

Gold Water: Apocalyptic Black Mirrors

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Exhibitor
Maria Veronica Leon Veintemilla

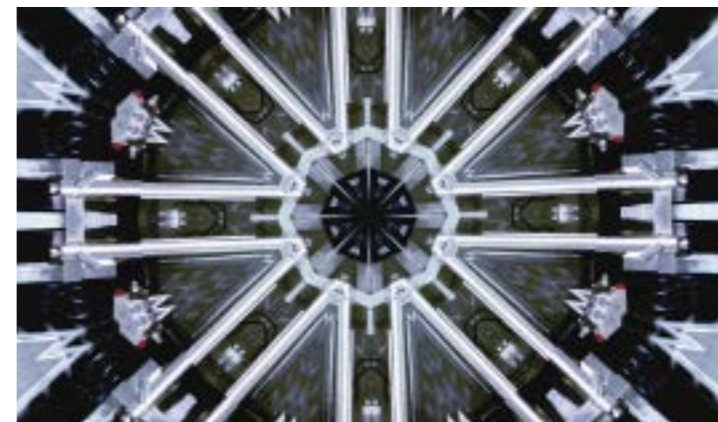
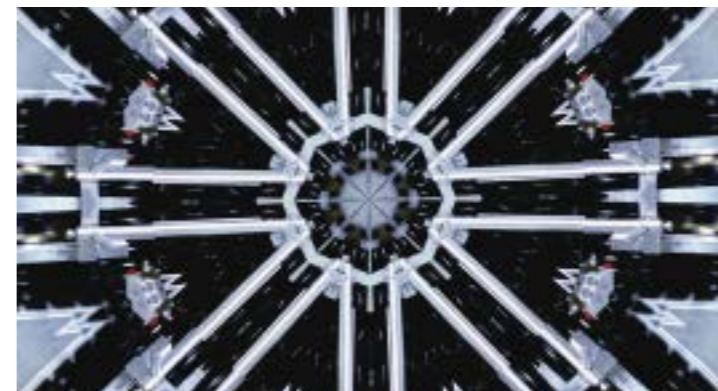
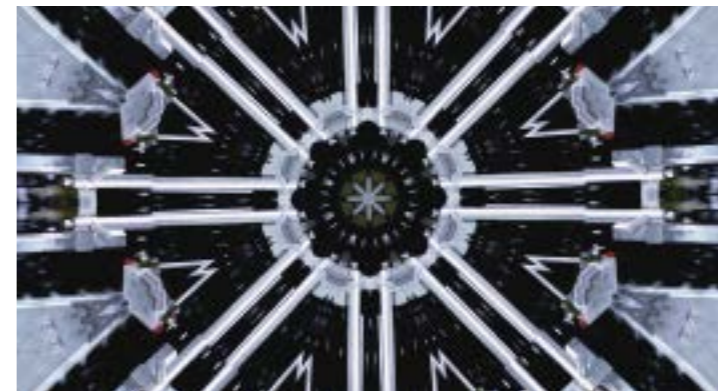
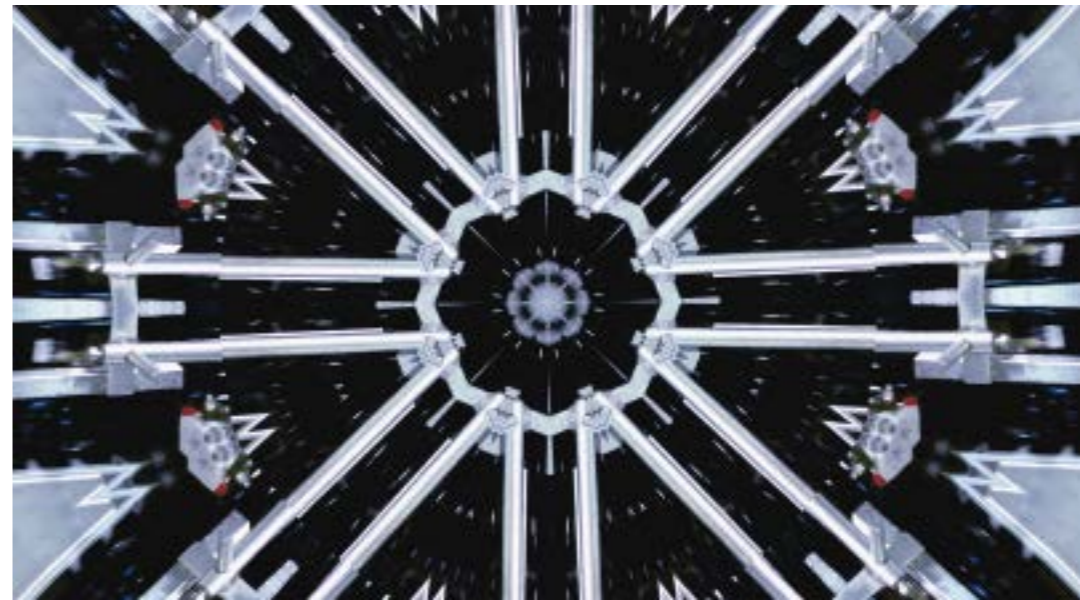
Water & Virtual Gold Metallic Constellations

