



Photos by Daniel Munguía

Francisco Macías, *Acid Rain*, 100 x 80 cm, 2002 (digital impression).

## Nature in Extinction



Jorge Luna, *Restricted Area*, 80 x 100 cm, 2002 (oil on canvas).

Ecological balance —not only in Mexico, but worldwide— is perpetually threatened by the actions of Man.

A lack of information, resources, time, interest or even power: these are some of the many reasons we Mexicans cite to explain the constant and often irreversible devastation of natural resources plaguing our country. Ecological balance —not only in Mexico, but worldwide— is perpetually threatened by the actions of Man, whose zealous quest for progress and profits is destroying the wealth of a planet that seldom has the weapons it needs to defend itself.

Ecologically speaking, Mexico has been very fortunate since its geography has favored flora and fauna rich in endemic, varied species. Nevertheless, just as our scientists frequently discover previously unknown species, many others irremediably disappear before the undaunted gaze of some and the disconsolate gaze of others.

We know that for the last 100 years, the extinction of species has not followed the natural rhythm of a life cycle, evolving or disappearing, but has

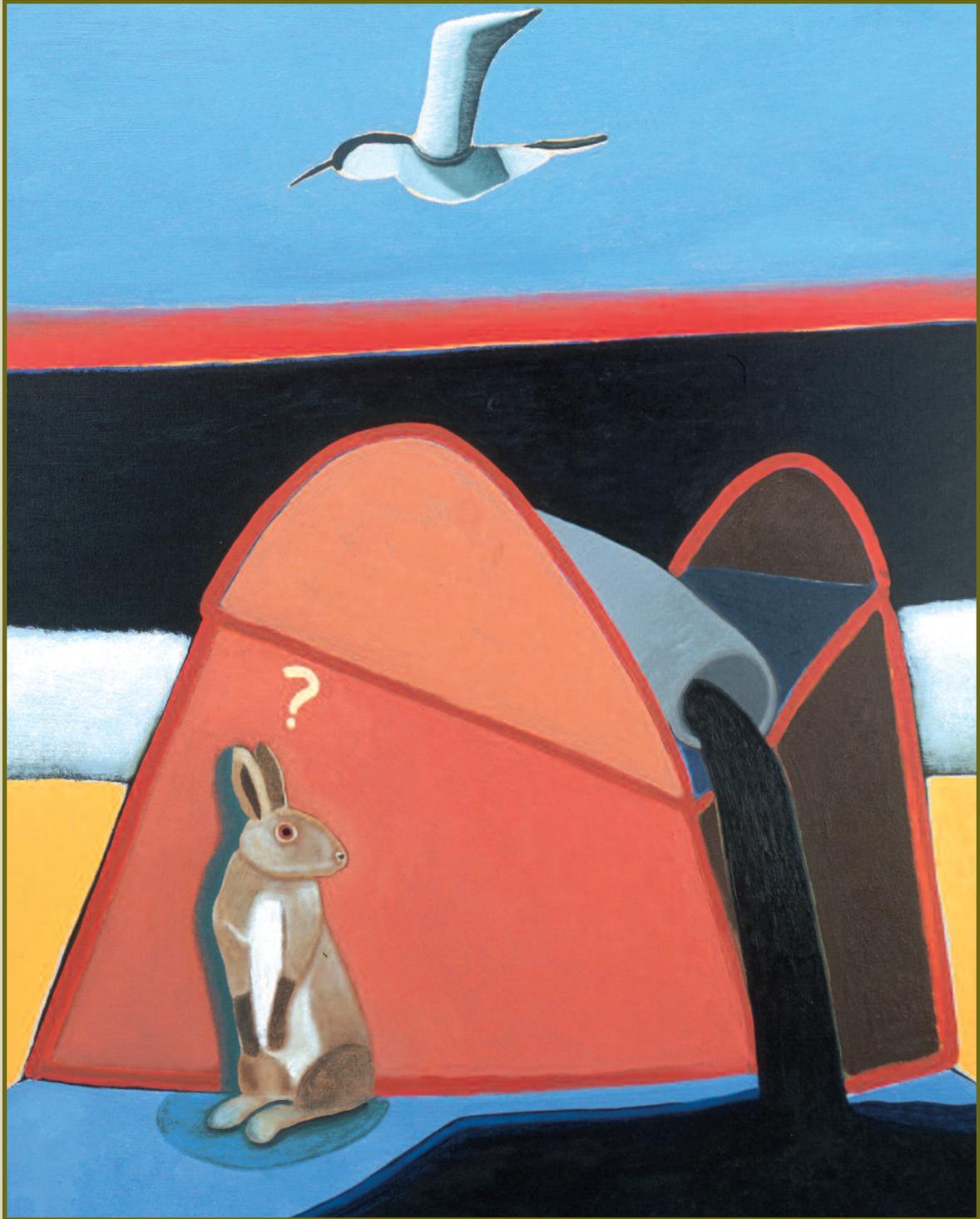


Laura Quintanilla, *Valley of Mexico*, 80 x 100 cm, 2002 (encaustic on canvas).

Art can also be the instrument in a cause by prompting in its viewer a favorable or unfavorable reaction to a given event or fact.

been stimulated and multiplied to the maximum by immoderate cutting of trees, the contamination of water, soil and air, unrestricted hunting and contraband of different species and unchecked technological progress, to mention only a few causes. Given this panorama, different sectors of society have taken up the battle to create awareness about the need to restore ecological balance as much as possible and slow the rapid destruction of our habitat before it is too late.

One of these sectors is the art world. Without losing its aesthetic qualities, a piece of visual art can also be the instrument in a cause by prompting in its viewer a favorable or unfavorable reaction to a given event or fact. This is the *raison d'être* of the collective exhibition "Nature in Extinction." More than forty Mexican visual artists responded to gallery-owner Óscar Román's call to infuse their work with their vision of the unchecked destruction of nature and their interest in making the viewer a co-partic-



