

Study for Nature 30 / Water segment 2 · Epoxy resin · 70 × 70 × 15 cm

JOSÉ BONILLA

Visual Artist · Brno, Czech Republic · b. Venezuela, 1982

Geometric Abstraction · Photographic Constructions

A practice at the threshold between order and disorganisation — modular systems, perceptual instability, and photography treated as three-dimensional spatial material.

Biography

José Bonilla (Venezuela, 1982) is a visual artist based in Brno, Czech Republic. Trained in film and audiovisual direction at ESCINETV (Caracas), his practice developed through sustained engagement with mountain environments across Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru — an experience that remains central to his work, both as a source of direct observation and as a framework for understanding forces such as pressure, tension, propagation, deformation, and instability.



With 'Avila on Concrete' · 120 × 60 × 13 cm

Rather than representing landscapes or spaces, Bonilla constructs systems that translate their internal behaviour into perceptual experiences — systems operating at the threshold between order and disorganisation, where structure is driven toward critical states of high visual intensity.

His work unfolds across two interconnected areas. In geometric abstraction, he constructs modular systems operating at the threshold between order and disorganisation, integrating error and chance as active structural variables. The resulting works exist at rest and become perceptually activated through the viewer's displacement, generating optical vibrations and spatial undulations without mechanical means.

In photographic assemblages, photography is treated as three-dimensional spatial material: images taken directly from the field are decomposed and reorganised into layered structures that introduce depth, parallax, and time into the viewing experience, transforming frontal observation into physical traversal.

Bonilla has exhibited at the Museum of Contemporary Art of Zulia, the Alliance Française (Caracas), and the Embassy of Uruguay (Caracas), among other venues. His work has been recognised at the Wiki Loves Earth Photo Festival Venezuela (First and Third Place, 2016), the Ascent Festival (Best Landscape, 2014), and viewbug.com (Talent in Focus Award, 2024). He has undertaken photographic expeditions to Roraima and Kukenan Tepuy, the Venezuelan Andes, Patagonia (Argentina), the coast of Rocha (Uruguay), the Šumava National Park (Czech Republic), and the Andes of Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.

STUDIES FOR NATURE

This series explores geometry as a means to approach nature through the principles that organize its structure, rather than through representation.

The compositions are developed from systems that suggest growth, repetition, and variation, where each element operates as part of a larger whole.

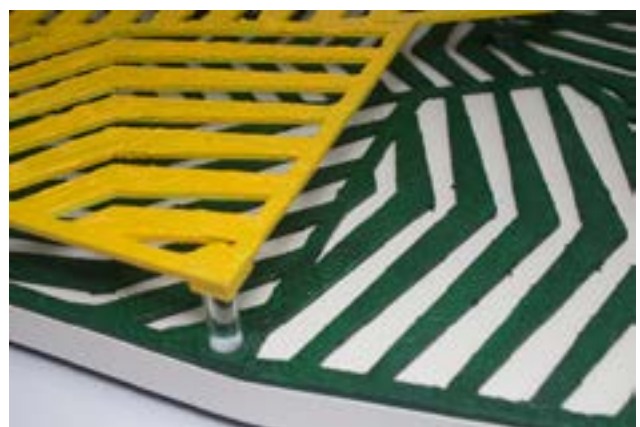
The works investigate these underlying logics, establishing a visual language in which form emerges from the interaction between rules, displacements, and internal relationships, serving as a foundation for the development of more defined and controlled systems.



Studie for nature 19 - Shell · 50 x 100 cm · Enamel paint on wood



Study for Nature 12 — Breeze in the Grassland · 80 × 70 × 7 cm · Mixed media



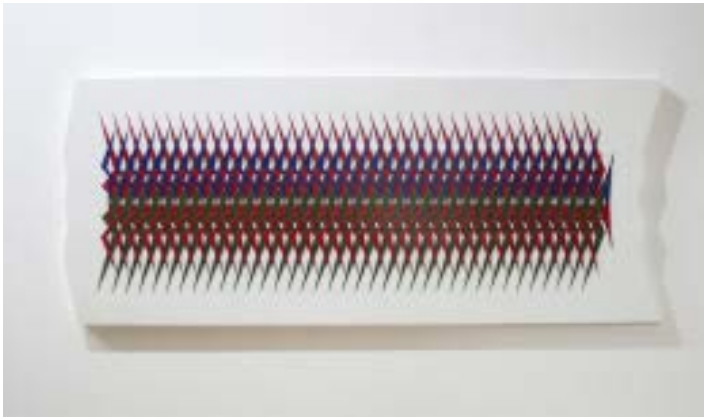
Unpredictable Symmetries

Optical interference and perceptual vibration emerging from layered modular structures.

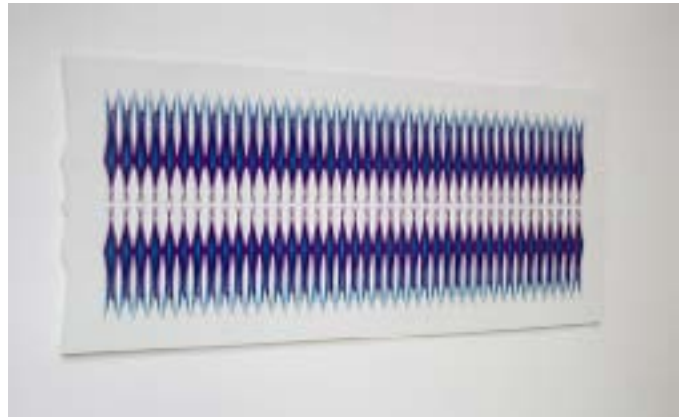
This series investigates how modular geometric systems generate perceptual phenomena through repetition and structural interference.

