

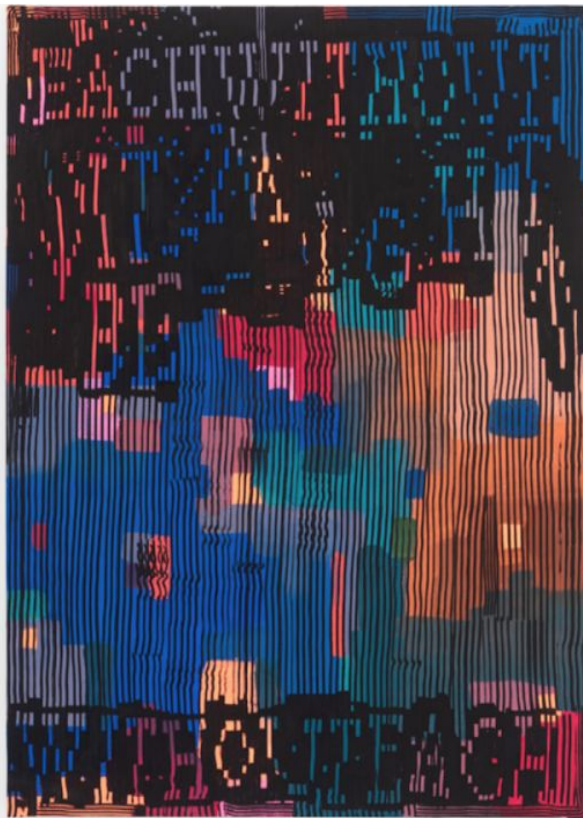
# AMALGAMA

Promoting Ibero American Women Artists

## TEXTURAL CODES

*Sofia Clause, Carmen Mariscal,  
Camila Quintero & Francisca Sosa Lopez*

Friday 23 October – Wednesday 10 November 2020  
Private View: Thursday 22 October, 6-9 pm (limited admission)



AMALGAMA ART presents **Textural Codes**, an exhibition of Latin American art exploring linguistic form, signs, movement and time.

On view from 23 October at the Koppel Project Exchange on Piccadilly, London, the show, curated by Daniela Galan, features artists Sofia Clause, Carmen Mariscal, Camila Quintero & Francisca Sosa Lopez.

The etymological origin of '*poetry*' alludes to the gesture of creating or transforming thoughts into matter or forms; forms that when interpreted by someone, other than their creator, have the power to recreate and evoke particular images in our brains. If that is the purpose of writing, what then, is the difference between signs in painting and those of poetry? The difference, according to Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, is time. The narration of an image is immediate, whereas, in writing, it is spaced between a beginning, a middle and an end.

Many artists have questioned this difference; particularly in Latin America, where the line between image-making and writing has been used to challenge the political power of art as a *universal* system of signs. The work of these four Latin American women artists lets us explore the different approaches towards interpretation, perception and language, and confront the immediate meanings that initially come to mind.

In their works, Carmen Mariscal and Francisca Sosa Lopez challenge the potential universality of text, signs and forms, observing the immense power of the written form in the collective unconscious. Mariscal's *Calladita, te ves más bonita (You look prettier with your mouth shut)*, questions the significance of this quintessentially oppressive phrase that is frequently directed at women in Latin America. This work highlights the cultural importance placed on beauty and presents a stark reminder that women's voices, opinions and emotions are 'meant' to be silenced. In the textile "*Incessant Ranting of a Persistent love affair*", Sosa Lopez weaves a 2,043-word love letter to her home country, Venezuela, onto the fabric of furniture from her childhood home. In displacing the fabric, visual poetics are used to evoke the emotions and adaptation involved in connecting to a new landscape, environment and circumstance.

In comparison, Sofia Clause and Camila Quintero's works examine the correlation between the passing of time and the act of image-making, whether with words or forms. Words that become pure signifiers without denoting anything in particular; and in contrast, forms that portray pure significance. In creating her own words, tools and systems, Clause explores the process behind the linguistic sign to convey something that could not have been expressed before, and through this, finds new meanings. In turn, Quintero's exploration of geometrical shapes challenges Lessing's assumption of the static nature of the image allowing a narrative to evolve through her juxtaposition of form and colour.

**Amalgama Art** is a London-based cultural programme that is devoted to exhibiting, promoting and championing the work of women artists from Latin America, Spain and Portugal: Ibero-America. The timely goal is to challenge current gender disparities in the art world, through group and solo exhibitions, publications and a public programme of workshops and talks to increase the visibility and participation of these artists.

\*Image: 'Each without each' 2019 by Sofia Clause.

END

### **Notes to Editors**

- **Amalgama Art** is a London-based non-profit cultural programme dedicated to championing women artists from Latin America, Spain and Portugal.
- Exhibition runs from Friday 23 October until Wednesday 10 November 2020. Private view on Thursday 22 October, government safety guidelines permitting. Press preview on Friday 23 October.
- **Sofia Clause** (b. 1989) is an Argentinian artist currently undertaking a postgraduate degree at the Royal Academy Schools in London and a graduate from the Rhode Island School of Design. She is a multidisciplinary artist exploring tools, techniques and language for communication.
- **Carmen Mariscal** (b. 1968) is a Mexican multidisciplinary artist. Born in California, she lives and works in London. She holds a Master's degree in Visual Arts from the Winchester School of Art, a graduate Painting degree from Central Saint Martins and a BA in Art History from the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City. The recurrent themes in her work are fragility, confinement and memory.

- **Camila Quintero** (b. 1982) is a London-based Colombian artist with arts degrees from UAL Camberwell College of Arts (London) and Jorge Tadeo Lozano University (Bogota). Her works are “optical distortions” that explores the relationship between space and time. Deconstruction and optical distortion are recurrent throughout her work and refer to the response of the perceptual connection we have with our surroundings and the impact that they have on us.
- **Francisca Sosa Lopez (b. 1989)** is a Venezuelan master’s graduate from Slade School of Fine Art. In her multidisciplinary practice, she explores emotion and the use and power of art to evoke a variety of feelings.

## **Contact**

**Web:** [www.artamalgama.com](http://www.artamalgama.com)

**IG:** [@womenartistslatinamerica](https://www.instagram.com/womenartistslatinamerica)

**Email:** [info@artamalgama.com](mailto:info@artamalgama.com)

**Daniela Galan**, Director & Curator  
[daniela@artamalgama.com](mailto:daniela@artamalgama.com)

**Jane Soliman**, Partnerships Director & Assistant Curator  
[partnerships@artamalgama.com](mailto:partnerships@artamalgama.com)

**Mercedes Osma**, Press  
[press@artamalgama.com](mailto:press@artamalgama.com)

**Tania Croda**, Social media  
[socialmedia@artamalgama.com](mailto:socialmedia@artamalgama.com)