

ArtNexus, March 2021 (online)

Teresa Margolles shortlisted to produce work for the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square



Aproximación al lugar de los hechos (Proximity to the scene), 2020 Sound Installation: steel, 20 hot plates, dripping system, and water extracted from sites where women were murdered in Sydney and its surrounding suburbs; red industrial curtains. 20 steel plates: each 23 5/8 x 23 5/8 in. Overall: 196 7/8 x 669 1/4 x 236 1/4 in. Installation view: NIRIN, 22nd Biennale of Sydney, National Art School, Sydney, Australia
Photo: Zan Wimberley

Teresa Margolles is among the six artists to be considered for the fourth plinth commission in Trafalgar Square. Together with her are Nicole Eisenman, Samson Kambalu, Goshka Macuga, Ibrahim Mahama, and Paloma Varga Weisz.

Sadiq Khan, London's Mayor, during his announcement, said, "The fourth plinth is one of the flagship contemporary art commissions in the world, and I look forward to seeing how these artists will transform it."

The six artists' proposals will be revealed in late May when they go on display at the National Gallery. The organizers will choose and announce two of them in the summer, and their work will be unveiled in 2022 and 2024.

Margolles' selection has surprised the media; The Guardian dedicated a review recognizing her importance and merits to be on the list. But wondering from past works by her what she might present, remembering works as the 2009 Venice Biennale, where she introduced blood from gang war victims in her work.

The final decision will consider the public, with a judging panel chaired by Ekow Eshun, the artist Jeremy Deller and newsreader Jon Snow.