



**REVELATIONS, THE INTERNATIONAL FINE CRAFT & CREATION BIENNIAL IN PARIS,
ANNOUNCES CHILE AS THE COUNTRY OF HONOUR FOR ITS 3RD EDITION**



*Clockwise from top left: Lise Moller © ClaudiaPMS; Walka © ClaudiaPMS;
Paola Moreno © Courtesy of the Artist; Marcela Undurraga © Courtesy of the Artist*

Dates: 4-8 May, 2017

Venue: Grand Palais Paris

The third edition of *Revelations*, the International Fine Craft & Creation Biennial in Paris, has announced Chile as guest of honour, following in the steps of Norway and South Korea who have held the position in previous years.

Spanning across half of South America, Chile has access to many unusual raw materials giving the country's artists and artisans the opportunity to experiment with uniquely creative methods. Craftsmanship and creative skills are often recognised as a voice for the cultural expression of a country and in light of this, the National Council of Culture and Arts Chile has been focusing on giving value to its arts and crafts sector and its position at the Biennial *Revelations* builds on this aim.

The Minister of the National Council of Culture and Arts Chile, Mr. Ernesto Ottone, plans to push the country's artisans to the forefront. To mark the centenary of the birth of Violeta Parra, an homage to the artist will be featured at the pavilion. Parra is the perfect example of an artist who has expressed her country through song, poetry, embroidery and tapestries. Having lived in France for three years, she played a key role in highlighting the skilled craftsmanship originating from Chile.



The National Council of Culture and Arts Chile has appointed Nury González, visual artist and Director of the Museum of Popular Art Tomás Lagoas (MAPA) as curator of the Chilean participation in Paris. González has proposed a pavilion concept to represent Chile's landscapes, mapping the Pacific Ocean and temperate forests. From the mountain range of the Andes, through the central valley, visitors can explore the richness and uniqueness of this famous "country of poets" alongside fifty carefully curated Chilean art and craft works.

The Minister of the National Council of Culture and Arts Chile, Mr. Ernesto Ottone, said: *"France is a culture capital whose artisans are highly valued as individuals contributing to their country. We would like to introduce this thinking to Chile, giving our artisans equal value. The recent announcement that Chile is guest of honour at the Biennial Revelations is a big step in working towards this idea."*

Background on four key Chilean artisans to be exhibited within the pavilion:

- **Walka (Jewellery)** is a contemporary jewellery studio founded in 2003 by Claudia Betancourt and Nano Pulgar. Betancourt represents the third generation of a family of artisans, and studied literature and tourism while cultivating her craft, which she began practicing at the age of 16. Nano, a lawyer who studied at Universidad Católica de Chile, has always been keen to explore uncharted terrain. After becoming interested in Claudia's work, they founded Walka together.

Walka is an Aymara word referring to the sacred necklaces that daughters receive as gifts from their mothers. Walka uses traditional materials to experiment and create unique pieces entirely by hand. Design and art come together on the basis of the functionality of the work and its ability to communicate in its own language. Thanks to this approach, each object that leaves the workshop may be recognized and understood no matter what context it is placed in.

Walka Studio has exhibited its works at important galleries and museums such as the New York Museum of Arts and Design, in New York; RMIT Gallery, in Australia; and the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts. The studio has also been recognized with a number of awards and distinctions.

- **Paola Moreno (Textile Art and Research)** defines herself as a designer and textile artist committed to researching and experimenting with materials. After pursuing an undergraduate degree in design at Universidad Católica de Chile, she completed a Master's Degree in Art Theory and History at Universidad de Chile. She is currently a professor at the School of Design at Universidad Católica de Chile, and program director for the Certificate Course in Textile Creation. She is also a member of the Comité Nacional de Conservación Textil (CNCT, National Committee for Textile Conservation), Chile Crea Textil (CCT, Chile Creates Textiles) and the Centro de Arte Textil (CAT, Center for Textile Art).

