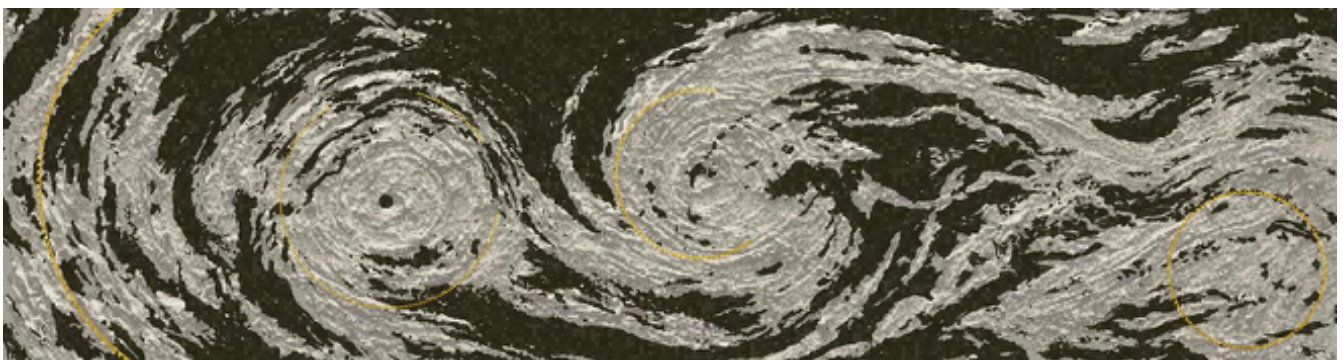


**12th Shanghai Biennial**  
**Clemencia Echeverri and Miguel Ángel Rojas**  
**Shanghai, China**  
**November 10, 2018 - March 10, 2019**

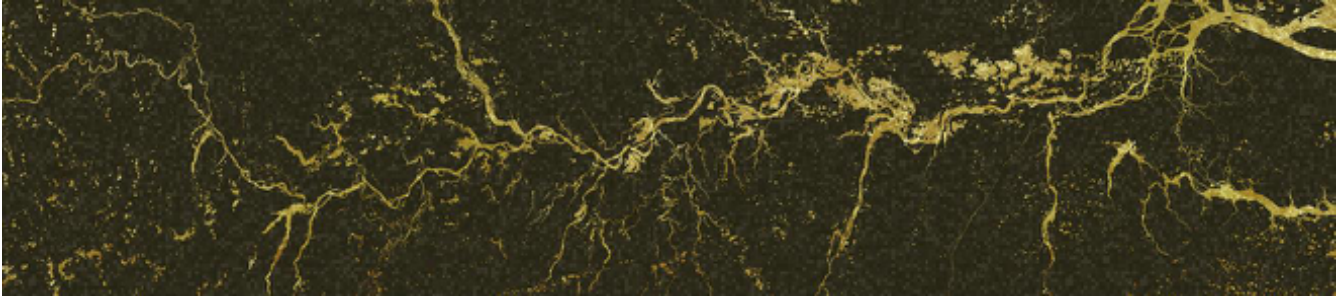
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We are proud to announce the participation of **Miguel Ángel Rojas** and **Clemencia Echeverri** in the 12th Shanghai Biennial. First inaugurated in 1966, the biennial is taking place at the Power Station of Art, which was renovated from the former Nanshi Power Plant and is the first state-run museum dedicated to contemporary art. This year, the Chief Curator is Cuauhtémoc Medina who is based in Mexico City. The biennial also has three co-curators: María Belén Sáez de Ibarra, curator and cultural manager; Yukie Kamiya, curator and art critic; and Wang Weiwei, curator. This year's theme, Proregress - Art in an Age of Historical Ambivalence, draws on the avant-garde poetry of E. E. Cummings. Cuauhtémoc Medina "propose[s] a biennale that explores art in the present as a poetic attempt to explore the combination of progress and regression in the global arena. It will collect practices and artworks that advance our sensibility to absorb the current instability of the economy, culture, and politics." The biennial presents contemporary art as "a means by which the struggles and anxieties of many different latitudes are reflected and turned into subjective experience, training the contemporary subject in the ambivalence that allows us to tolerate the contradictory forces of contemporary life."

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Miguel Ángel Rojas. *Economía salvaje*. 2018. Serigraph print with clay, vegetable pigments and gold leaf. 400 x 1,500 cm. (157.48 x 590.55 in.)



Miguel Ángel Rojas. *El nuevo dorado*. 2018. Serigraph print with vegetable pigments and gold leaf. 400 x 1,800 cm. (157.48 x 708.66 in.)

### **Miguel Ángel Rojas**

Miguel Ángel Rios produced two new monumental works, *Economía salvaje* and *El nuevo dorado*, for the 12th Shanghai Biennial. Rojas believes in the responsibility of artists to confront world issues through their art, and this connection between art and reality underscores much of his work. With this public messaging in mind, his work feeds into the biennial's thematic framework of dualities that exist on a global scale, namely our experience of advancement and regression simultaneously. The new industry and technology of today "has become inseparable from the dangers posed by climate change in the anthropocene, which now threaten us with the end of times." In keeping with the opposing forces theme, Rojas chooses natural materials - vegetable pigments for the prints and layers of clay - pitted against gold leaf to communicate his message to the viewer. As exhibited in *Economía salvaje*, the hurricanes drawn in clay and chainsaw blades in gold leaf reference the impact arid deforested land has on global climate change. The true "nuevo dorado," or "new gold," is the world's natural resources: air, water, and the rainforest, which is the lungs of the plant. His work and materials communicate to the viewer the need for restoring these as the most valuable resources for life.





Clemencia Echeverri. *Rio por asalto*. 2018. Video installation.

### **Clemencia Echeverri**

Clemencia Echeverri produced a new ten-minute video installation of the Cauca River for the 12th Shanghai Biennial and fitting for the biennial's goal of "advanc[ing] our sensibility to absorb the current instability of the economy, culture, and politics." The Cauca River that runs through Colombia has been a recurring subject in Clemencia's work and in this new piece, she remains inspired by the political and social conditions that have marked her time. The river has witnessed recurring cycles of acts of violence and environmental degradation throughout its history. In listening to the sound of the river and watching the flow of the water, the viewer visually and audibly experiences the river's destructive power, pronounced by the repetitive sound and image of the river's current. The video projects simultaneously onto six screens with multichannel sound, creating an immersive experience for the viewer.

For more information on the artists, please call 713.529.1313, visit [www.sicardi.com](http://www.sicardi.com), or email Annalisa Palmieri Briscoe at [annalisa@sicardi.com](mailto:annalisa@sicardi.com) or Rebekah Straton at [rebekah@sicardi.com](mailto:rebekah@sicardi.com).

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