

**Nottingham
Contemporary**

**Claudia Martínez
Garay**

***WAKCHAKUNA / We
Who Share Everything
and Nothing***


**Easy
Read**



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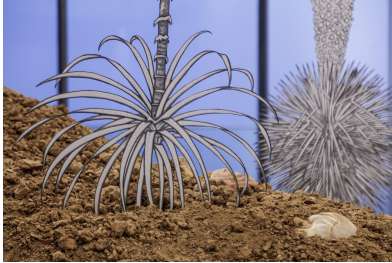
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Underlined
Words

In this Easy Read document, difficult words are underlined. We explain what these words mean in the sentence after they have been used.

Introduction



This exhibition is a display of artworks by an artist called Claudia Martínez Garay.



Claudia is an artist from Peru.



Claudia lives and works in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

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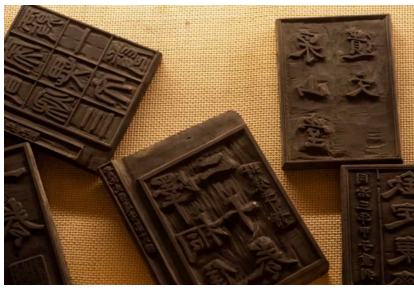


We are showing works by Claudia at Nottingham Contemporary from 25 May to 8 September 2024.

Claudia's Artworks



Claudia studied printmaking in Peru. Printmaking is a way of making lots of copies of the same picture by printing them from a special block of material which you draw onto.



Printmaking involves carving marks into the surface of printing blocks. This carving is like some techniques used to make sculptures.



Sculptures are artworks which are objects like statues made from materials like stone, wood or metal.



After she finished studying printmaking, Claudia started making other types of art. Claudia has made paintings, sculptures, videos, and installation artworks which fill whole rooms.

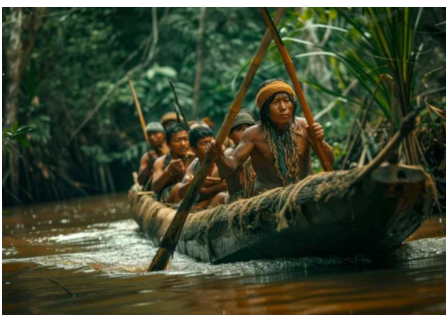
Claudia's Heritage



Claudia has Peruvian Andean heritage. Heritage is the history of where your family come from.



Lots of Claudia's artworks are inspired by images, stories and sounds from Ancient Peru.



Peru has one of the longest histories in the world because Peru was one of the first civilisations. A civilisation is when lots of people live together in a large community. These communities help each learn grow and they share ideas or things like food and tools.



The history of Peru is often misunderstood, forgotten or ignored, especially by people in other countries like the UK.



Claudia wants to show people the stories of Peru and its history in her artworks.

Claudia's Artworks at Nottingham Contemporary



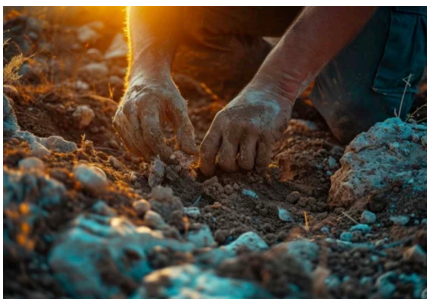
For her exhibition at Nottingham Contemporary, Claudia has created an installation artwork. Installation artworks fill a gallery space and can include things like the floor, walls and sounds in a space.



Claudia's artwork is made of a pile of soil, sand and rocks. These natural materials are like what you would find if you dug in an outdoor space like a field.

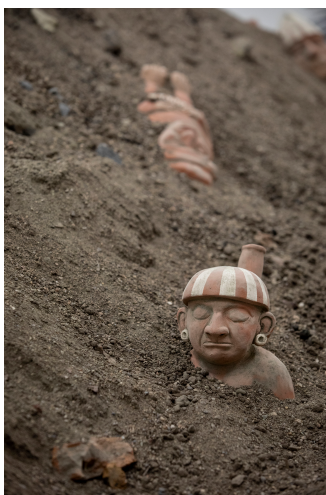


Claudia wants the mound of soil to look like an archaeological site which hasn't been explored yet.



Archaeological sites are places where historians dig holes in the ground because they think there might be old objects there. Some archaeological sites are old buildings, tombs or the remains of villages where people used to live a long time ago.

Archaeological sites can teach us a lot about the past and the way people lived.



Hidden within the large pile of soil are 38 sculptures.



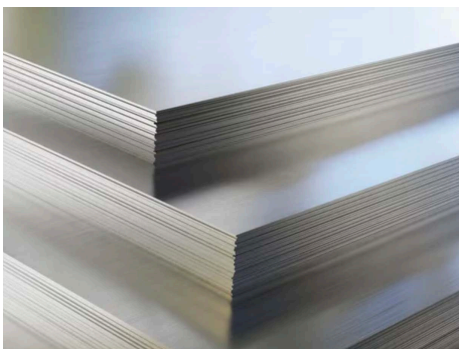
These sculptures are replicas Claudia has made of Ancient Peruvian objects called water jars which are ceramic flasks with pictures of animals and people on them.



