CRISTIN TIERNEY



Standouts at Armory's Focus 2022: "Landscape Undone"

September 9, 2022 | Kathleen Cullen

The Armory Show's Focus presentation, entitled *Landscape Undone* and curated by Carla Acevedo-Yates, treats the idea of landscape as a more inclusive hemispheric concept framed by her focus on the intertwined geographies, sociopolitical conditions, and environment of the peoples of North, Central, and South America. Curious, I asked Acevedo-Yates about the gallery selection and participating artists and the complexity of the geographic, physical, and psychological issues of her task.

She says she hoped that this selection of artists would broaden the way we think about landscape and the narratives of nationalism, progress and modernity, and the counterculture messages being presented these days. She explains that the audience has always been there for such work, citing MOMA and the MCA. The Institutions have been doing it for a while to address the audience and their status as a reflection on their communities.

The Focus part of the Armory Show 2022 is a reflection of the galleries devoted to those communities. Acevedo-Yates extended a personal invite to the galleries she loves (and there were some unsolicited applications as well). Certainly, there is a greater representation of diversity in this Armory section than in past years.

Here are some of the noteworthy installations in the Focus section of this year's Fair:

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Jorge Tacla at Cristin Tierney Gallery, New York

Jorge Tacla is a Chilean-born artist who has worked with a number of different media. This showing of his work in Focus is concurrent with his solo show at the gallery in lower Manhattan curated by Christian Viveros-Fauné. Whereas he once took landscapes as cultural signifiers and sites leveled by uprising and warfare, he is presently turning his attention to fast-paced scenes of civil unrest in Africa, America, Chile, Lebanon, and Mexico. He focuses on the social rupture of the present world and its special dynamics.