

The Art Journal

Danielle Shang

December 4, 2024

Danielle Shang visited "We Place Life at the Center" as part of PST ART coverage for *The Art Journal*. Shang spotlights various artworks in the show, including Caycedo's first-floor work "Wanaawna Meets Salty Waters" (2019) and the satellite photo collage mural "Elwha's Healing" (2022).

"Amidst the exhibition's weighty themes, a sense of playfulness and hope emerges through light-hearted works," Shang wrote. "The emotionally charged embroidery and appliqué pieces on burlap, crafted by the Colombian collective *El Movimiento Social en Defensa de los Ríos Sogamoso y Chucurí*, humorously depict endangered native animals, blending whimsy with urgency. Caycedo's own *The Bionave Flotilla* (2024)—a rocket ship sculpture crafted from a vinyl biodigester tube—draws inspiration from the technologies and aesthetics of environmental movements like *RedBioCol* (The Colombian Biomass Energy Network). These vernacular visual styles defy traditional hierarchies, pushing the viewer to rethink the boundaries between art and craft, and to question the conditions under which art is created."



Shang wrote positively about the show's overall themes: "The exhibition's complexity is a testament to how Indigenous perspectives can profoundly reshape our understanding of the natural world and confront dominant narratives of progress and consumption. By centering Indigenous knowledge and ecofeminist principles, [Carolina] Caycedo not only exposes the violent legacies of colonization but also suggests pathways toward healing and ecological restoration. These works speak to the possibility of a future rooted in reciprocity and care for the Earth, rather than extraction and exploitation."

You can read the full article [here](#).

Image: Installation view, *We Place Life at the Center*, at the Vincent Price Art Museum: Carolina Caycedo, "Wanaawna Meets Salty Waters," 2019, photo collage printed on cotton silk, and Carolina Caycedo "San Gabriel," 2019, collage printed on cotton canvas. Photo by Paul Salves