London-born Colombian artist Carolina Caycedo presents her first major survey in Europe, exploring environmental justice through sculptural installations, drawings and film. Caycedo’s artworks examine the social and environmental impact of harnessing rivers to generate power.

Carolina Caycedo makes work that addresses environmental justice, just energy transition and cultural and environmental biodiversity. Through her studio practice and fieldwork with communities impacted by large-scale infrastructure and other extraction projects, she invites viewers to consider the unsustainable pace of growth under capitalism and how we might embrace resistance and solidarity.

Process and participation are central to Caycedo’s practice, bringing a collective dimension through performances, photographs and videos. Her work contributes to the construction of environmental memory as a fundamental space for climate and social justice. It challenges us to understand nature not as a resource to be exploited, but as a living and spiritual entity that unites people beyond borders.

For Caycedo’s first survey exhibition in Europe, BALTIC presents an overview of her artistic practice over the past twenty years, alongside a new commission titled Tyne Catchment (2022), inspired by the River Tyne, which expands her ongoing River Book series. The exhibition will feature works from major series including Be Dammed (2012–ongoing), a multimedia project that examines the impact of hydroelectric dams and other major infrastructure projects on communities and the environment.
Caycedo’s work contributes to the construction of environmental historical memory, as a fundamental element for non-repetition of violence against human and non-human entities. She participates in movements of territorial resistance, solidarity economies, and housing as a human right, and works with groups and communities affected by extractivist projects involving the construction of dams and the privatisation of bodies of water to generate debate about environmental justice.

Carolina is LA-based and available for interview, and we would be happy to accommodate visits to the exhibition in Gateshead from 27 May onward.

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Notes to Editors

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About Carolina Caycedo

Carolina Caycedo (b.1978), is a London-born Colombian artist, living in Los Angeles. She participates in movements of territorial resistance, solidarity economies, and housing as a human right. Carolina’s artistic practice has a collective dimension to it in which performances, drawings, photographs and videos are not just an end result, but rather part of the artist’s process of research and acting. Her work contributes to the construction of environmental historical memory as a fundamental element for non-repetition of violence against human and non-human entities, and generates a debate about the future in relation to common goods, environmental justice, just energy transition and cultural biodiversity.

She has held residencies at The Huntington Gardens, Libraries and Art Collections in San Marino, California DAAD artists-in-Berlin program , amongst others. Caycedo has received funding from Creative Capital, California Community Foundation, Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, Harpo Foundation, Art Matters, Colombian Culture Ministry, Arts Council UK, and Prince Claus Fund.

Recent solo museum shows include Care Report at Muzeum Sztuki in Łódź; Wanaawna, Rio Hondo and Other Spirits in Orange County Museum of Art, and Cosmotarrayas at ICA Boston and From the bottom of the River at MCA Chicago. In 2019 her work was part of the 45 Salón Nacional de Artistas Colombia, Chicago Architecture Biennial, Film sector of Art Basel in Basel, and the 2020 Wanlass Artist in Residence at Occidental College in Los Angeles. Caycedo is the 2020-2022 Inaugural Borderlands Fellow at the Center for Imagination in the Borderlands- Arizona State University and the Vera List Center for Art and Politics. She is a member of the Los Angeles Tenants Union and the Rios Vivos Colombia Social Movement.

About BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art

BALTIC is a major international centre for contemporary art situated on the south bank of the River Tyne in Gateshead, England and has welcomed over eight million visitors since opening to the public in July 2002. BALTIC presents a distinctive and ambitious programme of exhibitions and events, and is a world leader in the presentation and commissioning of contemporary visual art.
Housed in a landmark ex-industrial building, BALTIC consists of 2,600 square metres of art space, making it the UK’s largest dedicated contemporary art institution. BALTIC has gained an international reputation for its commissioning of cutting-edge temporary exhibitions. It has presented the work of over 460 artists of 60 nationalities in 220 exhibitions to date.