

MEDIA RELEASE

## **OCÉANOS**

Roberto Huarcaya

**On View** — by appointment only: May 17<sup>th</sup> — July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, Hours: 2 — 6pm

**Opening Reception** — Thursday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 6 — 8pm

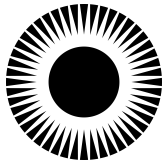
NEW YORK, NY (May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022) — Penumbra Foundation is pleased to present *OCÉANOS*, an exhibition of large-scale photograms of the Pacific Ocean by Peruvian artist Roberto Huarcaya.

In 2014, Huarcaya was commissioned by a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving the world's largest wild places, to visit and photograph the southeast part of the Amazon forest. After two years of trips to the area (and several failed attempts to capture its complexity), Huarcaya realized that there was no camera or lens capable of recording the brutal and immeasurable experience of the jungle. At that point, he decided to eliminate the intermediary tools and started to work directly on light-sensitive papers. Since then, the artist has adopted this process to produce artworks that examine Peruvian territory and culture from the Amazonian border in the west to the Pacific shore in the east.

In what could be described as a "*photogramatic performance*," Huarcaya, together with a group of colleagues and friends, entered the waters of the sea to record its virulent nature and traces of contamination. Working with color and black and white silver halide papers, the resulting images grapple with the possibilities of documentation, representation and abstraction in photography, while inviting the viewer to look and reflect on the suspended space between the depicted subject and the created object.

Accompanying the photograms of the ocean are three of the six panels that make up Huarcaya's work *Andean Musicians* (2018), along with three reproductions from his series *Amazogramas* (2014), at a scale of 1:15 (the original works are 90ft). The limited-edition prints from *Amazogramas* are part of a publication made by the artist in 2016.

*OCÉANOS* is the first-ever exhibition of these photograms. It will be on view at Penumbra Foundation from April 28<sup>th</sup> to July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022.



### **About the artist:**

Roberto Huarcaya (Lima, Peru | b.1959) graduated in Psychology from the Universidad Católica del Perú, and studied Cinema and Photography at the Instituto Italiano de Cultura and Photography at the Centro del Video y la Imagen (Madrid, 1989).

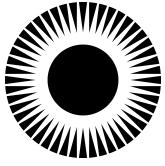
He has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions in the US, Europe, Central and South America, and Asia, including the 6th Havana Biennial 1997; Lima Biennial 1997, 1998 and 2000; Primavera Fotográfica of Cataluña 1998; PhotoEspaña 1999; the 49th Venice Biennale, 2001; 2014 Daegu Photo Biennial; Polyptychs, CoCA Center on Contemporary Art, Seattle, 2007; Dialogues, MOLAA, Museum of Latin American Art, California, 2009; Mois de la Photo 2010, Paris; Biennial de Daegu 2014, Corea; Valongo festival 2016, Brazil. He is the recipient of many awards and honors, including the first prize in the Contest Imagen del Perú, organized by Unión Latina in 1991; the third prize in the Amor y Muerte Contest, organized by the Latinamerican Center of Munich, Germany in 1997; and was an artist in residence in the Cité Internationale des Arts in Paris, France in 1997 and 1998. In 2010, he won the Petrobras Award in Buenos Aires, Argentina. At the 2016 Venice Biennale, he won the secondary prize for national pavilions with the architecture curatorial team. He is an internationally invited lecturer, professor and portfolio reviewer. He serves as co-editor of CDI, Centro de la Imagen magazine, and Sueño de la Razón Latin American photography magazine. He was co-director of Lima Photo Art Fair, 2010 – 2017; and Photography Biennial of Lima, 2012 – 2014. He was a lecturer of Photography at the Universidad de Lima (1990-1993), at the Gaudi Institute (Lima, 1993-1997), and at the Centro de la Fotografía, now Centro de la Imagen (Lima, since 1999) of which he is founder and director. His work is part of the Maison Européenne de la Photographie in Paris, the Fine Arts Museum of Houston, the MOLAA Museum of Latin American Art in California, the CoCA Center on Contemporary Art in Seattle, the Lehigh University Art Collection, the Art Museum of Lima, from the San Marcos Museum in Lima, the América Foundation in Santiago de Chile, the Wilfredo Lam Contemporary Art Center in Havana, and the Hochschild and Mulder Private Collection, among others.

### **About Penumbra's Exhibition Space**

Penumbra's Exhibition Space is a new gallery dedicated to presenting work that advances historic and alternative photographic processes in ways that are as conceptually and socially relevant as they are materially driven. The goal of this space is to foster conversations about the role of photography in contemporary society through curated exhibitions and collaborations.

### **About Penumbra Foundation**

Penumbra Foundation is a non-profit organization that brings together the Art and Science of Photography through education, research, outreach, public and residency programs. Its goal is to be a comprehensive resource for photographers at any level, artists, students, professionals, historians, researchers, conservators and curators. Penumbra specializes in advancing the use of historic and alternative photographic technologies for contemporary image-making.



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