

EXHIBITION GUIDE



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ALLORA & CALZADILLA KLIMA

TITLE: ALLORA & CALZADILLA: KLIMA

ARTISTS: Jennifer Allora & Guillermo Calzadilla

VENUE: Azkuna Zentroa (Exhibition Hall)

DATE: 20th June 2024 to 6th January 2025

THE ARTISTS

Jennifer Allora was born in the United States in 1974.

Guillermo Calzadilla was born in Cuba in 1971.

They live and work in San Juan,
capital of Puerto Rico.

Themes of their works

Their works are based on research
into the intersection and relationship
between history, ecology and **geopolitics**.

Geopolitics: the study of
the international policy
and relations of a territory
taking into account the
geographical features of
that territory.

To address these issues through art
they use different artistic media such as:
sculpture, sound, video, photography, painting
and improvisation with the audience.

Trajectory

Jenifer Allora's and Guillermo Calzadilla's
collaborative practice began in 1995.

Since then, their work has been exhibited
at some of the world's most important museums.

For example, the Museum of Modern Art in New York,
the Serralves Foundation in Porto,
and the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao.

In 2011 they represented the United States
at the 54th International Art Exhibition in Venice.

They did so with a project that reflected
a critique of the political, cultural and economic system
in the United States.



THE EXHIBITION

The title of this exhibition is “ALLORA & CALZADILLA: KLIMA”.

It depicts how different forms of life
that have existed throughout history
have sought to turn towards the sun.

Every piece in this exhibition makes sense
on its own, on an individual basis.
And all of them together represent the union of the universe
over the last 4 billion years.

This exhibition by Allora & Calzadilla
addresses the main themes that have run
through their entire oeuvre.

These themes are: time understood by major events
of history, the evolution of life on Earth,
environmental justice, the climate crisis,
geopolitics and energy sources.

The **curator** of this exhibition
is Fernando Pérez Gómez,
Director of Azkuna Zentroa.

Curator: a person who is in charge of choosing the works in an exhibition; a subject matter specialist who prepares a theoretical discourse on what is exhibited.

What works can we see in the exhibition?

We can see works created by Allora & Calzadilla
over the years, including:

Graft, 2021.

This is an installation
composed of 17,500 flowers.
The flowers are made of plastic
and paint-based recycled materials.

The purpose of this installation is to highlight the destruction of the Caribbean's natural environment and the loss of plants and animals due to the actions of humans.

Entelechy, 2020.

This is a large coal sculpture made from a pine wood tree from a forest in France. This tree was felled by lightning.

Penumbra, 2020.

This work consists of a **digital animation** that casts shadows throughout the exhibition space.

Digital animation: a technique that consists of bringing figures, characters and objects to life with a computer.

It is a continuous, real-time representation of the position of the sun over Bilbao at any given moment. A musical composition accompanies the movement of the shadows.

Cadastre, 2020.

This piece is made from iron filings placed on a canvas. It represents the artistic experiments carried out by Allora & Calzadilla with **electromagnetism** to explore the world of energy.

Electromagnetism: the field of physics that studies the relationship between electricity and magnetism. Many devices work by electromagnetism. For example, ovens and televisions.

Lifespan, 2014.

A 4-billion-year-old rock sample
hangs from the ceiling of the room.

Three vocalists whistle and blow on the rock,
simulating the effect of the wind on its wear.

The Great Silence, 2014.

This work is screened in the Auditorium once a month.

It talks about the largest single-aperture
radio telescope in the world.

This radio telescope, located in Puerto Rico,
sends and receives radio waves
from the farthest reaches of the universe.

Radio telescope: a very
large antenna and powerful
receiver that captures
incoming waves from space.

Produced by:

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