

Valentina Arenas - Artist Statement

My work emphasizes my subjective contemplation of nature. While the deep green found in plants, and the beautiful colors in nature face the threat of climate change, I long for the experience of close contact with the natural world and the hope of not seeing it fade away. As I reflect on the transcendence of this subject, I find inspiration in plants, animals, and people immersed in natural environments.

The influence of Japanese art in my work is visible through both subjects and visual elements. While living in Hokkaido for a year, I developed a fascination for trees and flowers and I started incorporating contour lines, solid colors and repeated organic patterns. These elements added a decorative intention to my work. Usually using solid bright colors in my backgrounds in juxtaposition with more three-dimensional elements, I reflect on the relationship between the real and the subjective, the ordinary and the mysterious.

I feel the need to spread hope -not hopelessness- regarding the climate crisis, I believe that we can still see our natural world flourish if we take fast steps in the right direction and we stop seeing everything around us as a matter of profit, including the most vulnerable; the animals.

Animals are wise, they live in harmony with nature and they create balance within our ecosystem. They have so much to teach us, nevertheless, the speciesism so present in our culture has shaped us to believe that we humans are superior. Chickens are among the most exploited animals. This injustice and their vulnerability sadden me deeply. Through the resignification of the negative cultural conceptions about chickens and their value, I intend to honor them as species. I pay tribute to chickens portraying them as powerful icons of natural wisdom, motherhood, and freedom.