

Clara Alejandra Torrado Ibáñez (Ana Sol)

Plastic artist, visual artist, cultural manager, and educator.



She was born in Ocaña, Norte de Santander, Colombia, and from an early age showed a great interest in creative writing, being recognised in her adolescence with municipal awards for poetry and short stories between the years 2002 and 2003. She lived in her hometown until she was 19; there she completed her secondary education in 2004 at “La Presentación” school.

In 2005, she moved to Bucaramanga, a city where she developed most of her artistic, pedagogical, and cultural career. She continued her professional training and always leaned towards careers in humanities and arts. Initially, she explored theatre from the age of 8, then choral music and photography, before starting her university education in fine arts at the Universidad Industrial de Santander (UIS), from which she graduated with a master's degree in fine arts in 2022. Her artistic work focuses on sensory experience and emotional memory, particularly exploring smell, touch, and sound in installations and experiential contemporary art proposals. A curious fact is that during her career she took a break that allowed her to return to theatre and writing and participate in various artistic workshops such as photography, crafts, cinema, and culture.

Ana Sol has participated in art and photography festivals, including the first editions of the Encuentro Fotográfico por Santander, Festival Vuelven los Comuneros, and literary festivals such as La Playa de Belén in Norte de Santander, as well as in local and national



exhibitions. She has considered herself a visual artist for over 10 years and has completed technical

studies in photography and digital design, which she finished in 2019 at Colombia College, before being readmitted to the Arts programme at UIS.

In the pedagogical field, she has had the opportunity to coordinate cultural workshops at institutions such as the Casa Museo Natal Luis Carlos Galán Sarmiento and artistic mediation programmes with La Cámara de Comercio de Bucaramanga, el Instituto Municipal de Cultura y Turismo (IMCT), and el Museo de Arte Moderno de Bucaramanga. Currently, she is involved in the “Programa de Fomento del IMCT” in the cultural management section as the president of the Board of Directors of el Museo de Arte Moderno de Bucaramanga (MAMB) since 2021.

Additionally, she has pursued supplementary studies in curation, cultural management, museology, film, and visual communication. In 2023, Ana Sol received the national MacTesis recognition for her



visual artwork “Genesis del Recuerdo”, as it was one of the best art thesis in the country. In addition to her artistic work, she is currently studying for a master's in pedagogy at UIS, with a research-action proposal focused on artistic mediation, memory, and pedagogical strategies for audience development and artistic appreciation.



Clara Torrado, also known as Ana Sol, is a woman with Asperger's autism who found in her condition an enriched sensitivity and way of understanding art, pedagogy, and life that led her to promote inclusive and ethical practices in cultural fields. Her personal life is deeply connected to the defence of nature and animal rights, which is why she has been vegan since 2014, and she shares her life journey with her partner, environmentalist Orlando Beltrán Quesada, founder of the first animal rights NGO in Colombia.

“Tres perros”

Urban art as an artistic expression is characterised by being accessible to everyone, as it is found in public spaces such as walls, streets, markets, parks, etc. This street art generally captures the public's attention with its beauty and seeks to convey cultural, social, historical, and even political messages. Urban art takes on different forms, such as graffiti, murals, installations, sculptures, monuments, and stickers, among others. The case of the mural located under the bridge of El Cacique shopping centre, which connects the Neomundo events and conventions centre, is a clear example of urban art. This was carried out in March of this year by a collective called "Tres perros" who took it upon themselves to beautify the city with their brushstrokes and at the same time paid tribute to Juan Eloy Valenzuela Mantilla, who was a professor, university philosopher, priest for five decades in Bucaramanga, and part of the botanical expedition in Colombia, an eminent botanist who passed away in the chapel of Los Dolores in 1834.



The collective "Tres Perros" always seeks for their works to engage in dialogue with the past but also to connect with the dreams of the present. This is a group of Santander plastic artists composed of Sebastián Gómez Vargas, Humberto Kevin Pinto, Anderson Niño Durán, and previously Juan Felipe Fuentes (2000-2024), which was born in 2016 as a platform for the circulation of the city's emerging art. However, over time, the collective evolved and found other ways to work with creativity. For example, fanzines, where different local artists are invited to participate in these low-budget magazines that circulate in the city. Subsequently, the collective "Tres Perros" began working on urban art with various interventions where their strokes reinforce the sense of belonging and tell stories of the local community.

Now, over time, they have managed to participate in different festivals and local projects such as the Three Dogs Tour with the mural "Por siempre Bumangués", "Graffiti y Cumbia" in Bucaramanga, Commune 14, "Píntala bonita" on student street in Real de Minas, "Colores de la cuesta" in Piedecuesta, "Pinky por siempre" in memory of their friend Juan Fuentes, the exhibition "Huele a calle" in Jorge Mantilla Caballero Exhibition Hall of the IMCT (Instituto Municipal de Cultura y Turismo de Bucaramanga); and even their murals have reached different departments like Pamplona, Norte de Santander where they highlighted urban nature, informal trade, and local animals on one of the walls of the Museo Casa Anzoátegui. Colonial mansion of cultural heritage where there are pre-Columbian objects and a tribute is paid to one of the heroes of the Boyacá battle that sealed the independence on August 7, 1819, the general José Antonio Anzoátegui.



"Tres Perros" is one of the various artistic collectives in the city that beautify the streets, telling stories not only from the past but also from the present and future with a critical perspective for all audiences as an open-air gallery. Their goal is to not only inform, convey emotions, and generate intrigue to learn more, but also to recognise a local identity that makes us unique. The atmosphere and reception that these visual artists have with the community while painting allows them to connect with children, young people, and adults interested in learning about their painting, techniques, materials, and more. So much so that they try to capture all those experiences of comradeship and knowledge of the moment in their urban art to create a collective memory from three perspectives with a single purpose: to transform communities through art, filling cultural gaps.