

Title, White Continent / Blank Canvas

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Antarctica has astonished the thousands of people who have set foot on this continent and been able to understand the processes that take place there. These processes are not only biological in nature or related to geology or to glaciology, there are processes that involve Humankind and the various communities present. Human interactions have led to what has become known as the "Antarctic spirit," which refers to the strong relationships between individuals from different countries and the type of cooperation needed to overcome the harsh climate. Science has rallied communities and combined criteria to reach the conclusion that Antarctica is a land destined for *Peace, Science and Cooperation*. These words, and capital letters should be used to make them stand out, explain why this system was able to function without any conflict from external forces; a continent whose natural beauty and spirit has captivated generation upon generation and has created strong bonds with those who are able to understand its essence.

Art has much in common with scientific research: the principal tool is freethinking and the product is either a scientific paper or a work of art. A work of art conveys an artist's experiences to the rest of the world and communicates emotions to people who cannot go to Antarctica. The sharing and transfer of emotions to people who will never be able to visit the artist's White Continent make the artist and the scientist the ideal nexus which will enable the world to understand the importance of the continent and the ethical values of the people who work there.

The work of Lucy and Jorge Orta manifests the values and hopes that Antarctica imparts to the world. Their mighty expedition and the experiences at the Marambio base in Antarctica convey the true spirit of those of us who have participated in Antarctic activity by contributing small grains of sand to keep the continent pure in the broadest sense of the word. The type of purity achieved when one analyzes the current work by two artists of immeasurable qualities.

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