

Bio (2024)

Ximena Berecochea is a photo-based artist who has combined her artistic practice with an academic career in language and literature. Her photographic work is deeply intertwined with linguistic concepts and literary texts, blending visual art and scholarly inquiry. Berecochea holds a Ph.D. in Hispanic literature from the University of Toronto. Her research focuses on the impact of visual art within the context of contemporary Mexican literature. Additionally, she holds a master's degree in Comparative Literature from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and a master's in Spanish and Latin American Literature from the University of Toronto. Berecochea specializes in the study of artistic works that merge multiple media and forms of representation, with a particular interest in the exploration of hybrid languages within her own artistic practice.

Berecochea has exhibited her work internationally, showcasing her art in countries such as Mexico, Spain, the United States, Canada, Denmark, Japan, China, and Indonesia. Some of her solo exhibitions have been presented at venues such as the Centro Cultural El Nigromante in Mexico (2024) and the Factory Theatre in Canada (2024). Other solo exhibitions include Flavia Galería in Mexico (2023), LALA Contemporary in Canada (2023), YYY Artists' Outlet in Canada (2019), Index G in Canada (2011), and the OMR Gallery in Mexico (2003). Berecochea's work has also been shown at The Other Gallery at the Banff Centre for the Arts in Canada (2001 and 2003), Spectrum - Sotos Gallery in Spain (2001), and the Centro de la Imagen in Mexico (2000), among other international venues.

Berecochea's work has been published in numerous countries, including Mexico, Canada, the United States, Spain, Italy, France, and Austria. Her contributions have appeared with major publishers such as Alfaguara (Mexico, 2002 – in collaboration with Mario Bellatin for *Jacobo el*

mutante) and Plaza y Janes (Barcelona, 2001 – in partnership with Mario Bellatin for *Shiki Nagaoka: A Fictional Nose*). Her photography has also been featured in several prominent art books, magazines, and exhibition catalogues, including *Monday Artpost* (Canada, 2023), *Double-Double* (Canada, 2022), *Exit* (Spain, 2020), *Women Behind the Lens: One Hundred Years of Photographic Creation in Mexico 1910-2010* (2011), *52 Women in Mexican Art* (2005), *Private* (Italy, 2001), the *FotoFest Catalog* (United States, 1998), and *Camera Austria International* (Austria, 1997), among others.

Her work is included in major collections, such as the National Photographic Archive of La Fototeca del INAH in Pachuca, Hidalgo (Mexico), the Walter Phillips Collection of the Banff Centre for the Arts (Canada), and the Collection of the Museo del Carmen (Mexico). Berecochea has received multiple scholarships and awards in both academic and artistic fields. She has been a member of the National System of Art Creators (SNCA-FONCA) since 2021. Berecochea has also received various grants for her artistic creation, including the “Visual Artists Creation Projects” (Ontario Arts Council, 2021), the “Exhibition Assistance Grant” (Ontario Arts Council, 2023 and 2019), and “Special Support” funding for a documentary on Mexican artists of the 1990s, co-produced with Salvador Alanis (FONCA, 2017).

In addition to her creative work, Berecochea is the co-founder and program director of the ICE Institute for Creative Exchange in Toronto, Canada, which she has led since 2016. At ICE, she has developed programs that connect Mexican and international artists with the Canadian art community through workshops, residencies, exhibitions, and conferences.

Artist Statement

My work has consistently reflected on how we connect with the world and with others and how this connection defines our understanding of our place within our surroundings. By focusing on such a theme, my photographs grapple with questions of belonging and alienation, working not to suture but to expose and articulate the fissures I experience as a Mexican woman living in Canada.