FORMAS DE ESTAR:
ARTE, EDUCACIÓN Y DISEÑO
(WAYS OF BEING: ART, EDUCATION AND DESIGN)

- **The exhibition brings together more than 60 works by some 31 artists, selected by seven firms and an architecture and design collective from Nuevo León.**
- **Some of the works belong to MARCO's collection; others were contributed by the firms from private collections.**
- **The exhibition reflects on the educational approaches commonly used to bring art to museum audiences.**
- **It will be on view until May 2, 2027.**

What happens when a museum ceases to be a space devoted solely to exhibiting works of art and becomes a place for observing, questioning, experimenting, and constructing meaning?

With this premise in mind, the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Monterrey (MARCO) presents the exhibition ***Formas de estar: Arte, educación y diseño (Ways of Being: Art, Education, and Design)***, an exploration of pedagogical approaches in art through the design of spaces, to connect the public with the artwork.

The exhibition revisits a historical transformation that began in the late nineteenth century, when thinkers such as John Dewey conceived of education as an active, social experience connected to life. This vision spurred pioneering initiatives at international museums such as the Brooklyn Children's Museum, the Newark Museum, New York's MoMA under the direction of Victor D'Amico, and the experimental space P.S.1, as well as the development of educational programs at INBAL museums in Mexico beginning in the 1980s. It also shifted the traditional question, "What does this work mean?", toward open-ended inquiries: "What do I see?", "What do I think?", "What do I feel?", and "What can I do based on this experience?"

In this way, the exhibition seeks to transform the traditional museum experience through collaboration with seven design and architecture firms and a collective, all invited to participate. Each invited firm worked on a specific space based on a work of art, one from the museum's collection and another from private collections.

In this exhibition, space ceases to be a neutral container and takes on an educational dimension: it guides the viewer's gaze, organizes relationships, and fosters encounters. The design of the environment, which includes decisions regarding scale, lighting, textures, circulation, and furnishings, invites the public to explore art in a kinesthetic and personal way, moving away from the traditional "white cube" format.

Curated by Indira Sánchez, MARCO's education manager, the exhibition features the firms HERCA, A de Arquitectos, Casa Gotxikoa, ERRATA [er·ra·ta], Metro Arquitectos, Treceavo Plano, and KIFFER, and the collective MVG, CAMEO and Rutch. Each firm, in turn, curated a section within its own proposal.

The exhibition brings together works by various artists, ranging from established figures such as Leonora Carrington, Julio Galán, Nahúm B. Zenil, and Arturo Marty to contemporary creators such as Claudio Bravo, Chavis Mármol, Ximena Garrido-Lecca, Eduardo Terrazas, and Gilberto Aceves Navarro, among others. The artworks served as the starting point from which the firms created a setting, a space, and an interior design inspired by the works and their visual and conceptual elements.

The exhibition applies various educational theories to spark visitor participation, reflection, and creativity. The distinctive schools of educational thought featured in the exhibition are those proposed by John Dewey, Jean Piaget, and Lev Vygotsky; Loris Malaguzzi, Nelson Goodman, Paulo Freire, Ivan Illich, Howard Gardner, Abigail Housen, and Philip Yenawine; and Nina Simon.

The ideas behind each movement will be explored with the support of the museum's mediation team, which will engage the public in each of the projects that connect the artworks with the spatial concept.

The exhibition is divided into eight project galleries and an educational room that reflects on the exhibition through books, activities, and educational materials. One of these is the proposal by the HERCA studio, located in the first room, which addresses "learning through experience," an idea of the philosopher John Dewey that, years later, gave rise to the concept of "art as experience," in which interaction with the artwork is a dynamic process of reflection. The show features a collection of taxidermy specimens in dialogue with works by Claudio Bravo from the museum's collection, exploring the concept "People and Animals: Circles Between Species." The studio's aim is to reflect on the relationships between humans and nature, especially in the Anthropocene, a geological epoch in which human activity has altered the Earth's natural processes.

In another of the galleries is an installation by the firm Treceavo Plano, led by Mauricio Lobeira, which explores the concept of "Geometries and Abstraction" through four works by Eduardo Terrazas from the series Posibilidades de una estructura (Possibilities of a Structure), from MARCO's collection. These works will be displayed opposite the sculpture Bicycle Ride Through the Park (2008) by Gilberto Aceves Navarro. Building on this concept, the exhibition introduces Visual Thinking Strategies, developed in the early 1990s by psychologist Abigail Housen and educator Philip Yenawine, whose goal is visual literacy: an unconventional pedagogical approach that promotes observation, listening, and connection to foster learning.

At the end of the tour is the installation by the KIFFER studio, composed of Lorena Moeller, Analorena Falcón Moeller, Priscilla Falcón Moeller, and Marianna Falcón Moeller. With the intimate layout of a small chapel, this space invites the public to sit on the wooden benches, take a break, and carefully observe works by Julio Galán, Nahúm B. Zenil, and Alfredo Castañeda, among other artists. The installation aligns with the participatory museum methodology proposed by specialist Nina Simon, which posits that the museum should welcome visitors as active participants who contribute ideas, share their perspectives, and even collaborate on projects.

The exhibition invites the public to take a close look at the works and explore the spaces designed by the participating firms. Several of the installations are best experienced by walking through them, pausing at different points, and observing how one's relationship with the works changes from different perspectives. Throughout the exhibition, MARCO's education team will offer in-gallery activities, including a drawing session inspired by pieces in the exhibition and workshops that explore the relationship between art and education. For more details on the activities, follow @educacionmarco on Instagram.

Check the museum's hours and admission fees at https://www.marco.org.mx/visita/.

EXHIBITION INFORMATION

Title: ***Formas de estar: Arte, educación y diseño (Ways of Being: Art, Education, and Design)*** | **Open to the public:** Friday, November 20, 2026 | **On display until:** Sunday, May 2, 2027 | **Museography**: MARCO | **Curator**: Indira Sánchez and the firms | **Number of Works:** around 60 artworks | **Galleries**: 6 to 8, Second Floor | **Techniques**: Sculpture, photography, video, painting, antiques, furniture, among others.

SUPPORT

MARCO receives support from the Government of the State of Nuevo León, through the Nuevo León Ministry of Culture, and from the Monterrey City Government, as well as from the companies Arca Continental, CYDSA, FEMSA, FRISA, Xignux, and Alberto Fernández G; and also from Arte Expuesto, VivaAerobus, Casa Madero, and V Media Group.

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