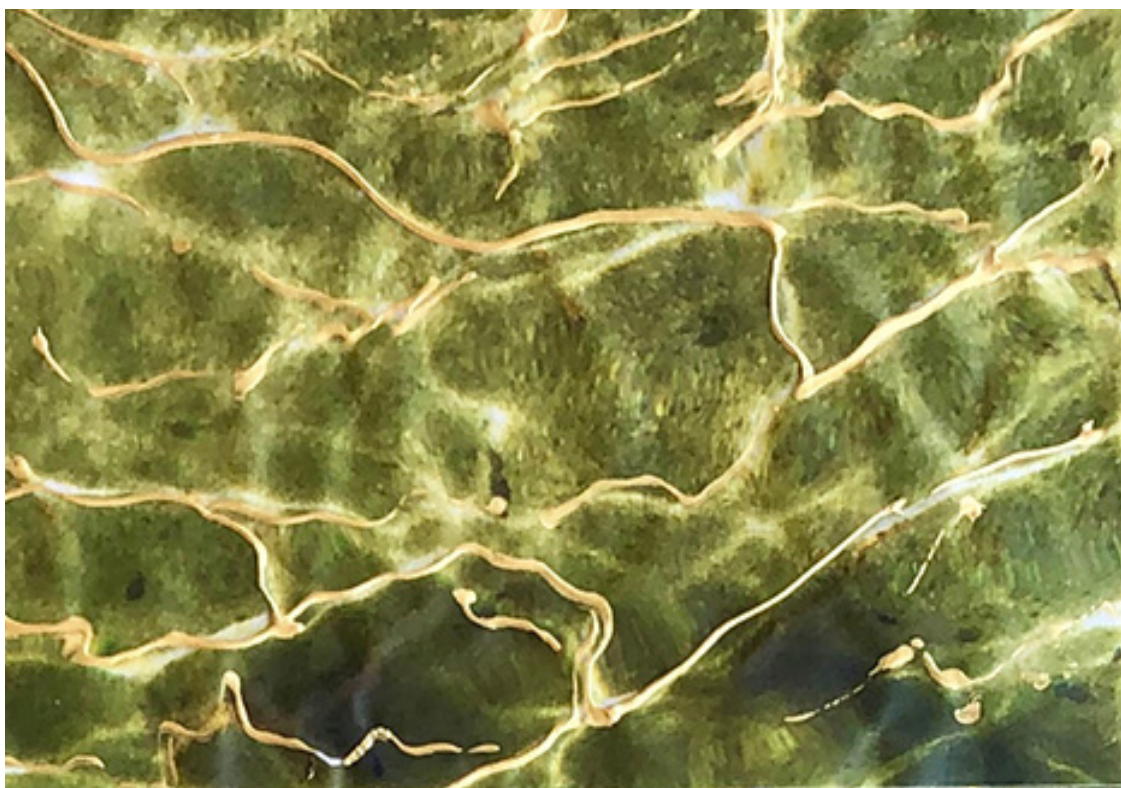
Series “La comunidad”



Series "Los hilos que nos unen"



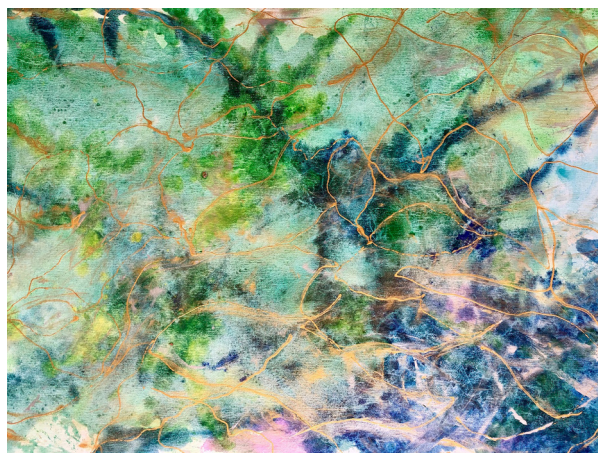
Series "*Hilos de oro*"