For the first time in the history of the Venice Biennale, Ecuador opens its own independent pavilion thanks to the initiative of Maria Veronica Leon Veintemilla, a young multidisciplinary artist who is essential to the history of Ecuador. Leon, who is currently living in Dubai (Cube Arts Gallery), has been distinguishing herself in Paris since 1998 for her work (drawing, painting, printing, video art, video poetry, performance, digital books, and digital photography). *L'eau et de l'or* has always been one of her favorite subjects. For the *56th International Art Exhibition*, she explores this subject through a new proposal: *Constellations métalliques pour or virtuel*, a true manifesto in favor of life and art. This committed artist deplores the excesses, exaggeration, intoxication, and deviations of industry, which penetrate to the very heart of nature ("Ecuador, country of solar forces, is a piece of incomparable nature. Its coasts are bathed by the Pacific, its flank crossed by the Andes mountain range. The Galapagos Islands inspired Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species*") and alter "water vibration energy" and the "symbolic, historical, and cultural significance of gold."

"Water, as governed by regulations that meet the needs of our Western industrial civilizations, encompasses the most ancient representations that, still today, bear their influence on our opinions. Water mythology and symbolism engraved in our subconscious contribute to our perception of water." According to the French semiologist Jules Gritti, "Our technical and industrial civilization, owing to its inherent shortages and pollutions, may exacerbate need, anguish, and appetite in talking signs."

Starting from this perspective, the Ecuadorian artist explores the mnemonic traces of our relationship with water and gold. Her project is built around the strong symbol of the fireplace, which is cube-shaped as in hyperutilitarian modern kitchens. The relevance of this realistic structure lies in its universality, thus enabling the artist to create an original work that metaphorically evokes humanity in the process of forgetting itself. A wall of a series of microwaves recessed into rails shows the images of a lost paradise recalling the walls of Plato's Cave. Several videos show the images of a water bottling plant: shuffled rhythms on a metal background give rise to stars that open and transform like new techno-galaxies. Another video shows virtual and incandescent gold in an everlasting fight against water and evokes chaos. Gold as an economic index will turn into a promise of beauty.

Ileana Cornea



2. Maria Veronica Leon Veintemilla, *Shiny Regents Defending Water*, 2015. Color video/audio polyptych installation. Part of a cycle of images projected simultaneously in 6 parts (one projection on the oven of a kitchen cube installation, 4 projections on microwaves displayed at one wall, and one more on the wall); duration: 5' and 8' (different versions). Collection of the Artist, made for *56th International Art Exhibition*

3. Maria Veronica Leon Veintemilla, *Nostadamus' Compass*, 2015. Color video/audio polyptych installation. Part of a cycle of images projected simultaneously in 6 parts (one projection on the oven of a kitchen cube installation, 4 projections on microwaves displayed at one wall, and one more on the wall); duration: 5' and 8' (different versions). Collection of the Artist, made for *56th International Art Exhibition*

4. Maria Veronica Leon Veintemilla, *Defenders on Command*, 2015. Color video/audio polyptych installation. Part of a cycle of images projected simultaneously in 6 parts (one projection on the oven of a kitchen cube installation, 4 projections on microwaves displayed at one wall, and one more on the wall); duration: 5' and 8' (different versions). Collection of the Artist, made for *56th International Art Exhibition*

5. Maria Veronica Leon Veintemilla, *Industrial Acupuncture*, 2015. Color video/audio diptych installation. Image of 2 videos projected simultaneously (projection on aluminium); duration: 8' each. Collection of the Artist, made for *56th International Art Exhibition*