

Landscapes, environments and limits

by Prof. Dr. María Antonia González Valerio

For a philosophy of nature that thinks about the construction of reality from an ontological viewpoint, the difference between landscape and environment is significant. It allows to distinguish between a way of being of nature as a configuration related to the entities that dwell in it, and a configuration where nature is not seen according to properties or entities, but as a non-form.

Landscapes and environments are constructed through artifacts (machines of visualization, intervention of relationships among entities, etc.) and can no longer be considered as simple natural, but as bio-artefactual. Artistic practices that work with landscapes and environments, whether transforming them or reinventing them, could be understood as devices of (re)presentation through which a constant transgression and transcendence of the limit is put in scene. The question about how something comes to being is then reframed through these artistic practices that involve natural landscapes and environments, as well as cities and technology-biased worlds.

Brief biographical notes

María Antonia González Valerio is a full-time professor of the Faculty of Philosophy and Literature and of the postgraduate programs in Philosophy, Philosophy of Science, Art History and Fine Arts, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM). She works within the research line of ontology-aesthetics and the interdisciplinary line of arts, sciences and humanities, specifically in the field of art that uses bio-media.

She is head of the research group Arte+Ciencia, as well as the leader of the research project Complexity and natural philosophy at the intersection of art and science, linked to the Faculty of Philosophy and Literature UNAM. PAPIIT IN403015. She also co-ordinates the artistic

collective “BIOS Ex Machina: Workshop for the fabrication of the human and the non-human” which has exhibited in Mexico, Portugal and Belgium.

She is a member of several national and international research groups; has published over fifty articles in magazines and books in Mexico and abroad.