

Gallery Nord: 21 Centuries of Abuse; Earthly Bodies



Carla Veliz works to repair silk she abused

For 21 days representing all the societal and environmental abuse of 21 centuries, San Antonio artist Carla Veliz beat, scraped, tore, kicked, stomped on and generally tormented a soft, innocent piece of silk. Then she spent another 21 days trying to undo the damage to create "XXI: Who We Are and Who We Could Become."

The tortured and then revived 16-by-6-foot piece of silk is the centerpiece of Veliz's Fotoseptiembre exhibit at Gallery Nord, which is also featuring the romantic figure and landscape photographs of Ramin Samandari.

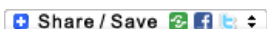
A native of Piedras Negras, Veliz wanted to illustrate the stark contrast between the poverty of Mexico and the prosperity of the United States by showing all the abuse that humans inflict on the planet as well as acknowledging the beauty and joys that life has to offer. "I came up with the idea to purchase a large, raw piece of white silk because of its natural beauty and softness," she says. "I associate innocence and something being pure and simple with silk."

She documented the process of abusing and healing the silk in a colorful, lyrical, 21-minute video. She begins by hanging the silk on a tree and then stuffing it with brush. She cuts it with knives. And then she washes it in a metal tub.

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