

Claudia Alarcón & Silät
Anni Albers

Focus, Booth F18

The Armory Show 2024

Cecilia Brunson Projects is pleased to share a dual presentation by the textile collective Claudia Alarcón & Silät (founded 2023) and the Bauhaus weaver and printmaker Anni Albers (1899-1994).

Claudia Alarcón and Silät are a collective of women weavers from the indigenous Wichí communities of Salta, northwest Argentina. Coordinated by Alarcón, the collective weave with hand-spun, naturally-dyed fibers from the native chaguar plant, a communal and female-led practice that has been central to Wichí culture for centuries. An inherited visual language of Wichí symbols provides a ground for their radical abstract works, which are celebrated this year in the main exhibition of the Venice Biennale.

For Armory, the artists have produced new works in response to Anni Albers' textiles and *Pictorial Weaving* prints. In doing so, they bring into view the continuing back-and-forth exchange between pre-Columbian and European traditions in abstraction and textile art.



Claudia Alarcón & Silät's textiles mark an important contribution to the rich tradition of geometric abstraction in South America, and to the strand of art history that includes Anni and Josef Albers' exploration of pre-Hispanic South American textiles.

In fact, Anni Albers held chaguar textiles from Salta in her personal collection, from which she extracted geometric principles and weaving techniques as she developed her own practice in the United States. Albers' 'yica' bag from Salta, Argentina is reproduced in her publication *On Weaving* to demonstrate one of her looping techniques.

The *Focus* section, curated by Robyn Farrell, looks back on the history of the Armory Show, built on a foundation of innovation through cultural exchange. The pairing of these artists and their distinct interpretations of South American textile practices not only invites critical thought on the directions of influence, but celebrates the habitual return to pre-Columbian geometries as fertile ground for experimentation, in resistance to viewing these as static traditions.



Claudia Alarcón

Honat lasilatiq! [*Tierra hermosa llena de sabiduría! / Beautiful land full of wisdom!*], 2024

Hand-spun chaguar fibre, woven in antique stitch

Unframed: 82 x 49 cm (32 1/4 x 19 1/4 in)



Anni Albers, *TRII*, 1970, three-colour aluminium plate lithograph on Arjomari paper. Sheet: 50.2 x 54.9 cm (19 3/4 x 21 5/8 in), image: 35.6 x 40.6 cm (14 x 16 in)
Edition of 45, signed, numbered and dated in pencil on front



Claudia Alarcón, *Lomo de suri (ñandú) y presencias* [Ostrich back pattern and presence], 2024, hand-spun chaguar fibre, woven in 'yica' stitch, unframed: 140 x 140 cm (55 1/8 x 55 1/8 in)



Claudia Alarcón & Silät, *Okajhij* [*Un paisaje de felicidad / A landscape of happiness*], 2024, hand-spun chaguar fibre, woven in 'yica' stitch, unframed: 152 x 150 cm (59 7/8 x 59 in)



Claudia Alarcón & Silät, *Nuestros tejidos son nuestra alegría* [Our weavings are our happiness], 2024, hand-spun chaguar fibre, woven in 'yica' stitch
Framed: 177 x 163 cm (69 3/4 x 64 1/8 in)



Claudia Alarcón

*La presencia permanente del sol con su
resplandor [The ever-present sun and
its radiance], 2024*

Crocheted acrylic wool

145 x 125 cm (57 1/8 x 49 1/4 in)





1987

Claudia Alarcón & Silät

Collective founded 2023

Santa Victoria Esta, Salta, Argentina

Claudia Alarcón (b. 1989, Argentina) is an indigenous textile artist from the La Puntana community of Wichí people of northern Salta. Alongside her individual practice, she leads the Silät collective (2023), an organisation of one hundred women weavers of different generations from the Alto la Sierra and La Puntana Wichí communities. Wichí society is clan-based and matrilineal. Weaving with hand-spun vegetal fibres from the local chaguar plant has been a communal, female-led activity for centuries, and is fundamental to the visual culture, narrative history and economics of the Wichí people. The textiles, formed of geometric motifs drawn from the surrounding environment, are a method of communicating unspoken thoughts within a culture that values highly forms of non-verbal expression, and the messages found within dreams and subconscious intuition. Silät, the name adopted by the artist collective, means 'information' or 'alert,' and reflects the role of their textiles to convey messages and a shared cultural sentiment. Coordinated by Alarcón and working closely with curator Andrei Fernández since 2015, Silät explore the possibilities of artmaking within and beyond these traditions.

Claudia Alarcón & Silät's work was featured in the 60th International Exhibition of the Venice Biennale, *Stranieri Ovunque – Foreigners Everywhere* in 2024. In December 2022, Alarcón became the first indigenous woman to be awarded a National Salon of Visual Arts prize by the Ministry of Culture in Argentina. Alarcón was also awarded the Ama Amoedo Acquisition Prize at Pinta Miami in 2022, and her work is represented in the Museu de arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand (MASP), MALBA Collection in Buenos Aires, the Denver Art Museum, Colorado, and the Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minnesota.

Artist video: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gMYO-hIEqXLljQs2qBJ2pD5mobqGwk5Q/view?usp=sharing>

Selected Exhibitions:

2025 14th Mercosur Biennial, Porto Alegre, Brazil (forthcoming)

2024 Ford Foundation Gallery, New York, US (forthcoming)

2024 *Stranieri Ovunque*, 60th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

2023-4 *Spin a Yarn*, Another Space; Guild Hall, New York, US

2023 *Claudia Alarcón and Silät / Nitsäyphä: Wichí Stories*, Cecilia Brunson Projects, London, UK

2023 *Silät*, Hessel Museum at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, USA

Selected Public Collections:

Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand (MASP), São Paulo, Brazil

Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires (MALBA), Buenos Aires, Argentina

Denver Art Museum, Colorado, United States

Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Salta, Argentina

Selected Awards:

2022 First Prize in the textile discipline, 110th National Salon of Visual Arts, Ministry of Culture of Argentina

2022 Ama Amoedo Acquisition Prize, Feria Pinta, Miami, Florida, USA