

## **How is it possible to make ecological aesthetics a device for museum education?**

### **Case study at the Museo del Agua Fundación EPM**

Performativity and urban spaces in contemporary art.

The aim of the case study is to delve on the possibilities of ecological aesthetics to build a pedagogical device in the museum, and how it can support, as a priority, the construction of a new ethos that takes care of the environment.

Ecological Aesthetics generates ecological awareness in the daily activity and within responsible aesthetic experiences, and has a major role in addressing the environmental crisis. It is based on the conception of museums as suitable scenarios to educate and raise awareness among the visitors, emphasizing museum education through the use of a pedagogical device, which enhances the importance of protecting the environment.

According to the previous statement, the Museo del Agua of Fundación EPM (Empresas Públicas de Medellín), located at Medellín Colombia, was selected as a case study to identify how ecological aesthetics can be a pedagogical device for the institution.

The main theme of this museum is water and the use that mankind gives it; through science, art and technology it generates experiences for learning, interaction, enjoyment and reflection. Sustainable Development objectives are implemented in EPM's policies, lined within the programs and projects of Fundación EPM. In addition, the Value Responsibility with the Environment was selected as one of the institutional values, which should be a guide for institutional development and impact on communities.

The information obtained for this case study results from a research conducted over a period of five months. At the end of the research, in order to obtain results and discussions, a performance was implemented: *El simple balance de las cosas* directed through the methodology of the performative ethnography, with the group of mediators of the Museum, who helped answering the main question: how can ecological aesthetics be a device for museum education?

**Key words:** ecological aesthetics, museum, pedagogical device, performative ethnography, mediation.

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