

Architectures, Space and Landscape

Architecture, one of the classical arts, has throughout time been the most prominent way in which humans have left their mark on the landscape. Setting aside some conceptual subtleties that lead to the distinction between architecture and construction, we can say that everything humans have built, using various tools and materials, is architecture.

What do the Parthenon in Athens, a skyscraper in New York, the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, the Main Church of Ponte de Lima, a granary on a farm in Minho or Galicia, the houses of a village lost in the hills have in common? They all have in common that they were conceived and built by humans, even if in different times and places, many of them quite far apart from each other, using various materials and techniques, revealing different mindsets, purposes, and also needs. All these buildings are, naturally, architecture.

But one of the expressions we use in the theme of this year's edition of Art'In Lima is actually phrased in the plural, not the singular. More than architecture, it is interesting to call upon artists for the various architectures, not just the architecture that the canon has established as art, the universal and vernacular architectures, but also the architectures forged by animals, the shelters formed by different biological species, the architectures designed by Mother Nature herself, with the force of the sun, water, and wind.

Architecture, a product of human, animal, or natural action, is the transformation of space and landscape. It has its own ecosystems, its own settings, evolving both in highly urbanized environments and in atmospheres devoid of the human element.

Constructions more or less enduring over time, from sacred temples with centuries and millennia of existence to ephemeral creations designed for commemorative and celebratory purposes, destined to disappear afterwards, different architectures, besides the marks they leave on the landscape, also occupy a significant place in human memory.

The architectural phenomenon also spread to decorative arts, furniture, interior design, landscape design, and set design...

Architecture is both an art and a challenge to art, a constant call to artists.