

The Tree by the Lake by Alejos Lorenzo Vergara CrossMark

Recognizing the contribution art has had in the Mayo Clinic environment since the original Mayo Clinic Building was finished in 1914, *Mayo Clinic Proceedings* features some of the numerous works of art displayed throughout the buildings and grounds on Mayo Clinic campuses as interpreted by the author.



Alejos Lorenzo Vergara (1975-) from Ferrol, Spain, is a self-taught artist. He studied technical architecture from 1994-2000, and graduated from Escuela Universitaria de Arquitectura Técnica (EUAT), in A Couruña, Spain.^{1,2} Vergara's style has been most clearly influenced by the

pop art movement, but also by naive art, or Japanese ukiyo-e.²

Pop art relies heavily on bold colors, sharp edges, and cartoon-like characteristics.³ A response to post-World War II prosperity, it emerged in the 1950s and attempted to commandeer art from the elite and infuse it into the commonplace.

The Tree by the Lake, a 39×39-inch acrylic on canvas painting, invokes many of these elements with the whimsical blue and orange trees, anemone-like bushes, and multicolored boulders. The central figure of the large tree harkens to bonsai, but in colossal size. The neutral greys of the background — included in the lake and the sky — frees each individual element of the painting and strengthens the power of the work.

The Tree by the Lake is located in the hallway access to the Generose Building of Mayo Clinic Hospital, Saint Marys Campus, Rochester, Minnesota.

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1. About Alejos Lorenzo. Saatchi Art website. https://www.saatchiart.com/alejoslv?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&campaign=IM_-_DSA&group=All_Pages&keyword=&utm_campaign=2140&gclid=Cj0KCCQiA4bzSBRDOARIsAHjIUO6ktNdIqBcFZpsQVfxq_E6Q-uQrXmlbVQ9AA-6_gQjIwl2ebcMgBQAaAn3gEALw_wcB. Accessed January 5, 2018.
2. Alejos Lorenzo Vergara. Shairart website. <https://shairart.com/artist/alejos-lorenzo-vergara-10057>. Accessed January 5, 2018.
3. Pop Art. Wikipedia website. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pop_art. Accessed January 5, 2018.