

By Magic

I have always believed that, in our country, there should be art spaces dedicated to boys and girls. Just like there are amusement parks with games in parks and city squares. Why not create art centres for children in various places in our territory?

This concern of mine comes to the fore upon recalling a piece by Keka Ruiz-Tagle that she exhibited some years ago at the National Museum of Fine Arts and which attracted the attention not only of the children visiting the museum but of the adults too!

What was it about?

At the Sala Chile of the museum, she installed a large circular piece that replicated those small old music boxes which, if wound up, would begin to move and small figurines from fairy tales or the circus would begin to turn around. On that occasion acrobats turned around a central element, where a ballerina dressed in a ballet suit stood on the back of a horse that was in constant movement. At the same time, you could hear music in tune with the turns, the lights, the colours and forms as well as the attractive suits of the acrobats.

It was a very neat and detailed installation, technically perfect, with faultless electronic programming.

As if by magic, the music box was enlarged to a monumental scale, creating a playful environment as if, suddenly, we found ourselves in the midst of a circus spectacle. The public observed this uncommon and charming imaginary world now brought to the museum, through peepholes open at different levels according to the height of the spectators.

In those “magic turns” Keka Ruiz-Tagle prolonged the poetic evocation of dreams and childhood fantasies that are so much part of her personal creativity and derived of her proximity to the world of childhood.

How necessary it is for art to approach the reality of children with their behaviour, yearnings and life experiences!

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