

Clarín newspaper – First Prize ArteBA07

13:15 | "It's for all the teachers that told me to throw away my drawings"

Catalina León won the first prize arteBA07 for her installation *Pintura para piso y plantas* and dedicated it to her "masters". *Clarín.com* spoke with the artist about the future of painting, recognition and money. To illustrate, someone from the audience, camera in hand, interprets the winning work.

(video)

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She laughs. Comes and goes. Picks up the phone, is hungry, talks to everyone, kisses anyone. Visitors to arteBA 07 stand in line, ready to take off their shoes and put on fabric slippers, obligatory for walking through the fair's big sensation installation, *Pintura para piso y plantas*. It's Sunday, perhaps one of the best Sundays in the artistic career of Catalina León.

Catalina is 26 years old and wanted to study art through the "official" path. She wandered through various workshops and clinics, and in 2005, joined the team of the so-called "Beca Kuitca" (organized by the Argentine artist and the Ricardo Rojas Cultural Center). Catalina feels that painting did not die and that, in any case, is running the same risk as nature: battered, something ends up doing, alone or with a "little help from it's friends", to regenerate.

In her work, that "regeneration" is born on the floor and rises, borrowing from the plants its strangeness and its magnificence. "It demonstrates the ability to build and destroy itself characteristic from nature and art," said Catalina on her work, the same that the jury, in this fourth edition of the event, chose among seven other projects.

The artist and art critic Roberto Jacoby, the artist Marina De Caro and the curator Victoria Noorthoorn, director of the award, integrated the selection committee of the eight final projects. Each one of them received \$ARS 7,000 to carry out the work. Subsequently, an award jury, which included Luis Enrique Perez Oramas, curator of Latin American art at MoMA, Judi Werthein, Argentine artist living in New York and curator Fabian Lebenglik chose as first prize the work of Catalina: \$ARS 30,000 and the acquisition of the work by arteBA Foundation.

The artist Diego Bianchi won the second prize (\$ARS 10,000). The rest of the projects selected belong to the artists Verónica Gómez, Julia Masvernat, Leonardo Mercado, Rosana Schoijett and Adrián Villar Rojas. "Being an artist is expensive and difficult,"

says León. "I know this award means a lot, but in art you never know." Just as in nature.