

The Luis Caballero Prize exhibition cycle begins. What will you be able to see?

The first exhibition of the nomination phase of this award will be available for almost two months. The exhibitions will run throughout 2025.

Bogotá, march 2025 - On Thursday 6 March, the cycle of exhibitions of the thirteenth edition of the Luis Caballero Prize, the most important artistic recognition awarded in Colombia, begins with an exhibition of the work of the artist, researcher and teacher Santiago Reyes Villaveces called ***El Hueco*** (The Hole), which will be available until 4 May 2025 at the Galería Santa Fe for citizens, the curious and art lovers to discover.

El Hueco is a site-specific installation at the Galería Santa Fe that transforms the floor of the space into a recreation of urban fragments of Bogotá, marked by holes, cracks and puddles.

This project explores the holes as symbols of urban chaos and spaces that connect geological, climatic and human forces, revealing the interaction between the artificial order of the city and its wild and subterranean nature. Inspired by the geological history of Bogotá and its settlement on ancient basins and wetlands, the work exposes the holes and sinkholes as signs of the memory of a territory in constant transformation, and of the influence of time and human action on its environment.

According to Reyes, '***El Hueco*** seeks to transform the gallery space into a collage or a collection of different holes like those found every day throughout Bogotá. The idea is to sharpen the perception of the city in order to establish other ways of existing and being in an apparently chaotic city like this one'.

The installation not only represents the experience of moving through a chaotic city, but also proposes a new perception of its elements, as a space where bodies interact with their memory and its disordered landscapes. The project incorporates materials such as rubble, sand, stones, found objects and water to turn the gallery into an artificial geography that reflects on the transformations and reconfiguration of the materials and spaces of Bogotá. 'This intervention is made with the same materials that are used in the city, even most of the objects that will be found are reused from the city,' says the artist.

In addition, the installation draws on the Andean concept of “amance” - a continuous process of transforming the wild into the habitable - to understand the gaps as points where the city can move from “the wild” to “the tame”. In this way, it invites visitors to inhabit, feel and reconcile with their urban environment. The experience of visiting El hueco seeks not only to raise awareness of the history and failures of the city, but also to promote an active way of inhabiting, imagining and giving meaning to urban chaos.

Santiago Reyes Villaveces studied art with an emphasis on visual arts and art history and theory at the Universidad de los Andes and in 2017 obtained a master's degree in sculpture from the Royal College of Art in London, thanks to the Abraaj Innovation Scholarship.

His work has been shown in various solo exhibitions in Colombia and around the world. He has participated in projects such as **Fósil Acústico escuchando (con) el río**, which was exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in Medellín; **Rarity**, which was shown at Artvisor, London, UK; **Graft**, presented at the Institute of Vision, New York, USA; **Guaca**, at Alessandro Casciaro, Bolzano, Italy; **Fósil acústico**, at the Baluarte de Santa Catalina, Cartagena de Indias; **Ciaula Discovers the Moon**, at Ncontemporary. USA; **Guaca**, at Alessandro Casciaro, Bolzano, Italy; **Fósil acústico**, at the Baluarte de Santa Catalina, Cartagena de Indias; **Ciaula Discovers the Moon**, at Ncontemporary, Milan, Italy (2022); **Cosmic Sympathy**, at Casanova, São Paulo, Brazil (2022); and **Arabidopsis Thaliana**, at the Museum of Modern Art in Bogotá.

He has received numerous grants and awards, including the **Imagination Fellowship** (2023), the **Grant for Intervention at the Baluarte de Santa Catalina** from the Ministry of Culture (2022), the **Side Effects Award** from the Museum of Modern Art in Bogotá (2020), the **Matteo Olivero Award in Saluzzo**, Italy (2019), the **Scholarship for Moving Images** from the Lithuanian Cultural Council (2019) and the **Academy Award** at the Youth Art Biennale in Bolzano, Italy (2017).

About Galería Santa Fe

Galería Santa Fe is located on Carrera 1A between Calles 12C and 12D, near the legendary Chorro de Quevedo fountain in the centre of Bogotá. It is a space that forms part of the regeneration of the La Concordia area, where it is integrated with the public access to the La Candelaria School, building A, until it reaches the vertical connection of the Gallery, where it communicates with the La Concordia Market Square by means of stairs and a lift.

It forms an integral part of the Red Galería Santa Fe project, which had its own programme before the delivery of this venue, and maintains the concept of holding contemporary art exhibitions, cultural practices and research carried out by invited artists, teachers and winners of the District Portfolio of Stimuli of Idartes.

Originally, the Galería Santa Fe was located on the second floor of the Planetarium in Bogotá, a space that hosted the first exhibition held as part of the Luis Caballero Prize and, on this occasion,

the award will once again focus on a single venue, which means a return to the origins of this prestigious award.

The exhibitions forming part of the thirteenth Luis Caballero Prize will run throughout 2025, continuing with:

- Ricardo Muñoz, with ***Anoche a la medianoche***, which will be available from 12 June to 20 July.
- Angélica Teura Echeverri with ***Arquitectura emocional: cobijos & moradas*** will be at the Gallery from 23 August to 19 October.
- The programme closes with Agrupación Azul and Lindy Márquez, with ***Ningún lugar a donde ir (Nowhere to go)***, a project that can be visited from 13 November to 7 December 2025.

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