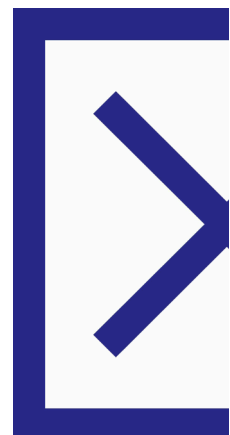

E X T R A G A L E R Í A



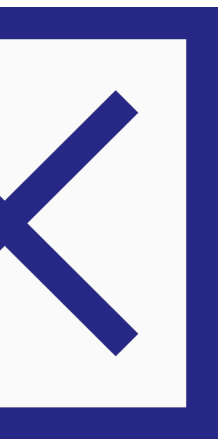
**MANUEL
CHAVAJAY**

ART DUBAI 2024



MANUEL CHAVAJAY
AVAILABLE WORK

ART DUBAI | BAWWABA 2024:
CURATED BY EMILIANO VALDÉS
BOOTH W-7





MANUEL CHAVAJAY

San Pedro La Laguna, Sololá, Guatemala. 1982.

Manuel Chavajay, Maya Tz'utujil artist, lives and works in San Pedro La Laguna. Chavajay is a multidisciplinary artist working in painting, drawing, sculpture, video and installations, centering a decolonial critique and a vindication and re-construction of a contemporary Maya culture.

Between 2001 and 2009 he carried out environmental projects and interpretive trails around the Lake Atitlán watershed. He is currently a Sponsor of contemporary art in the widespread Mayan community with Canal Cultural, a collective of artists in San Pedro La Laguna. He is a graduate of the Escuela Nacional de Artes Plásticas, Rafael Rodríguez Padilla, '10. He studied art history at the Institute for Training and Development, Amherst, MA, '09.

Chavajay has participated in countless group and solo presentations internationally, including the São Paulo Biennial (Brazil), El Espacio 23 (FL, USA), the Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara (CA, USA), Centre Pompidou (Paris, France), National Gallery of Canada (Ottawa, Canada), Kunsthalle Wien (Vienna, Austria), Bienal SIART (La Paz, Bolivia), International Biennial of Contemporary Art of Curitiba (Brazil), La Bienal de Artes Visuales del Istmo Centroamericano, and art fairs such as ARCO Madrid (Spain) and Salón ACME (Mexico). His work is part of institutional collections such as El Museo del Barrio (NY, USA), Kadist Collection (CA, USA), Colección Banco de España (Spain), Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía (Spain), Art in Embassies Collection (US Embassy in Guatemala), National Gallery of Canada, El Espacio 23 (FL, USA), Fundación Nacional para las Bellas Artes y la Cultura (Antigua Guatemala), Centro de Arte Fundación Ortiz Gurdíán (Nicaragua), Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (NY, USA), and numerous private collections.

ABOUT THE WORK

A Maya-Tz'utujil artist, Manuel Chavajay's personal history of violence during the internal armed conflict in which he and his family were direct victims is intertwined with the history of his country. Like other indigenous artists of his generation, Chavajay sees contemporary art as a space for healing. His work references the wisdom of practices and spirituality linked to the Mayan cosmovision: a deep connection with nature, life and energy present in things, reflecting both a mindset and lifestyle that have endured despite the material and symbolic threats of the globalized world.

Chavajay's work is fully rooted in his everyday landscape, Lake Atitlán. His works focus on the people, the landscape, its intensities and its relationship to the world, and how these come from a millenarian narrative that explains the origin of things. Simultaneously, he directly confronts the effects of gentrification and industrialization in San Pedro La Laguna, and how these phenomena endanger the knowledge and practices maintained by the indigenous people of the region that have sustained the lake thus far.

For the series "K'o q'ij ne t'i'lto' ja juyu' t'aq'aaaj" (There are days when the mountains and volcanoes come closer), Manuel collects the waste from the engines that flood San Pedro la Laguna. For the artist, petroleum and motor oil are the blood of Mother Nature, whose entrails are violently opened by human greed and ambition.

Through the series Saq taq achik' (White Dream), Manuel Chavajay invites us to enter an intimate universe where the limits between the cycles of sleep and wakefulness are diluted, revealing a space in which the voices of the Tzutujil ancestors are dressed in fire, flowers and wind to gather the inhabitants of San Pedro la Laguna in order to transmit their secrets, warnings and advice.

The diversity of formats that Manuel uses to talk about these conversations are just a glimpse of the sensations that go through his body and the different languages that manifest themselves in his dreams. These works are a small sample of the stories, voices and symbols that the artist observes and feels from "the windows and doors of dreams".

