

Laguna no. 2

by **Mario Marzan**

Audio Description Script

by Molly Hull, June 2022



Script

The following is an audio description of *Laguna no. 2* by Mario Marzan. This artwork, created in 2017, is acrylic and graphite on wood panel. The panel measures 5 feet tall by 4 feet wide.

Vertical stripes, painted in hues of green, red, orange, yellow, blue, purple, brown and pink, extend from the bottom edge of the panel towards the horizon line that is positioned just above the half-way point of the composition. Painted one next the other against a white background, the stripes form a thick line that resembles a rainbow. The end of the rainbow-colored stripes curves inward creating a soft “u” resembling a slide. The majority of this rainbow-colored stripes lays atop a grid of light grey lines. The size and shape of each square varies suggesting this grid is a raised-relief map, which are used to emphasize the characteristics of the terrain. In this case, this terrain is characterized by mountains and flat planes. Two-thirds down the line, the grid lines overlap the rainbow-colored stripes. To the left of the top of the “u,” the grid lines form a rock formation. To the right of this element the grid lines straighten and recede backwards towards other formations in the distance. This flat plane perhaps

suggests a body of water embedded within the mountains with an opening on the horizon

Four light-teal, thin stripes extend at a sharp right angle from the bottom edge of the panel towards a rectangular shape that is perpendicular with the multi-colored line and positioned in the opposite direction of the lines. The rectangle is constructed by two types of dark teal shapes that are three rows tall and three rows wide. One shape resembles a curvilinear, Latin Cross, while the other resembles a diamond with a rounded edge square placed on top. These shapes are parallel to one another and form lines; there is space in between that reveals the white background beneath. Connected to this shape is another set of four, light teal lines that extend opposite of dark teal shape and off the right side of the right edge of the composition. The four lines reappear from their exit point and extend at an angle towards the right of the top left corner of the panel. The lines disappear off the panel and the dark teal shape emerges from the lines' exit point and is directed towards the left side of the panel

Two pink rectangles merge with this zig-zag formation at the dark teal shape at the mid-point of the composition. Grid lines lay overtop both rectangles; one rectangle contains straight grid-lines, while the other rectangles' grid lines are curvy. A black shape constructed of a triangle with three, elongated rectangle flanks the sides of the rectangle closest to the viewer along with the dark teal shape. This is a black and white version of the flag of Puerto Rico. This arrangement constructs a larger three-dimensional rectangle that resembles a raised platform such as a stage.

The upper half of the composition is dominated by various colored brushstrokes that mimic a nature scape with suggested elements such as water, greenery, and a mountain range. Within this abstraction are two pink shapes, a square and a triangle; otherwise, the strokes vary between blended and textured. The greens, blues, and orange of the nature scape cascade upwards towards dark gray splotches that resemble clouds.

Marzan writes, "My drawings recontextualize simplified shapes, signs and symbols from historical, natural and architectural imagery-- forming representational atmospheres of fractured landscapes. The eclectic and exaggerated array of colors highlight the formal as well as conceptual disparities; skies are dark but still obviously sunny and the landscapes are rendered subordinate to their refractions. The color palette references an exaggeration of a "Caribbean color" theory; an overstated analogy to the Caribbean as a tropical playground for self-indulgence." Inspired by his place of birth, Puerto Rico,

Marzan's work comments on the strength of its people and their ability to live within shifting landscapes.

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