

EXHIBITION AT THE CCCB | 13 November 2024 - 4 May 2025



AMAZONS THE ANCESTRAL FUTURE

PRESS CONFERENCE

Tuesday, 12 November at 11:00 · Auditorium of the CCCB
Streaming on the [CCCB's YouTube channel](#)

Amazons. The Ancestral Future takes us into the immense natural and cultural richness of the territory, cities and indigenous communities of the Amazon to discover the art, the thinking and the huge ecological impact of the part of the world with the greatest biodiversity, that is central and strategic for the future of the planet.

Curated by [Claudi Carreras](#), the exhibition is a collective project to come out of Amazonia that brings together many voices of artists and intellectual from the region that propose other ways of living and relating to nature. It will be held in Gallery 2 of the CCCB from 13 November 2024 to 4 May 2025.

Amazonia is vast in its extension and diversity: it takes in nine countries (Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Suriname, Guyana and French Guyana) where over 30 million people live, 60% in urban areas. The region is also the original habitat of some 400 indigenous peoples who speak over 300 different languages. The temperature of the planet and climate change depend on the Amazon rainforest, the world's largest tropical ecosystem and also the planet's main water reserve.

Amazonias. The Ancestral Future is a sensory journey through the immensity of rivers and forests, through the sounds, smells, cities, rituals, people and life stories of Amazonian communities. Today, this vast cultural and natural wealth is affected by deforestation, fires, drought and struggles for the control of raw materials, conflicts that the exhibition addresses with the help of the region's leading scientists and researchers.

Far from offering a folkloric or fatalistic view of life in Amazonia, the exhibition defends the connection and the profound knowledge that its peoples have of nature and their ancestors. *Amazonias. The Ancestral Future* not only speaks of a valuable culture and ecosystem; it also makes us think about ourselves as a society, about the fragility of our environment, and about the urgent need to recover more respectful ways of living on this planet.

The exhibition is a unique opportunity to enjoy new work that has been specially commissioned from outstanding artists and indigenous groups, like the impressive murals painted on site at the CCCB by the **Mahku Collective** (Huni Kuin, Brazil), **Elías Mamallacta** (Kichwa, Ecuador), **Olinda Silvano and Cordelia Sánchez** (Shipibo-Conibo, Peru) and **Rember Yahuarcani** (Uitoto, Peru), photographs and audiovisual montages by **Andrés Cardona** and the artistic installation by **Nereyda López and Santiago Yahuarcani** (Uitoto, Peru).

The exhibition includes the major collaboration of experts from the indigenous Amazonian region, such as **Jão Paulo Barreto, Eliane Brum, Emilio Fiagama, Lilian Fraiji, Valério Gomes, Nelly Kuiru, Eduardo Neves, Daiara Tukano, Rember Yahuarcani and Joseph Zárate**, and the participation of the **Bioacoustics Applications Laboratory of the UPC**, the **Ernesto Ventós Foundation** and **VIST Foundation**.

Activities related to the exhibition

The CCCB presents an extensive agenda of workshops, educational programmes, audiovisuals and cycles of talks like the one curated by the Brazilian journalist and writer **Eliane Brum**, which will include the prominent indigenous activists and leaders **Ehuana Yaira Yanomami, Patricia Gualinga and Txai Suruí**, and archaeologist **Eduardo Neves** (as of 18 November).

SECTIONS OF THE EXHIBITION

1. The Message of the Roots

One of the first forms of violence that colonization inflicted on the Amazon was manifested through language: the concept of *virgin jungle* is far from innocuous. The idea of a paradise separate from civilization has legitimized predatory dynamics focussing solely on the extractive potential of its natural resources.



For over 500 years, the Amazon has been victim to an intentional tergiversation that has wiped out the rich cultural memory of an original population that had been present in the territory for over 13 thousand years. Contemporary research shows that the region is the result of an intricate relationship between its inhabitants and nature. Far from being a virgin space, Amazonia is a “great garden” where the interactions between living and spiritual beings have been key since its creation and are fundamental to its preservation.

This section includes, among others, plants that are essential to Amazonian culture, used for centuries in ceremonial and healing rituals; murals that indigenous artists have created on site at the CCCB, and a *maloca*, a space of knowledge used by indigenous peoples in Amazonian areas (built at the CCCB according to the same precepts).

2. A Tree Made of Water



In its course of almost 7,000 kilometres from its source in the Andes to the point where it flows into the Atlantic, the river Amazon gives its name to a territory that is a sum of singularities and dissidences, and has developed heterogeneous forms of expression and resistance to a homogenizing colonial project.

