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“Fictions of Women and Nature at the Time of Rubber Extraction”

My research examines the representation of women and nature during the Amazon Rubber Boom, in books, photos and films in the work of Latin American artists. Portrayals of the women and nature in Latin American literature and arts in the rubber period tend to fixate upon gender and nature (and the relationship between them). They demonstrate the stereotyped and idealized way in which women and nature have been understood during this period. My purpose is to investigate the ways in which modern discourse (ergo industrial modernization and the modes and relations of capitalist production, the discourse of modernization through international markets and the desire to modernize and civilize the Amazon basin) reactivated, adapted and helped to perpetuate stereotypes of gender and nature in the artistic materials.

There are many individual representations throughout literature and cinema about the ambivalence of women and nature, but behind these stereotyped images is always the justification on the part of the elites of the subjection of women and nature, there is fear that generated nature and women in the context of the unpredictable and is also, the desire to conquer, submit and possess the riches of nature and women.