

Untitled Art Fair

Degen Pener

December 4, 2024

Degen Pener's essay, "The Green Movement Powers Change For Galleries, Museums and Art Fairs" discusses "We Place Life at the Center" and its significant themes.

"Just a few weeks ago, I was standing inside a museum in Los Angeles – the Vincent Price Art Museum (VPAM) in the city of Monterey Park – becoming surprisingly entranced by a short art film narrated by a salmon," Pener wrote. "The fish, a Chinook salmon, spoke about its ancestral habitat in the Pacific Northwest's Snake River and its connection to the Indigenous people who once sustainably caught it. The 12-minute film, [Reciprocal Sacrifice](#), by L.A.-based Colombian artist Carolina Caycedo, is at once beautifully meditative and a call to action, the action being the un-damming of the river and the restoration of vital habitat for the fish."



Caycedo's video work is included in VPAM's show *We Place Life at the Center / Situamos la vida en el centro* (running through March 1, 2025), an exhibition that puts forth a captivating vision of the interplay of art and environmental-justice activism. Curated by the museum's Joseph Valencia, the rousing exhibition centers the work of community-focused groups (in California, Mexico, Colombia and Brazil) that are fighting to heal ecosystems. Not to be missed

are Caycedo's vibrant works from her Mineral Intensive Drawings series, which portray haunting landscapes ruptured by extractive industries scratching away to find materials like zinc, chromium, iron and titanium."

Read the full essay [here](#).

Image: Installation view, *We Place Life at the Center*, on view at the Vincent Price Art Museum, Los Angeles, September 28- March 1, 2024. Photo by Paul Salvesson. Artists pictured: Carolina Caycedo and Juan José López Negrete.