



In the vast horizon of contemporary art, Mónica Giron emerges as an artist whose creativity exceeds conventions, immersing herself in the intersection of nature, perception, and expression. Her exhibition *Elemental Vortex*, presented at BARRO NY, stands as a profound journey through the relationship between natural elements and visual poetry. Following conceptual traces of a lyrical exploration of natural elements, Giron weaves a narrative of meaning that prompts the viewer to delve into the essence of fundamental connection.

Giron embarks on a continuous odyssey toward apprehending and expressing the beauty and harmony of the world. *Elemental Vortex* is a living testament to this quest, where natural elements become vehicles of exploration and manifestation. Just like a vortex, her work attracts and envelops spectators, transporting them on an introspective pilgrimage toward communion with nature and the ontology of our being in the world. A rapid rotational movement of cosmic matter around a center gives rise to systems of bodies in space: from the sea to the mountain, through the air, on land, from one body to another, spinning, rotating among elemental particles.

An artist's first decision is to discover within us a material that wants to dream. The stages of work and the materials Giron employs are intricately linked to her final creations. The meticulous selection of minimal resources and the diversity of materials, from wool to watercolors, transcend their practical function, becoming essential components of the visual and emotional experience. Like the lyricism of air and water, these elements possess a transformative vitality capable of caressing the depths of the human psyche. Poetic imagination surpasses established limits and reveals, dismantling preconceived visions of daily life. This prompts the artist, as with children, into a creative and revitalizing process that transforms the world.

Every artistic image has an unfathomable dreamlike background, and upon that background, personal history imprints its forms, materials, lights, shadows, and colors. Giron's connection to her Patagonian roots and her artistic evolution materialize in her autobiographical works, which delve into the sensation of the "empty body." This notion, evoking the vastness of nature and the history of the region, metamorphoses over time into a quest to fill this emptiness with meaning and expression. Giron delves into the psychological dimension of internal and external spaces, turning them into images where her personal history and artistic exploration merge.

Matter is energy. From a philosophical perspective, energetic materialism becomes clear when grounded in an authentic existentialism of energy, where being is energy and energy is being. Resonance manifests when a system has the capacity to store and easily transfer energy between two or more distinct forms of storage. Giron's work is rooted in the notion of energy and resonance. Just as a vortex arises from the interaction of natural elements, Giron manipulates tensions and resonances in her art to weave an experiential and profound encounter. Her conceptual evolution, influenced by various disciplines and theoretical approaches, translates into works that challenge conventions and provoke multiple layers of interpretation.

Duality and tension are crucial elements in Giron's work. Just as elements of nature can coexist in harmony or conflict, Giron's creations capture the complexity of human relationships and internal forces at play. Interaction with the viewer becomes the epicenter, and the eyes present in her works act as portals that transcend the limitations of a single perspective.

Similarly, the watercolors title *SX* captivately explore the fusion of forces between two bodies through the delicacy and fluidity characteristic of watercolors. In these works, colors intertwine and overlap, creating an intriguing visual dialogue that evokes the interaction and connection between two entities. The transparency and intensity of the watercolor combine to capture the essence of this fusion, while the strokes and moving forms suggest a subtle yet powerful dance between the represented elements. These watercolors manage to convey a sense of harmony and balance while raising questions about the forces that unite and separate us in the complex fabric of human and natural relationships.

Through the air, all life and movements are possible. *Ajuar para un Conquistador* [A Trousseau for a Conquistador] emerges as an ancestral echo that weaves memory in wool and buttons, with sweaters, socks, gloves, and scarves destined for birds that transit Patagonia, a tribute to the past and the convergence

of cultures and entities. Mónica Giron, using needles and wool, summons the birds of the past by sheltering their empty bodies in a fabric that embraces history and craftsmanship.

Since 1993, Mónica Giron knits in merino wool the *Ajuar para un Conquistador* [Trousseau for a Conquistador] a set of sweaters for birds that cross Patagonian winds. This installation updates as it reflects upon different memories, those of migrations, military conquests, colonizations, or the survival of species and cultures. In this collection of small garments that resemble the shape, size and colors of the different birds, she merges two crafts: that of the naturalist and that of the tailor. This fusion summons the absent bodies of the species, suggesting not only a memory but an offering for those entering the world, a testimony that oscillates between promise and desire of a past-present.

A powerful drop of water is enough to create a world and to dissolve the night. The series of paintings titled *Waterpockets* distills a liquid dream in watercolor and graphite, a breath on paper that captures the ephemeral dance of water, a symphony in each stroke. The watercolors follow the score, each one a unique imprint of a river in eternal metamorphosis. The paintings have the power to suggest vast worlds, much like the potential existence of life in the eternal ice present on Europa, one of Jupiter's moons, where it might harbor pockets of water and, consequently, the potential for life, just as in the glaciers of Antarctica and Greenland here on Earth.

Mónica Giron captures celestial moments with the works *Amanecer con violetas* [Sunrise with Violets] and *Atardecer dorado* [Golden Sunset], oil-painted sculptures on polylactic acid, silent witnesses to the magical transition between night and day. In this fleeting dance, the artist, skillful as a magician of colors, captivates the tonal richness of the sky on her palette. In *Amanecer con violetas* [Sunrise with Violets], the soft shades of violet and lilac embrace in sculptural volume, evoking an ethereal dawn, a morning serenade. On the other hand, *Atardecer dorado* [Golden Sunset] radiates warmth through golds and ambers, capturing the cozy embrace of a sunset at its peak. These works, like celestial snapshots, freeze time and allow the observer to immerse themselves in the tranquility and unique beauty of these ephemeral moments.

In the pieces *Amanecer con amarillos* [Sunrise with Yellows] and *Atardecer la hora verde* [Green Hour Sunset], there is a poetics of transience, an emotional rainbow that traverses the transitions of the day. In *Amanecer con amarillos* [Sunrise with Yellows], vibrant and delicate yellows merge with the blue of the sky-object, hinting at a new day filled with hopes and possibilities. Meanwhile, *Atardecer la hora verde* [Green Hour Sunset] embraces a fresh and serene palette, where greens intertwine with the blues of the sky in a harmonious dance, like leaves swayed by the evening breeze. These works capture the essence of the fleeting nature of time and the beauty in impermanence, inviting the observer to meditate on the intrinsic connection between human beings and the eternal cycles of nature. The creations dance to the rhythm of a cosmic clock, reminding us that art, like dawn and dusk, is also ephemeral and precious in its transience.

Mónica Giron not only creates art but also intervenes in the social and political fabric. Her work goes beyond aesthetics, in tune with the subversive stance that embraces the promise of improvement in a skeptical world. Her focus on weaving connections resonates with the need to heal the relationship between humanity and nature, as well as between individuals and communities.

Mónica Giron's *Elemental Vortex* at BARRO NY encapsulates a deep and enriching lyricism of natural and spiritual elements. Her focus on beauty, harmony, and connection resonates like a lyric of water, air, and space. Through her works, Giron invites viewers to dive into a vortex of meaning and expression, where natural elements and human introspection converge in a poetic dance that transcends time and space.

TEXT Syd Krochmalny  
DESIGN Laura Escobar  
WORK Mónica Giron  
*Global warming, 2017–23*

BARRO  
NEW YORK – BUENOS AIRES  
25 PECK SLIP, NEW YORK  
NY 10038  
646.642.2625  
NEWYORK@BARRO.CC  
@BARRO\_CC  
BARRO.CC

+1  
@  
IG  
WWW

