

# AUGER INFOCUS

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## SCIENCE AND ART IN AUGER

### ARADO DE VIENTOS

The first sculpture installed on the grounds of the central building of the Pierre Auger Observatory in the city of Malargüe is "Arado de Vientos" ("Wind Plow"). Its author, the sculptor from La Plata, Juan Pezzani, comments: "Regarding the series to which this work belongs (Fig. 1), in addition to the formal search of combining shapes, generating volumes and spaces that unsettle and convey balance and presence, there is an exploration of the forms of production and identity of the countryside, the model of Argentine development and production... the struggle between an industrial model and an agricultural one as the identity and productive matrix of our country, the machines and the scales, the shapes, the colors, the oxides—all of that has been a part of me since I was very young and is part of my development as an individual. The plows, harrows, and tractors, along with many other machines resting outdoors, waiting for something."



FIGURE 1. "ARADO DE VIENTOS"

Carlos Hojvat, physicist and former project deputy manager, adds: "In relation to the Observatory, the concept of 'Plowing' refers to our research tasks, giving rise to the germination of new ideas, such as the development of new plants for the benefit of humanity. The motif 'Winds' honors the city of Malargüe, which welcomed us with open arms, and where the winds of Mendoza are present daily."

### ON CANVAS

The paintings by Argentine artist Ana Kozel (1937–2024) were donated to the Observatory by the artist herself. Their titles Cosmic Dance - Black Hole II (Fig.2) and, Explosion of Alpha Centauri (Fig. 3), evoke the cosmic context.

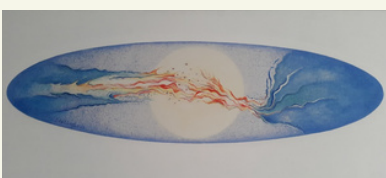


FIGURE 3. EXPLOSIÓN DE ALFA CENTAURI. OIL ON CANVAS, 1998

## CELEBRATIONS

For the celebration of November 10, 2005, the entrance monument was built. Teresa Dova, physicist and former president of the Auger board of directors, tells us: "Jim [Cronin], Paul [Mantsch], and I had the idea of doing something, but we didn't know what. At that time, we had a meeting in Paris, and while walking through the streets of Paris, I saw the Wall of Peace and thought, 'that's what we need, transparency, glass, so the sky can be seen'... upon returning, I met with an architect, Federico García Canal (the son of the great Carlos), and I told him everything, and with a lot of creativity, from the little I told him, he designed the monument. The new version of the 'monument' captures the idea of Auger in Malargüe and the ceremony. It is light, transparent with the glass, the text is simple... The hole in the roof, from which light is projected onto the vertical element, highlights the great sky of Malargüe, the place in the world for Auger South" (Fig. 4: from left to right, A. Watson, J. Cronin, and P. Mantsch).

In 2019, a sculpture by artist Juan Pezzani was installed. The work consists of a 5-meter-tall iron totem with a triangular base measuring 52 cm on each side. Its interior lighting produces beams that evoke a cosmic rain of light, featuring marks and cuts that invite reflection.



FIGURE 4. "MONUMENTO 2008"



FIGURE 5. "TOTEM 20 AÑOS"

The "totem" symbolizes an instrument that connects us from Earth to the events in the sky and the cosmos (Fig. 5).

## COSMIC SHOWER



FIGURE 6. COSMIC SHOWER"

Cosmic Shower (Fig. 6) is a creation in aluminum and wood by artist Masako Schwalbenitz from Honolulu, Hawaii. It captures the essence of the highest-energy cosmic rays. The various exotic woods from the South Pacific used in this piece symbolize the richness of the data and the diverse international collaboration that has made the Pierre Auger Observatory a reality.

This artwork was donated to the Observatory by Michigan Technological University.

## TEXTILE ART



FIGURE 8. "HYBRID MASK"

Created by Gabriella Cataldi, physicist and member of the International Collaboration at the Observatory, the "Mask" made of crochet represents the hybrid detection of cosmic rays, with surface detectors, fluorescence, scintillation, and radio waves (Fig. 7), and is part of the artistic heritage of the Observatory.

FIGURE 2. ANA KOZEL IN HER STUDIO, PAINTING "DANZA CÓSMICA". OIL ON CANVAS, 1987

