

MoMA reopens its doors exhibiting three works by Chilean artist Cecilia Vicuña

by The Counter October 21, 2019



The oil on canvas "Black Panther and I" (1978), the movie "What is poetry for you?" (1980) and the artist's book "Taste Me" (1973) will be displayed on floors 2 and 3 of the Museum of Modern Art in New York and are part of the exhibition **The New MoMA**.

On October 21, the Museum of Modern Art in New York (MoMA) opens its doors again, which has been closed to the public for three months while a historic remodeling was carried out with extensions, new galleries and a new curatorship that includes three works by the artist Chilean Cecilia Vicuña in the show.

"A New MoMA", the exhibition with which the museum opens the new rooms, exhibits on the second floor the works "Black Panther and I" (1978), the film "What is poetry for you?" (1980) and the artist's book "Taste Me" (1973).

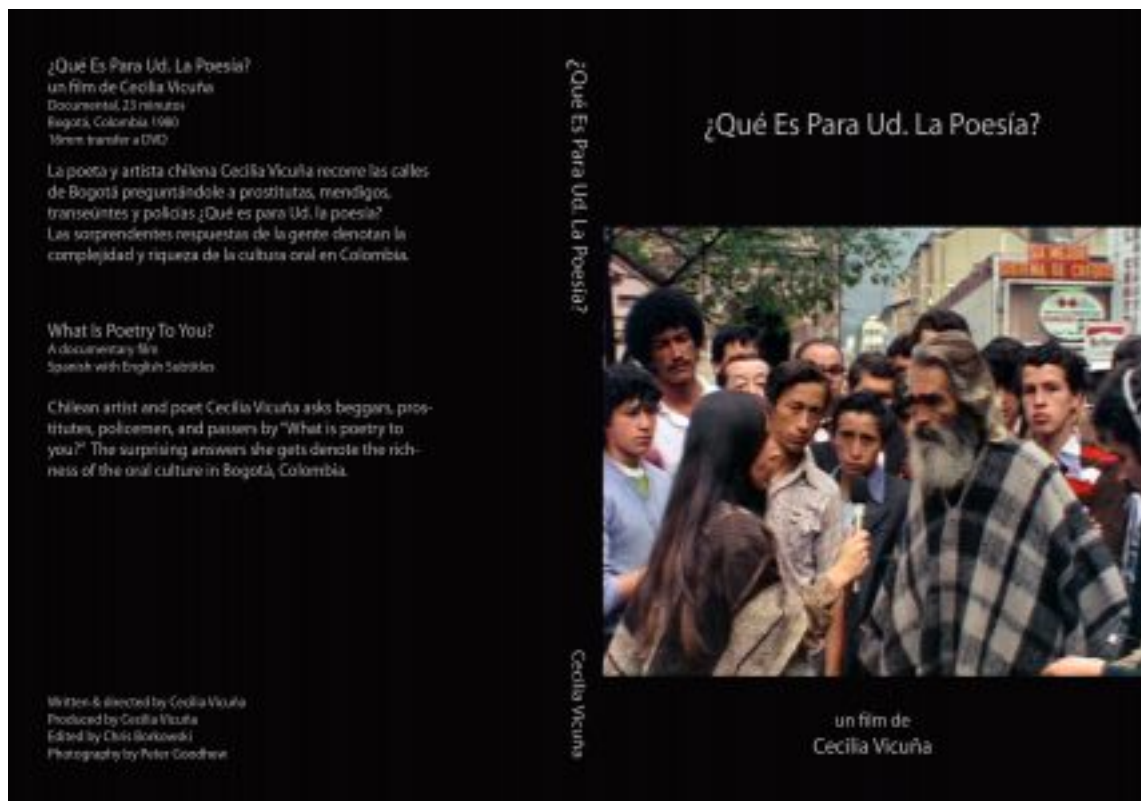
"Black Panther and I" is a new acquisition of the museum. Vicuña painted the first version of "Black Panther and I" in 1970, in Santiago and it was exhibited in 1971 in the exhibition: "Cecilia Vicuña: Paintings Poems and Explanations", in the National Museum of Fine Arts, which was the last individual exhibition of the poet and artist in a Chilean museum.

Black panthers

“Black Panther and I is the story of my encounter with the Black Panther Party in New York in 1969, when I came to the city for the translation of my first book of poetry into English,” recalls Vicuña.

“The oil of 1970 disappeared. Only the version I painted in Bogotá survived in 1978.” That is the version that MoMA acquired.

All Vicuña's paintings have a poetic text by the author that she calls "explanation" and that is part of the work and is a unit expressed in two different languages.



Meanwhile, "What is poetry for you?" It is a film recorded in 16mm transferred to video that the artists made when they lived in Colombia and that is part of Vicuña's research on words. In it he asks people what poetry is for her.

Both works will be exhibited in a room on the second floor, where MoMA is showing artistic trends from the 1970s until today telling the story of contemporary art. Vicuña's work is next to that of Mrinalini Mukherjee and Jo Baer.

Vicuña is impressed and happy: "I can't believe it! It's exciting to see her there with Ana Mendieta, whom I met, Lorraine O'Grady, and so many other friends."



Censored book

"Taste to me", meanwhile, is an artist's book with a long history. Vicuña concluded the first manuscript of the poetry book "Taste Me" in 1970, and signed an edition contract with University Editions of the Catholic University of Valparaíso.

The book was censored and thrown into the sea by the military in 1973. Two months after the military coup in Chile, in November 1973, he published another book, also called "Taste Me", in England (Beau Geste Press, main editorial of the Fluxus movement). This "Taste to Me" was an artist's book, in response to the military coup that included "The Death of Salvador Allende" and his portrait of Violeta Parra, today part of the collection of the TATE museum in London.

According to the ARTnews website, MoMA "is nice to see that the museum focuses on women who have been marginalized for a long time."

In this regard, the artist comments: "I think there is a transformation of the awareness of what art is or may be at the moment. Only in this way is it explained that this work that has been secret for so long begins to emerge".

During November, Vicuña's work will be exhibited simultaneously in six of the most important museums in the world: MoMA, New York; Tate Modern, London; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Guggenheim Museum, New York, Witte de With, Rotterdam; and Neighborhood Museum, New York.