

This work was first exhibited in 1940 at the First Annual Salon of Colombian Artists and was the most popular among the visitors. In the painting we see the academic drawing, color care and what was most surprising: a stylized representation of the mulatto resting peacefully conscious of her beauty.

ENRIQUE GRAU ARAÚJO
Mulata cartagenera
 1940 óleo sobre tela



To Policarpa Salavarrieta the fact of dying young and shot made of her the image of a heroine and martyr of Independence and was fixed in history forever. Espinosa (who most likely knew her) represented her with an elaborate hairstyle, also the delicate lace of her dress and the peaceful gesture seem to describe a girl whose rebellion was perhaps best not to make so evident.

JOSÉ MARÍA ESPINOSA PRIETO
Policarpa Salavarrieta
 ca. 1850 óleo sobre marfil



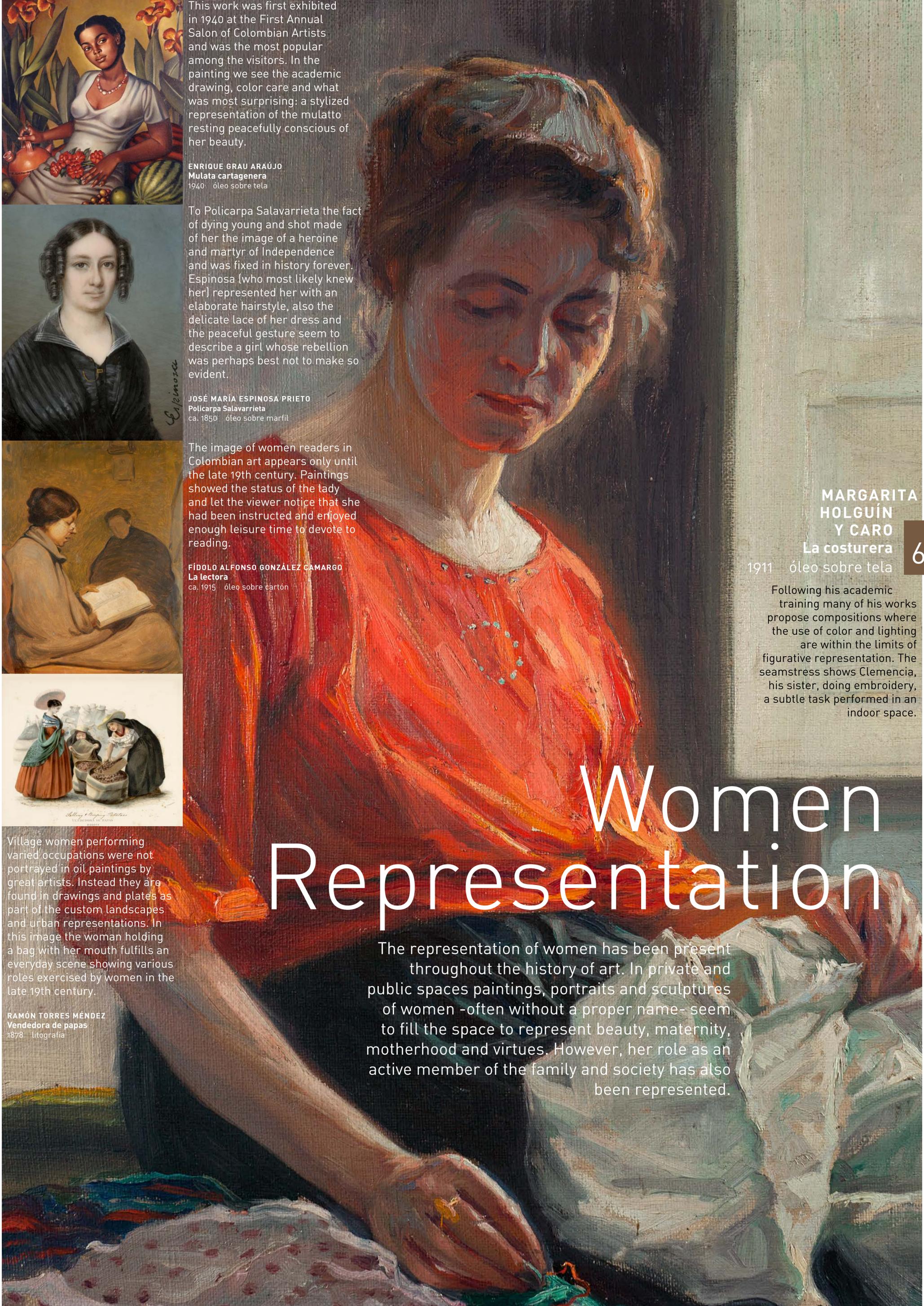
The image of women readers in Colombian art appears only until the late 19th century. Paintings showed the status of the lady and let the viewer notice that she had been instructed and enjoyed enough leisure time to devote to reading.

FÍDOLO ALFONSO GONZÁLEZ CAMARGO
La lectora
 ca. 1915 óleo sobre cartón



Village women performing varied occupations were not portrayed in oil paintings by great artists. Instead they are found in drawings and plates as part of the custom landscapes and urban representations. In this image the woman holding a bag with her mouth fulfills an everyday scene showing various roles exercised by women in the late 19th century.

RAMÓN TORRES MÉNDEZ
Vendedora de papas
 1878 litografía



MARGARITA HOLGUÍN Y CARO
La costurera
 1911 óleo sobre tela

Following his academic training many of his works propose compositions where the use of color and lighting are within the limits of figurative representation. The seamstress shows Clemencia, his sister, doing embroidery, a subtle task performed in an indoor space.

Women Representation

The representation of women has been present throughout the history of art. In private and public spaces paintings, portraits and sculptures of women -often without a proper name- seem to fill the space to represent beauty, maternity, motherhood and virtues. However, her role as an active member of the family and society has also been represented.