



Paraguay and the South American Encyclopedic Palace at the Biennale

Participating at the Venice Biennale for the first time, Paraguay will attempt to reunite with the art world through photography, installation - and videogame. The first Paraguayan representatives to exhibit at the Venice Biennale, are Pedro Barrail, Félix Toranzos, Diana Rossi and Daniel Milessi.



Curating the first Paraguayan exhibition at the [Venice Biennale](#) is Osvaldo González Real, art critic and professor at the Institute of Fine Arts of Paraguay. The exhibition's ambitious title - *The Encyclopedic Palace of Paraguay* - openly pays tribute to the main event itself, as well as indicating the small country's aspiration to offer the pavilion's visitors a varied collection of artworks representative of Paraguay's rich cultural traditions. The artists selected for this feat are designer Pedro Barrail, visual artist Félix Toranzos, painter Diana Rossi, and graphic designer Daniel Milessi.

[Pedro Barrail](#) is a contemporary artist and architect who works in a *mélange* of different media; his pieces range from unique furniture designs with an edge (ie. chairs and tables covered in hand-made tribal tattoos) to more conventional coloured photographs. In Venice, Barrail will set up a photographic installation entitled *View of Point*, simply comprised of an image on a canvas covering the whole wall. Curiously, the image is of the main room containing the image itself. Barrail explains in detail, 'In the center of the ... photo there is a red dot; "You are not here" it tells us. The red dot is [the] "view of point" that will guide [the viewers]... to nothingness'. This image is, according to the artist, a metaphor of Paraguayan cultural isolation and of its restless wandering in the surrounding world.

Sacred Totem of the Aché is the title of the installation by painter Diana Rossi showcased at the Paraguayan Pavilion. A prehistoric fossil recently found in Paraguay was the artist's main source of inspiration. Curator González Real explains in detail, This is an installation that represents the anteater (yurumi) totemic animal of the tribe [Aché-Guayaki](#). For Indians this mammal is considered genitor, sacred ancestor and icon of the ancient inhabitants of this land. ... The work also recalls the genocide committed against these tribes in 1973 ... The idea of Diana is to pay tribute to the memory of the disappeared.'



A more conceptual installation is being brought by [Félix Toranzos](#), a visual artist, architect and graphic designer well known both in Paraguay and abroad. Toranzos will bring to Venice his *Palace of the Winds*, an abstract 'wandering museum' that aims to recall the marble, octagonal clock tower found in the Roman agora in Athens, [Greece](#). This tower was constructed in the 1st century BC and its exterior walls all depicted images of the winds. These images, juxtaposed with images of architectural details of a 19th century villa, form the decorative elements of the *Palace of the Winds*.

Explaining Paraguayan history through art is the objective by graphic designer and video artist Daniel Milessi, who will bring to the Biennale *Yasururu Sororo* 'an imaginary encyclopedia of Paraguayan history in videogame format', as explained by the artist himself. His videogame presentation is a revisionist conception of history, from colonial days to the present. [It is] a history of invasions ... taken as a game, a game where no one can win,' he further explained.

Watch *Tuicha Ñonairo (2011)*, an animation about Paraguay's wars, by Daniel Milessi:

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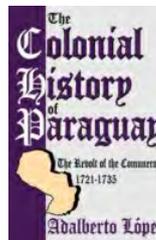
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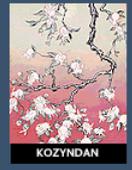
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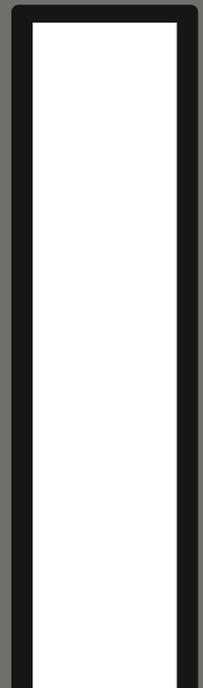


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Paraguay Pavilion

Artists: Pedro Barrail, Félix Toranzos, Diana Rossi, Daniel Milesi

Commissioner: Elisa Victoria Aquino Laterza

Deputy Commissioner: Nori Vaccari Starck

Curator: Osvaldo González Real

Venue: Palazzo Carminati, Santa Croce 1882

About The Culture Trip's Venice Biennale Project

The 55th International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale will take place from 1 June - 24 November. [The Culture Trip's Venice Biennale Series](#) is an article series leading up to the start of the exhibition. With 88 countries participating in this year's Biennale -- 10 of them for the first time -- and 150 artists from 37 countries, our coverage over the next couple of months will highlight a selection of the National Pavilions that will be participating in the 2013 edition of the Venice Biennale. Watch this space for our daily Venice Biennale updates or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Pinterest](#)!

By [Marinel Valentini](#)

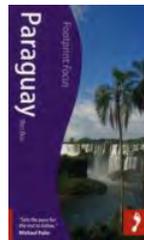
Images courtesy:

1: [Pedro Barrail](#), *Wood burned with hot tool, 2010*/[Cristina Grajales Gallery](#).

2: [Diana Rossi](#), *Sacred Totem of the Aché*; *Article Thumbnail: Pedro Barrail, View of Point*/[Paraguay Pavilion website](#).



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