Technique: Mixed media, photography and painting



Title: Desaprender
Series: Hilos de oro



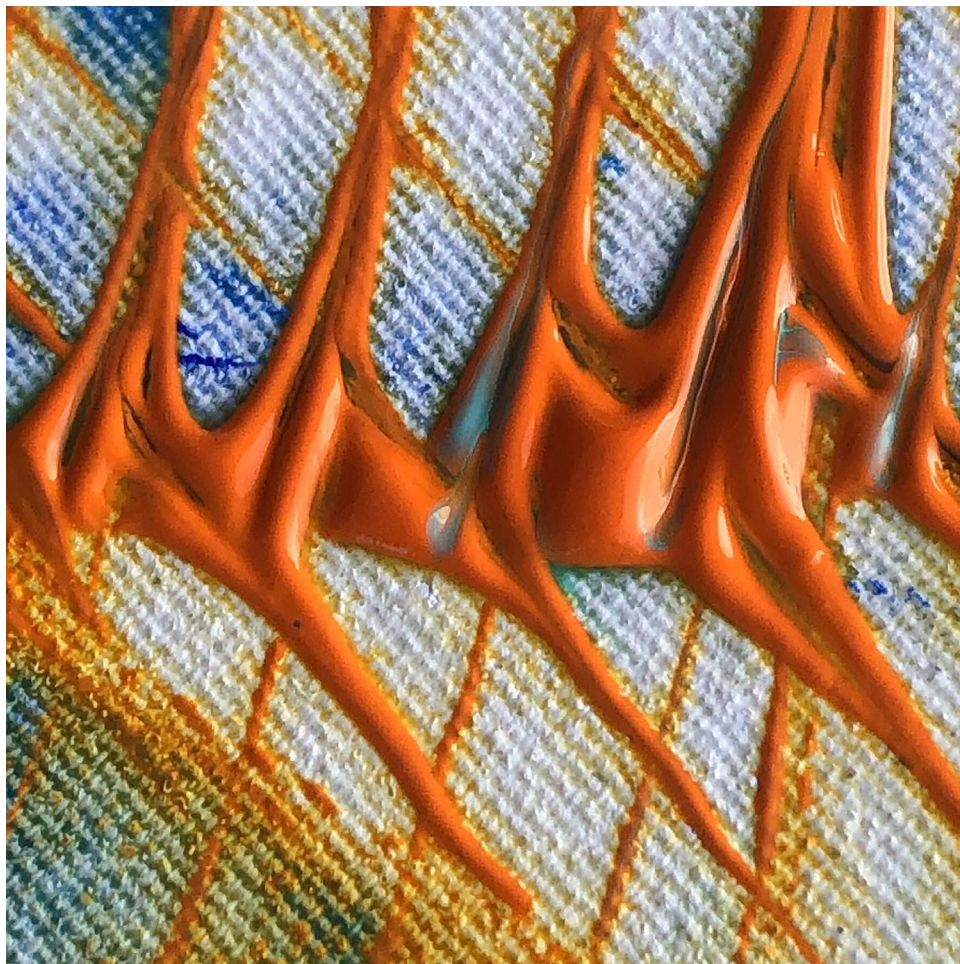
Title: Hilos de oro
Technique: Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 95 cm x 55 cm
Year: 2018



Title: Series "Los hilos que nos unen, los tejidos de la Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta"
Technique: Mixed media on watercolor paper
Dimensions: 86 cm x 63 cm
Year: 2020



Title: Serie "Hilos de Oro. tejiendo Pensamientos"
Technique: Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 90 cm x 90 cm
Year: 2021



Detail of the artwork: Tejiendo Pensamientos
Technique: Acrylic on canvas
Dimensions: 90 cm x 90 cm
Year: 2021