

Press Release

## Hecho a Mano

Group exhibition

22 February - 22 March 2024



Detail: Fátima Rodrigo, *Ejercicios de resistencia*, 2024

Cecilia Brunson Projects is delighted to present *Hecho a Mano*, a group exhibition bringing together textile art from across Latin America in a contemporary response to the region's rich history of textile tradition and its relationship with European Modernism. Spanning from the catalytic moment of 1950s Brazil to the present day, the exhibition includes works by Claudia Alarcón & Silät, Feliciano Centurión, Sonia Gomes, Judith Lauand, Sandra Monterroso, Lucía Pizzani, Fátima Rodrigo, Eduardo Terrazas & Johanna Unzueta.

As attention is turned towards textile and fibre art in a number of major institutional shows, this exhibition seeks to move away from clichéd understandings of Latin American textile production and critically consider the historic European enchantment with pre-Columbian and indigenous culture. Reflecting the diversity of traditional and

contemporary practices in the region, the artists on display are united in their commitment to the handmade as an expression of hope and resistance to mass production and appropriation.

The exhibition comes at a time of renewed celebration for exhibited artists including the Paraguayan artist Feliciano Centurión (1962 – 1996), whose work is concurrently featured at the Barbican exhibition *Unravel: The Power and Politics of Textiles in Art*. Centurión's intimate embroideries pay homage to indigenous Guaraní weaving techniques, queering a tradition passed down from mothers to daughters in Paraguay for generations. Following his HIV diagnosis in 1992, he began making *frazadas* or blankets, on which he often embroidered his own poetic reflections or painted symbols, such as an eye to ward against evil and offer protection.

Cecilia Brunson Projects is excited to present newly commissioned works by Peruvian artist Fátima Rodrigo (b. 1987), from her *Contradanza* series, named for a Peruvian dance that, at its origin, mocked the courtly dances of the Spanish colonizers. Rodrigo's detailed woven tapestries feature Andean symbols of celebration and resistance in an attempt to reclaim a culture which has been routinely extracted and appropriated for commercial purposes. This follows the artist's inclusion in the 2023 Liverpool Biennial, where a work from the same series was exhibited.

Displayed alongside contemporary works is a wool needlepoint tapestry of singular importance by the Brazilian Concrete master Judith Lauand (1922-2022). A pioneer of geometric abstraction in Brazil and the sole female member of Grupo Ruptura, she is identified for her rhythmic manipulation of pattern and her use of domestic materials in contrast to the highly polished Concrete work of European and North American artists exhibiting in São Paulo. This tapestry bridges Lauand's simultaneous embrace of the new artistic currents taking hold in Brazil, and her attentiveness to the legacy of women's art and craft traditions.

Cecilia Brunson Projects seeks to promote cultural exchange between Latin America and Europe, and to centre marginalised and historically overlooked artists. In this exhibition we present artists working against hierarchical dichotomies perpetuated in western art history, such as an incompatibility between tradition and the avant-garde, an oxymoron frequently called into question through the continual evolution of textile mediums.

*Event:*

Private View  
21 February, 2024, 6 - 8pm

*Enquiries & Press:*

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