Today, Amazonian populations represent the meeting of two realities: one is made up of the ancestral knowledge of the original settlers and the other constitutes that of Afro-descendant peoples, settlers and Ribeirinhos who arrived at different stages of migration to the region. This fusion of knowledge could be an unparalleled opportunity to generate a new social fabric and build more sustainable, well-balanced shared horizons.

Along this route we will hear the sounds and music of the Amazon and smell its territory, cross paths with its spirits, and discover the richness of its languages, the variety of its populations and the representations of the Amazonian territory throughout history.

3. Ravenous Bonanzas



The use of the word bonanza in the context of the history of extractivism crystallizes one of the most transparent forms of violence that continue to be exercised through language against the Amazon's natural resources. What economic history calls huge benefits are manifested, on the ground, in the form of ecological devastation and forced movements of the population.

Colonial notions that separate what is civilized from what is savage have structured political and social relations in the Amazon basin, exacerbating racism and exclusion. Since the 16th century, Europeans have oc-

cupied the Amazon to exploit natural resources, set up urban centres and impose new creeds. This cruel dynamic continues today: environmental leaders and members of indigenous and Afro-descendant communities who defend the territory are killed.

The exhibition reflects this history of abusive extractivism through photographic and audio-visual works, historical documents, and interviews with witnesses and specialists.

4. We Are a Fabric



Dreams and the use of plant-based hallucinogens play a fundamental role in shaping a natural order in the Amazon. Communities connect with their ancestors and the spirits of the forest, from whom they obtain the keys to move forward. The visions are underpinned by the close interdependence between humans and non-humans in the delicate balance that defines an environment where what is visible and what is invisible make up the same reality.

The Western concept of progress has moved further and further away from the ties that unite it with its ancestry and with nature, in a process of destructive linear growth. Meanwhile, the wisdom of Amazonian communities has been able to preserve their environment despite the onslaught of extractivism.

The ecological situation is on the verge of collapse, but it is time to act. Without taking refuge in utopian illusions, and through audiovisuals, scientific materials and an indigenous pictorial mural, this last section invites us to immerse ourselves in a ritual dream to understand that we are all part of the same fabric, and that the future of the Amazon is a common cause that concerns us all.

AMAZONS. THE ANCESTRAL FUTURE

Curator

Claudi Carreras

With the collaboration of the curatorial team

João Paulo Barreto, Eliane Brum, Emilio Fiagama, Lilian Fraiji, Valério Gomes, Nelly Kuiru, Eduardo Neves, Daiara Tukano, Rember Yahuarcani and Joseph Zárate

Artistic Installations

Andrés Cardona, Col·lectiu Mahku, Nereyda López, Elías Mamallacta, Cordelia Sánchez, Olinda Silvano, Daiara Tukano, Rember Yahuarcani and Santiago Yahuarcani

GENERAL INFORMATION

Amazons. The Ancestral Future

Dates

From 13 November 2024 to 4 May 2025
Open from Tuesday to Sunday and on public holidays from 10:00 to 20:00
Closed on Mondays except public holidays

Venue

Gallery 2 of the CCCB

Admission prices

6 € / 4 € concessions
Sundays from 15:00 to 20:00, free of charge subject to prior reservation

[Discounts and complementary tickets](#)

Credits of the photographs in the press release:

1. Daiara Tukano, *Ohpeko Pati, World of the Sacred Waters of the Grand Mother of the Universe*, 2023. Ink on paper. Courtesy of Richard Saulton Gallery, London, Rome, New York and Milan, São Paulo.
2. Nereyda López and Santiago Yahuarcani, *Huangana*, 2023. Courtesy of the Galeria de Arte Crisis, Lima.
3. Lalo de Almeida, *Protest of the Munduruku at Belo Monte*, 2013. Courtesy of the artist.
4. Rember Yahuarcani, *Those Other Worlds (Diptych)*, 2024. Acrylic on canvas. Courtesy of the artist.

Hi-res images of the exhibition at
[the digital press room of the CCCB](#)

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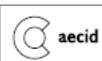


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More information

cccb.org
#AmazonsCCCB

Press Service of the CCCB
Irene Ruiz (660 631 315) and Sesi Bergeret
premsa@cccb.org · <https://www.cccb.org/ca/serveis/premsa>
C/ Montalegre 5, 08001, Barcelona