Paola Moreno believes in maintaining a technical and material commitment to one's object of study. As a result, her vocation as an artisan has a special connection to textile research, as she has slowly revived forgotten techniques and raw materials. In this sense, her work



has been extremely relevant for rediscovering categories, formal topologies and techniques that were previously not considered relevant. Her interest in the material recovery of communities has prompted an interest in places such as Easter Island, where she carried out an important project of research and recovery, culminating in a publication aimed at bringing forgotten practices back to life.

- **Lise Moller (Sculpture, Ceramics, Printmaking)** Moller's chosen material is cochayuyo, an edible seaweed found on the Chilean coast. She gathers the material, finding its value in its ephemeral, organic nature. The cochayuyo moves toward the coast and then goes back out to sea, in a to-and-fro that leaves prints, marks, traces of a material that wants to be discovered, but at the same time withdraws and recedes unto itself to become a protective form. Flexibility, versatility, and a wild, natural quality are essential to the work of Lise Moller, who creates unique, compact forms on the basis of a material that alludes to chaos and disorder. Embedded in her work we find the ancestral essence of the first species to give life to humanity, which she masterfully integrates with a contemporary perspective on form.

Lise Moller began studying ceramics in 1976 at Loughton College of Further Education and in the London borough of Waltham Forest. She continued her artistic education by studying drawing, sculpture, printmaking, art history and philosophy at the Institute for Contemporary Arts. She has participated in ceramics workshops in the United States and Barcelona, and presently teaches ceramics and sculpture in her private workshop. She has participated in numerous individual and group exhibitions, and her work may be found in a number of collections.

- **Marcela Undurruga (Pottery)** studied Visual Arts with a minor in sculpture at Universidad Finis Terrae from 2009 - 2012. Following her undergraduate studies she enrolled in the Program for Pedagogical Education for College Graduates at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. She has been a teaching assistant in sculpture classes and assistant of the Certificate Course in Ceramic Sculpture at Universidad Finis Terrae. She also teaches in various schools.

Marcela Undurruga is particularly interested in the different ways in which human beings experience collective memory. These forms of memory are present in the objects and volumes humans create, and they both participate in history and witness it. As such, her work exudes a special respect for the reciprocity that emerges between object and viewer. For Marcela, there exists an atemporal space where shapes emerge from spheres, cones, pyramids, and cylinders: objects that have the ability to contain. In those objects we find an empty space contained by the form. That empty space is transparent but essential for lending meaning to the work, and it is what delivers the meaning conceived by the artist.

From another perspective, the main characteristic of the material chosen by the artist is clearly its malleability. This aspect of clay cultivates an intimacy between creator and form, building an inseparable space between the artist and her creation, in the sense that each gives something to the other. The artist, Marcela Undurruga, gives clay the possibility to



become a new object, with different capacities than it had before. The clay gives the artist all the possibilities of its materiality, ready to be altered and transformed.

Artisans to be exhibited within the pavilion include:

Juan Betancourt
Tere Marín
Pascale Lehmann
Walka (Claudia Betancourt & Nano Pulgar)
Mauricio Clavero & Eliana Carter
Paola Moreno
Lise Moller
Juan Carlos Orellana
Rodolfo Castro
Claudia Hurtado / Ñochamalen
Cristian Molina
Egon Muñoz
Carlos Reyes
Marcos Paillamilla
Juan Lobos
Ruth Krauskof
Carolina Irarrazabal
Paulina Brugnoli
Constanza Urrutia
Cristobal Betancourt

Artisans selected for Le Banquet 2017:

Cristian Salineros
Paula de Solminiac
Marcela Undurraga
Elisa Aguirre
Bernardo Oyarzun

Chile's participation at the International Fine Craft & Creation Biennial *Revelations* in Paris is organized by the National Council of Culture and the Arts (CNCA) with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through its Cultural Affairs Bureau (DIRAC), Embassy of Chile in France and PROCHILE.

More info at: <http://www.revelations-grandpalais.com>

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