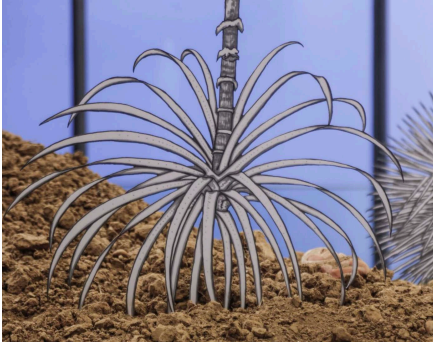
Replicas are copies of artworks or objects, made to look exactly the same as the original.



There are also 4 prints on aluminium within the mound of soil.



Aluminium is a type of metal. The prints in the gallery are on thin sheets of aluminium.



The prints and sculptures in the mound of soil show plants that grow in Peru and animals that were sacrificed by an Ancient Peruvian group of people called The Moche. The Moche first lived in Peru almost 2000 years ago.



Sacrifice is an act of killing an animal or giving up a precious item as an offering to a god. An offering is like a gift for the gods. Some people do this because they believe it will bring them good luck, or make the gods more likely to look after them.



The Moche buried sacrificed animals with the bodies of people who died as offerings to their gods. They believed these offerings would mean the gods would look after their dead family in the afterlife.



The afterlife is what some people believe exists after we die. Some people think of this as heaven or hell.



Lots of people think it is wrong that sacred objects like those buried with the bodies of dead people were taken from burial sites in Peru to be displayed in museums.

Sacred means something is special because it is connected to someone's religion or beliefs.

Claudia's Research in British Museums



The Ancient Peruvian objects Claudia's sculptures are based on are in museums in Britain.



During her research for this exhibition, Claudia explored the objects on display at The British Museum in London and the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford. These museums have objects from Peru and other countries in South, Central and North America.



Claudia is interested in conversations around who should own these objects.



Many people believe the objects should be returned to the countries they originally came from.

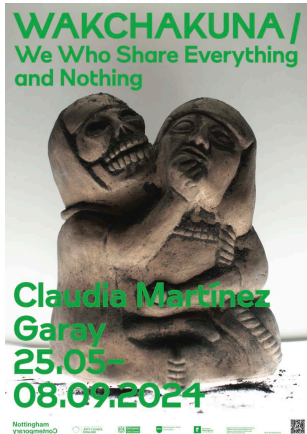


Some people believe the objects should be returned because they were stolen or looted. Looting is when people steal objects during a war or fight.



These objects are often very important to the people of the country they came from and mean a lot to them.

The Exhibition Title



Claudia's exhibition at Nottingham Contemporary is called WAKCHAKUNA / We Who Share Everything and Nothing.



Wakcha is a word in Quechuan. Quechuan is a language spoken in Peru.



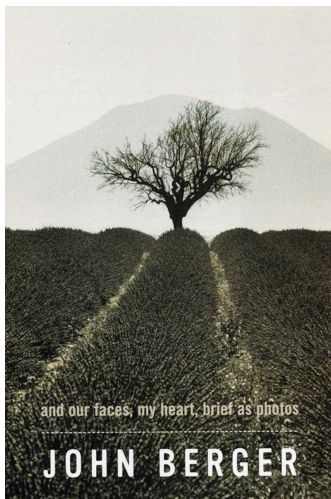
Wakcha means to be poor, but not in the way we often think of being poor, like having no money.



Wakcha means to be poor in another way, like having no family, community, access to your history, or place to belong.



The Peruvian objects Claudia looked at in British museums can be thought of as poor in this way because they have been taken away from their community and history.



The second part of Claudia's exhibition title is a quote from a book called 'And Our Faces, My Heart, Brief as Photos' by an English writer called John Berger.

For more information



You can Find out more about what we do by looking at our website here:
nottinghamcontemporary.org



If you would like to help us show more artworks in the future, please think about giving us some money.



We suggest £5 as a good amount.



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NG1 2GB

Phone: 0115 948 9750



Email:
info@nottinghamcontemporary.org

Artwork Credits

Artwork credits tell us who made an artwork and when they made it. The artwork credits for the artworks you have seen in this easy read guide are shown below.



This is a photograph of part of an artwork by Claudia Martínez Garay. The artwork is called **The Creator**. The artwork is prints on metal sheets and ceramic objects displayed in a mound of soil. The artwork was made in 2019. The artwork was displayed in an exhibition called **Ten Thousand Things**. The exhibition was at a gallery called **Sifang Art Museum** in Nanjing. The exhibition was open in 2020 and 2021.



This is a photograph of the same artwork by Claudia Martínez Garay.



This is a photograph of part of the same artwork by Claudia Martínez Garay.



This is a photograph of part of the same artwork by Claudia Martínez Garay. This photograph of the artwork was taken by David Levene.