Two strands can be identified within Chavajay's work: the first critically points to imported economic models that promote excessive consumption and ignore the adverse effects of the production of polluting waste dumped into Lake Atitlán; the second is grouped into a series of collective gestures that seek the reappropriation of Lake Atitlán through political action and the rescue of ancestral practices.

Manuel Chavajay's work is both a denunciation of the consequences of the comfort of modern lifestyles, and a celebration of life. Each of the symbols that accompany his work confronts the frenetic individualization of modernity, inviting a pause that allows us to imagine horizons of collective welfare, and return us to a state of harmony with nature.



From the series *Saq taq achik'*: Sin título
2022
Oil on canvas
140 cm x 100 cm



From the series *Saq taq achik'*: Sin título
2023
Oil on canvas
140 cm x 200 cm



From the series *Saq taq achik'*: Sin título
2022
Oil on canvas
100 cm x 140 cm



From the series *K'o q'iiij ne t'i'lto' ja juyu' t'aaq'ajj': iq' / aire del norte*
2024
K'oxaaj (waist loom) cotton thread weave, acrylic, and burnt motor oil
281 cm x 149 cm



From the series *K'o q'iiij ne t'i'lto' ja juyu' t'aaq'aj'*: Sin título
2023

Burnt motor oil, watercolor, charcoal, and embroidery on cotton paper
170 cm x 122 cm



From the series *K'o q'iij ne t'i'lto' ja juyu' t'aq'ajj'*: Sin título
2024

Burnt motor oil, watercolor, charcoal, and embroidery on cotton paper
170 cm x 107 cm



From the series *K'o q'iiij ne t'i'lto' ja juyu' t'aaq'aaaj'*: Sin título
2024

Burnt motor oil, watercolor, charcoal, and embroidery on cotton paper
170 cm x 107 cm



From the series *K'o q'iij ne t'i'lto' ja juyu' t'aq'aaj'*: Sin título
2024

Burnt motor oil, watercolor, charcoal, and embroidery on cotton paper
170 cm x 107 cm



From the series *K'o q'iiij ne t'i'lto' ja juyu' t'aaq'aaaj'*: Sin título
2024

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170 cm x 107 cm



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MANUEL CHAVAJAY MORALES

San Pedro La Laguna, Sololá, Guatemala. 1982.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 NUNCA LO MISMO. Arte Latinoamericano. ARCO Madrid, Spain.
- 2022 Saq taq achik', Galería Extra, Guatemala City.
- 2022 Salón ACME No.9, Mexico City.
- 2019 Galería MUY, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Mexico.
- 2019 K'o q'ij ne t'i'lto' ja juyu' t'aq'aaj. Galería Extra, Guatemala City.
- 2018 Ru Muujal' ya'. Museo Nacional de Arte Moderno Carlos Mérida, Guatemala City.
- 2017 KAB'AWIL. Galería Extra, Guatemala City.
- 2015 Sótano 1, Guatemala City.
- 2015 Ruuach'uleew. Escuela Central Humberto Corzo Guzmán, San Pedro La Laguna, Sololá.
- 2014 This Might Be a Place for Hummingbirds. Center for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow, Scotland.
- 2002 Exposición de esculturas. Municipalidad San Pedro la Laguna, Sololá.