Alejandro Arango, *S.O.S.*, 100 x 80 cm, 2002 (oil on canvas).



Guillermo Estrada, *Memories*, 81 x 100 cm, 2002 (acrylic on canvas).

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ipant in the responsibility to aid in closing the wounds inflicted on our planet.

This collective exhibition, inaugurated December 2, 2002 at Mexico City's Óscar Román Gallery, was moved to the Contemporary Art Gallery in Xalapa, Veracruz, where it opened to the public in October 2003, in compliance with the desire to invite Mexico's different states to participate in this kind of artistic endeavor. As Óscar Román says, "If we began an informational crusade in all the states of the country to see which regions were

most affected by the destruction, we could implement plans for recovery with the participation of all of civil society, since not only governments are responsible for the preservation and conservation of our territory."

*Voices of Mexico* presents a representative selection of the works included in this collective exhibition. Through their work, our contemporary artists offer ethical and aesthetic testimony to the ecological maelstrom and, explicitly or subliminally, also make a silent call to action.



Mario Núñez, *Reflections*, 80 x 100 cm, 2001 (oil on canvas).



José Castro Leñero, *Terminal City*, 80 x 100 cm, 2002 (oil and encaustic on canvas).



Gilberto Guerrero, *And the Catrina Skeleton Went Fishing...*, 80 x 100 cm, 2002 (oil on canvas).

### PARTICIPANTS

JAVIER GUADARRAMA, AGUSTÍN CASTRO, ANTONIO CASTRO, LUCIANO SPANO, JOSÉ CASTRO LEÑERO,  
ARTURO MÁRQUEZ, FABIÁN VERGARA, JORGE MARÍN, RODRIGO PIMENTEL, ROCÍO CABALLERO,  
LUIS FACCHIA, MARCO VARGAS, ALEJANDRO ARANGO, VÍCTOR CHACA, CHANTALE MAZÍN, ALEX HANK,  
GUILLERMO GONZÁLEZ, MARISA LARA, ARTURO GUERRERO, LAURA QUINTANILLA, ALONSO GUARDADO,  
CARLOS FENTANES, LOURDES ALMEIDA, LUIS FILCER, RICARDO PORRERO, ROSSANA DURÁN, JOSÉ LUIS BUSTAMANTE,  
FRANCISCO MACÍAS, MARIO NÚÑEZ, LORENA ISLA, FERNANDO GUEVARA, GILBERTO GUERRERO,  
JORGE LUNA, MÁRIU SAAD, LUCERO ISAAC, BENJAMÍN HIERRO, MARIANA PEREYRA,  
GALO KERLEGAN, FROYLÁN RUIZ, GUSTAVO SALMONES, ROGELIO FLORES, GUILLERMO ESTRADA,  
JAIME SHELLEY, HARTWIG RHODE, BOSCO SODI.