

Sonia Falcone: Campo de Color (Color Field)

Campo de Color (Color Field) is an immersive installation made from spices, salts, and pigments. Created by Bolivian artist Sonia Falcone (born 1965), the artwork is not only a multi-sensory experience, but also a commentary on the way that food connects people, cultures, and regions around the world.

Falcone was first inspired to make *Campo de Color (Color Field)* after visiting a spice market in Jerusalem. Her experience there was a feast for the senses, with vendors buying, selling, and trading colorful and fragrant spices. “I wanted to capture the excitement and life at a market,” she explained after being there. Her resulting room-sized artwork consists of over twenty-five different spices, including anise, cloves, chocolate, cinnamon, coffee, curry, ginger, mint, oregano, paprika, salt, and wasabi.

Falcone spent over a year acquiring spices from around the world before she first installed *Campo de Color* at the Venice Biennale in 2013. Her process of locating, sourcing, and purchasing the materials recalls the spice trades of the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries, when the exchange of such commodities shaped not only maritime routes but led to waves of colonization throughout the Northern Hemisphere.

Campo de Color (Color Field) is also intended as an homage to Modern artists who used color as a primary mode of expression. Color Field painting was a type of abstract painting that became popular in the 1950s and 60s when artists applied solid color paint to emphasize the flatness of their canvases. The style was practiced by artists such as Helen Frankenthaler, Barnett Newman, Kenneth Noland, Mark Rothko, and Alma Thomas. While Falcone also relies on color as a primary means of expression, her field of colors offers an exhilarating, multi-dimensional experience of vibrant hues, depths, and scents that enlivens all of our senses.

Sonia Falcone's Campo de Color (Color Field), 2013 is part of the Robert S. and Dorothy J. Keyser Greater West Collection at the Nevada Museum of Art.