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2023 Bodies of Resistance. Pedro Cera, Lisbon, Portugal.
- 2023 The Great Repair. Akademie der Künste, Berlin, Germany.
- 2023 To Weave the Sky: Textile Abstractions. El Espacio 23, Miami, FL, USA.
- 2023 35th São Paulo Biennial: Coreografías de lo invisible. São Paulo, Brazil.
- 2023 Primavera Silenciosa. Luciana Brito Galería, São Paulo, Brazil.
- 2023 XXIII Bienal de Arte Paiz, Guatemala City and Antigua Guatemala.
- 2022 Cartografía de lo (in)visible. Galería Extra. Guatemala City.
- 2022 Festival Cultural Paseo de la Sexta. Guatemala City.
- 2022 LA IMAGEN QUEMA: perspectivas del videoarte en Guatemala. Centro Cultural de España en Guatemala, Guatemala City.
- 2021 XXII Bienal de Arte Paiz, Guatemala City.
- 2021 Los tormentos de la materia. Galería Extra, Guatemala City.
- 2020 Reactivando videografías. Real Academia de España en Roma, Rome, Italy.
- 2020 Tz'ikin. Kunsthalle Wien Museumplatz 1, Vienna, Austria.
- 2020 Àbadakone / Continuous Fire / Feu continual. National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Canada.
- 2020 To Weave Blue. University of Memphis, TN, USA.
- 2019 K'o q'ij ne t'i'lto' ja juyu' t'aq'aaj. Galería Extra, Guatemala City.
- 2018 Cosmopolis #1.5: Enlarged Intelligence. Co-presented by Mao Jihong Arts Foundation, Centre Pompidou and Chengdu, Chengdu, China.
- 2018 XXI Bienal de Arte Paiz, Guatemala City.
- 2018 Después de mí, el sueño. MANIFIESTO Espacio, Guatemala City.
- 2017 Guatemala from 33,000km: Contemporary Art, 1960 – Present. Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, CA, USA.
- 2017 Acts of Aggression. Pollock Gallery, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, USA.
- 2017 Tranzdisplay Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic.
- 2017 Landale Art Center, Houston, TX, USA.
- 2017 Artista Centroamericano, World Bank, Washington DC, USA.
- 2015 Arte 12. Galería Sol Del Río, Guatemala City.
- 2015 10th Curitiba International Biennial. Curitiba, Brazil.
- 2014 XVII Bienal de Arte Paiz, Guatemala City.
- 2014 Estados de Excepción. Galería FLACSO, Quito, Ecuador.
- 2013 Cinco días (Puertas abiertas): Arte contemporáneo producido en Guatemala. Centro Cultural de España en Guatemala, Guatemala City.

- 2010 7th Biennial of Visual Arts of the Central American Isthmus, BAVIC, Managua, Nicaragua.
- 2012 XVIII Bienal de Arte Paiz, Guatemala City.
- 2010 OH! REVOLUCION. Galería kilómetro Cero, Palacio Nacional de la Cultura, Guatemala City.
- 2010 XVII Bienal de Arte Paiz, Guatemala City.
- 2010 SALPICA, Nacul Center Gallery supported by ITD Amherst, Amherst, MA, Estados Unidos.
- 2009 Galería Libélula, Antigua Guatemala.
- 2006 Exposición de fotografía. XV Bienal Arte Paiz, Guatemala City.
- 2004 Manos libres de armas, manos libres de violencia. Palacio Nacional de la Cultura, Guatemala City.

PUBLIC WORKS

- 2023 Q'ab'at por el Lago de Atitlán. Sculpture, Embarcadero Principal de San Pedro La Laguna, Sololá.
- 2021 Kab'awil. Mural, "La Ceiba" Overpass, Guatemala City.

PROJECTS

- 2004 - 2016 Sponsor for modern art in Maya communities, in collaboration with Canal Cultural Collective.
- 2013 Art Director, interventions in public spaces in San Pedro La Laguna, Sololá.
- 2012 Development Director, Maya Stela project. Museo Tz'unun Ya', San Pedro La Laguna, Sololá.
- 2011 - 2010 Environmental Project: Interpretative paths around the Atitlán lake basin.
- 2007 Art Director, Short Film: Fantasía Violenta.
- 2006 - 2012 Art Director, sculptures, murals and museography, Museo Tz'unun Ya', San Pedro La Laguna, Sololá.
- 2006 Make-up Director, Film: El Mito del Tiempo.
- 2003 Creative Director and Instructor, Architecture department at Universidad Mariano Gálvez. Guatemala City.

AWARDS AND RESIDENCIES

- 2023 Clarice Oliveira Tavares Residency. Swiss Institute, New York, NY, USA.
- 2018 Honorary mention, Juannio Latin American Art Auction, Guatemala City.
- 2017 Third place, Juannio Latin American Art Auction, Guatemala City.
- 2013 Second place, Juannio Latin American Art Auction, Guatemala City.
- 2010 Selected artist, 7th Biennial of Visual Arts of the Central American Isthmus, BAVIC, Managua, Nicaragua.
- 2008 Honorary mention, Helvetia Painting Contest. Guatemala City.
- 2008 Selected artist, SALPICA: A Dialogue between Visual Artists from Latin America and the United States, supported by ITD Amherst.

COLLECTIONS

- Kadist Collection, San Francisco, CA, USA.
- El Museo del Barrio, New York, NY, USA.
- Colección Banco de España, Madrid, Spain.
- Art in Embassies, US Embassy in Guatemala Permanent Collection, Guatemala City.
- Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain.
- National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, Canada.
- El Espacio 23, Miami, FL, USA.
- Fundación Nacional para las Bellas Artes y la Cultura (FUNBA), Antigua Guatemala.
- Centro de Arte Fundación Ortiz Gurdian, Nicaragua.
- Colección de Arte del Banco Internacional de Desarrollo, New York, NY, USA.

E X T R A G A L E R Í A

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