

# cecilia brunson projects

Claudia Alarcón (b. 1989, La Puntana, Salta, Argentina) & Silät (collective founded 2023)

Claudia Alarcón 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, an organisation of 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. Its centrality is articulated in a mythological tale, in which beautiful women, living in the sky as stars, would travel down to earth on woven chaguar ropes to dine on the fish caught by fishermen. Upon discovering this, the men employed the help of birds to snap the ropes and the women were trapped on earth for evermore, but continued to weave and pass the knowledge from the world above onto their daughters. The parable suggests a passage from the naivety and freedom of childhood to the societal responsibilities of adulthood; girls are taught to spin chaguar and weave functional objects from the age of 12, their creations a way to provide financially as well as to sustain ancestral cultural practices. In another sense, learning to weave presents a further awakening, an entryway into a collective conversation between the women of the Wichí communities. The textiles, formed of geometric motifs drawn from the surrounding environment, are a method of communicating unspoken thoughts within a culture that highly values 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.

The Silät collective emerged from the Thaí/Viene del monte organization, a wider public project aimed at reviving ancestral textile traditions across the Salta region. Coordinated by Alarcón and working closely with curator Andrei Fernández since 2015, Silät explores the possibilities of artmaking within and beyond these traditions. The collective have evolved established techniques into new forms, producing large-scale images that exploit the textural intricacies and earthy colours of chaguar yarn and natural dyes. In coordinating the production of the Silät collective, and leading experimentations in material and subject matter within their practice, Alarcón supports creativity, independence and self-sustaining practices, and provides

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a means for women across generations to transmit a contemporary indigenous culture into the webs of international art dialogues beyond ethnographic readings.

Claudia Alarcón (b. 1989, La Puntana, Salta, Argentina) and Silät (Argentina, collective formed 2023) are currently the subject of a comprehensive solo exhibition at Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand (MASP). Alarcón and Silät have been exhibited internationally, including solo exhibitions at The Gund at Kenyon College, Ohio (2025) and the De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhillon-Sea, UK (2025), as well as group exhibitions at Guggenheim Bilbao, (2026); Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2025); Stranieri Ovunque – Foreigners Everywhere at the Venice Biennale (2024); MALBA–Puertos, Buenos Aires (2024); Guild Hall, NY (2024); Another Space, NY (2023); and the Ford Foundation, NY (2024). In 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 Emerging Artist of the Year by ARTnews in 2025, and the Ama Amoedo Acquisition Prize at Pinta Miami in 2022. Works by Alarcón and Silät are in the permanent collections of the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts; Blanton Museum of Art, Denver Art Museum; The Gund; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; MALBA, Buenos Aires; Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Salta, Argentina; Museu de arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand (MASP); Nasher Museum of Art; RISD Museum; and the Guggenheim Museum.

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Claudia Alarcón & Silät

Born in 1989 in La Puntana, Salta, Argentina

Lives and works La Puntana, Salta, Argentina

Silät collective formed in 2023 in La Puntana, Salta, Argentina

## Selected Solo Exhibitions

2026 *Claudia Alarcón & Silät: Living, Weaving*, curated by Adriano Pedrosa and Laura Cosendey, Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand (MASP), São Paulo, Brazil

2026 *Claudia Alarcón & Silät*, PAC Art Residency, Houston, TX

2025 *Claudia Alarcón & Silät: Tayhin*, De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea, UK

2025 *Everyday Anew*, the Gund, Gambier, Ohio, US

2025 *Tayhin*, De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill-on-Sea, UK

2025 *Claudia Alarcón & Silät: Choreography of Imagination*, Cecilia Brunson Projects, London, UK

2025 *Claudia Alarcón and Silät*, James Cohan, New York, US

2023 *Claudia Alarcón and Silät | Nitsäphä: Wichí Stories*, Cecilia Brunson Projects, London, UK

2023 *Silät*, Hessel Museum at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, USA (as part of the Thańí/Viene del monte organization)

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## Selected Group Exhibitions

2026 *If the word we*, Carnegie International, curated by Ryan Inouye, Danielle A. Jackson, and Liz Park, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA

2025-26 *Arts of the Earth*, Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain

2025 *Grounded*, LACMA, Los Angeles, US

2025 *Picture Gallery in Transformation: Recent Gifts*, Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand (MASP), São Paulo, Brazil

2025 *Geometrias*, Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand (MASP), São Paulo, Brazil

2025 14<sup>th</sup> Mercosur Biennial, Porto Alegre, Brazil

2024-5 *La vida que explota: Gabriel Chaile en diálogo con Claudia Alarcón & Silät*, MALBA, Buenos Aires, Argentina

2024 *Stranieri Ovunque*, 60<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

2024 *Cantando Bajito: Chorus*, Ford Foundation Gallery, New York, US

2024 *Spin a Yarn*, Guild Hall, New York, US

2024 *Hecho a Mano*, Cecilia Brunson Projects, London, UK

2023 *Spin a Yarn*, Another Space, New York, US

2023 *Una Historia que Cura*, Salta Museum of Anthropology, 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

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## Selected Public Collections

Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts, Little Rock, Arkansas, United States

Blanton Museum of Art at the University of Austin, Texas, United States

Denver Art Museum, Colorado, United States

The Gund Collection, Gambier, Ohio, United States

LACMA, Los Angeles, United States

Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minnesota, United States

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

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

Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Salta, Argentina

Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University, North Carolina, United States

Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), Providence, Rhode Island, United States

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York