Through the layering of elements and the variation of parameters such as thickness and color, the compositions produce visual instability within controlled symmetrical structures.

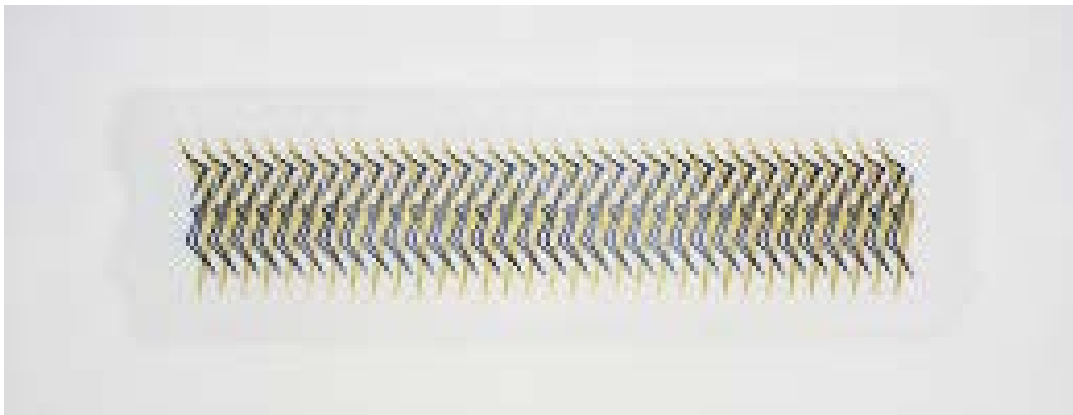
The work establishes a tension between order and unpredictable behavior, where perception activates the transformation of the system.



Unpredictable Symmetry 11 · 70 × 30 cm · Enamel paint on melamine



Unpredictable Symmetry 10 · 70 × 30 cm · Enamel on melamine



Unpredictable Symmetry 6 · 50 × 20 cm · Enamel on melamine

FRAGMENTED GEOGRAPHIES

Photography is treated as three-dimensional spatial material, not flat image. It is decomposed to extract its perceptual tensions (planes, rhythms, volumes) and reconfigured into new compositions that preserve the logic of the place while introducing autonomous structure.

The result is a stratified object that the viewer must traverse physically. Their movement generates real parallax and depth, introducing time and genuine kinetics into the visual experience.



El Conjuero de Valizas · Uruguay Celeste series · 60 × 30 × 10 cm · Photographic assemblage



EXHIBITION HISTORY

Solo Exhibitions

- 2019 Unpredictable Symmetries and Studies for Nature — Alliance Française, Caracas
 - 2018 Uruguay Magenta and Celeste — Embassy of Uruguay, Caracas
 - 2017 Fragmented Photographic Journeys — Museum of Contemporary Art of Zulia
 - 2017 Fragmented Photographic Montage — Alliance Française, Caracas
 - 2017 Caracas Seen by a Sanantóñero — Arabica Coffee, Caracas
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Group Exhibitions & Biennials

- 2021 Caracas — Un tributo una mirada — D'Museo Gallery, Venezuela
 - 2019 Por los Caminos Verdes — Goethe Institut / Hacienda la Trinidad, Venezuela
 - 2019 SI VA — D'Museo Gallery, Venezuela
 - 2017 Caracas 2017 — D'Museo Gallery, Venezuela
 - 2016 68 Salón Arturo Michelena, Venezuela
 - 2016 Pop Contemporáneo — D'Museo Gallery, Venezuela
 - 2016 Ascenso Adventure Film Fest, Miami, USA
 - 2015 Segunda Biental Nacional del Dibujo y la Estampa, Venezuela
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Recognitions

- 2024 Talent in Focus Award — viewbug.com
 - 2016 First and Third Place — Wiki Loves Earth Photo Festival, Venezuela
 - 2014 Best Landscape Photo — Ascent Festival, Venezuela
 - 2008 Best Documentary — ESCINETV Short Film Festival
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Selected Expeditions

- 2025 Šumava National Park, Czech Republic
 - 2015 Kukenan Tepuy, Venezuela
 - 2014 Patagonia, Argentina & Rocha coast, Uruguay
 - 2014 Solo — Sierra Nevada de Mérida, Venezuelan Andes
 - 2013 Roraima Tepuy, Venezuela
 - 2012 Ishinca & Alpamayo, Peru — 'Destino Sur — Perú' documentary
 - 2011 Ritacuba Blanco & Pan de Azúcar, Colombia — 'Cocuy 2011' documentary
 - 2008 Cotopaxi & Chimborazo, Ecuador — 'Destino Sur — Ecuador' documentary
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Education

- 2008 Film & Audiovisual Direction — ESCINETV, Caracas, Venezuela