



Inspired by the Colorful World of Women

One day, Enrico Chapela (Mexico City, 1974) watched a documentary about how humans have three types of cone cells in their eyes that perceive red, green, and blue, and how the colors we see are produced by trichromatic vision. However, people with color vision deficiency have genetic mutations that alter one of these types, restricting their color perception range. These cones can also mutate into a fourth type capable of perceiving ultraviolet light, a phenomenon that only occurs in some women, known as tetrachromats.

"I found it super interesting; these women have a superpower, like a mutation from the X-Men; most of them don't even know they have it because it was only recently discovered. A visual artist realized it, but nobody believed her, and many of them were considered crazy for distinguishing a different color range.

However, the painter insisted, and it was discovered that she had four types of cones, and that fourth tone is attuned, allowing her to see colors in greater detail. I thought it was wonderful," Chapela recounts in an interview. Chapela was fascinated by this ability, which is also found in some insects, like bees, and birds, like hummingbirds; some fish even have seven cones to distinguish hidden fish in the sand. But it wasn't just the extraordinary nature of the mutation that caught his attention; it was also the word "tetrachromat." "It sounds fantastic; I often give my pieces made-up words, so 'tetrachromat' sounded like a piece I could write."

An early version of the piece premiered in 2015, with flautist Alejandro Escuer, at the International Cervantino Festival. Now, Tetracrómatas, a concerto for amplified flutes and orchestra, in which flautist Evangelina Reyes will use four flutes of different sizes at various moments, representing the colors captured by the four types of cones, will have its absolute premiere at the Palacio de Bellas Artes on May 31, 2024, with the National Symphony Orchestra conducted by Enrique Arturo Diemecke. "I wasn't satisfied with the first version, and I'm only referring to the score, not the performance; but now I'm fully satisfied, and the real test will come when it premieres at Bellas Artes with the National Symphony Orchestra, a group that had never programmed me in a regular season," Chapela says.

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https://heraldodemexico.com.mx/edicion-impresa/2024/5/30/se-inspira-en-el-colorido-mundo-de-las-mujeres-607910.html?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAR2UVF4_U4dYwfgOO6Twde8ZUa5gh0YoxULIig_5-eprMk_N2UHFj72p_FI_aem_AAeoonCfxGhZ2X4Og0jJSA