

Dec. 14, 2021

To the Real Academia de España en Roma,

This is a letter of recommendation for María Belén Moncayo, a researcher, curator and archivist from Ecuador whom I have known for approximately seven years. I first met María Belén when I was presenting some of my films at the the Encuentros Documentales de Otra Ciné in Ecuador in 2013. Belén attended several of my programs during which we began a conversation around our shared interest in alternative film and video. It did not take long for me to discover, Belén's expertise in the field, particularly her commitment to representing experimental media from her country of Ecuador. We spoke often and in great depth about contemporary media, both in her country and internationally. From the start, I was impressed by the depth and breadth of her knowledge, her passion for the work, and her understanding of the importance of research and advocacy for the non-commercial work she held so near and dear.

About a year after I met Belén, we reconnected in the United States when she was working with the Getty Center on a project entitled "Ismo, Ismo, Ismo" that was intended to support the dissemination of media arts work from the Southern Hemisphere. Belén has a distinct and well-regarded expertise on artist film and video from Ecuador. Her mission was to advocate for the artists she holds so near and dear on an international level.

Over the course of the next few years, we spent a great deal of time together here in New York City as she continued her research and spent time learning about the field.

Now, she is applying to your center to continue her study of the work of Eduardo Solá Franco, an Ecuadoran filmmaker whose work she has already exhibited in a program at the Anthology Film Archives with another filmmaker I admire greatly, the Puerto Rican artist José Rodríguez Soltero.

María Belén Moncayo is an extremely curious, energetic, engaging, and intellectual person who would benefit enormously from your support of her research. She, in turn, will show interest and support for her peers in your program.

With all of this in mind, I hope you will offer her a position at the Real Academia de España en Roma.

Please feel free to write to me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Lynne Sachs
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