

# **MARCELA MORAGA M.**

## selection of works

Marcela Moraga has created multifaceted projects including tapestries, drawings, performances and video that explores the tension between culture and what we understand as nature. In her works she analyzes the concept of nature from relationships between reality and fiction, extraction and spirituality, or nature as a multiple possibility. She narrates poetic stories about her encounters and interactions with our architecture, routines and ecosystem.



Installationview solo show "The Mountain as Warp" in Mommsen 35 Gallery. Berlin, 2021

It begins with the artist's constant interest in Andean weavings. After anthropological research, the artist understands this Andean Art as "a kind of textile ecosystem", since fabrics, as multifunctional objects, have the property of connecting the social, economic and spiritual dimensions of the societies linked to the mountains and the surrounding geographies. For example, they are present in everyday and ritual clothing. They decorate the houses and are sold as souvenirs. Moreover, thanks to their elaboration on the basis of ideograms, they would be "texts" that communicate the beliefs, organizations and spatial categories of Andean societies through a graphic discourse.

In "The Mountain as Warp" the artist intervenes industrial *Awayos* and rewrites on them as stories about mega-mining in the Andes. Images of excavators, drills, trucks, satellite images of holes in the ground and mining operations in the mountains are graphically worked through pictograms, vectors and zoomorphic abstractions.

In this process, Moraga uses felt and wool embroidery to develop a graphic discourse that enters into a dialogue with the information carried by the *awayos*. For the composition of the piece, the artist uses the patterns of Andean textiles as geometries, repetitions, curved lines and symmetries.

The artist's interest in machines is connected to her father, since he worked for many years repairing crushing and grinding machines in copper mines in Chile. Marcela Moraga had access to the drawings and photographs that her father made at work, and she also visited "El Teniente", "La Escondida" and other copper plants.

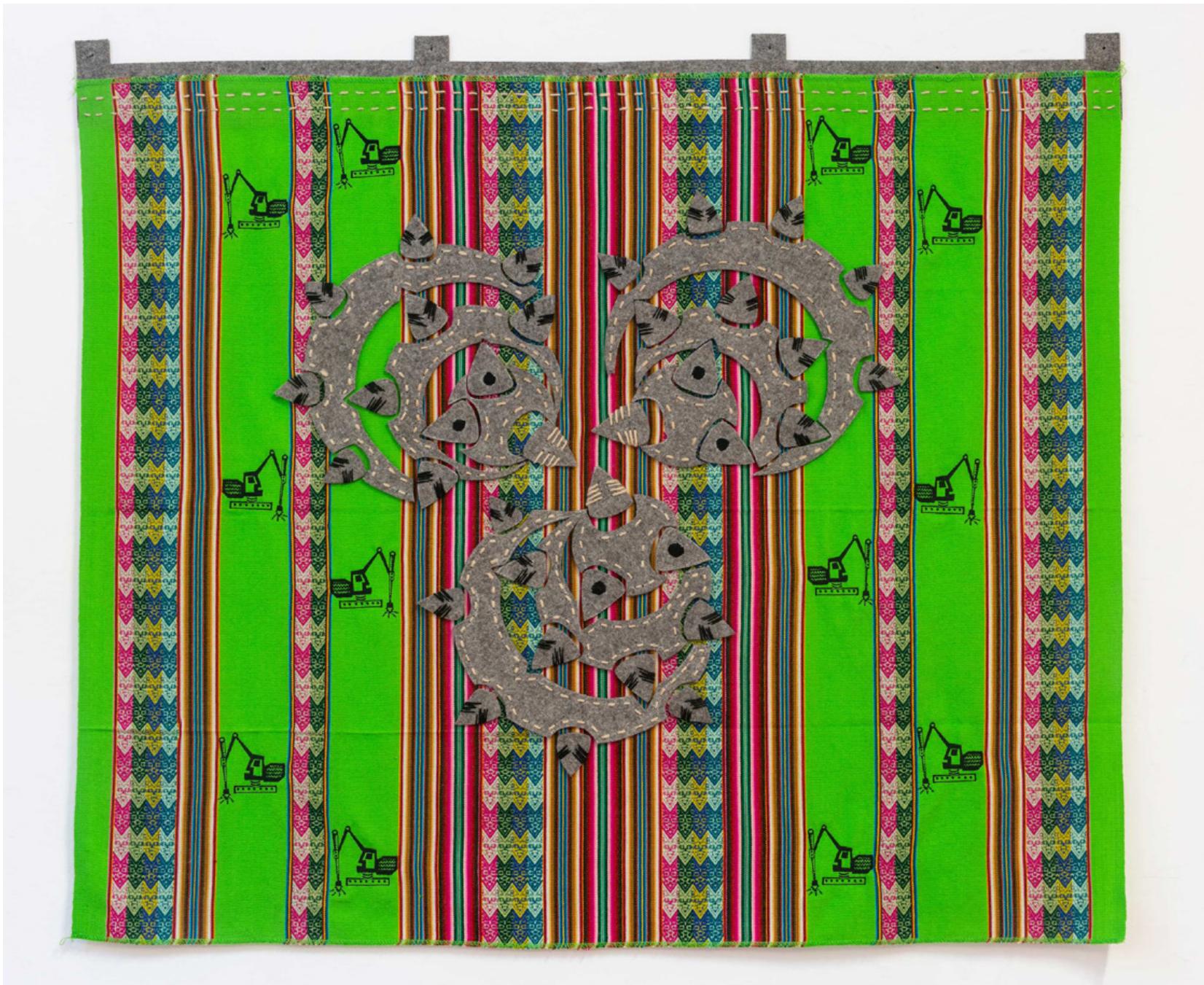


SUNSET AT THE TAILINGS DAM

industrial Awayo and embroidered felt with wool and thread. Size: 110 x 110 cm. 2019



YANACOCCHA, CHUQUICAMATA, LAS BAMBAS  
embroidered felt with wool. Size: 145 x 145 cm. 2019



**ROTARY BITS AND BLASTHOLE DRILLINGS**

industrial Awayo, sewed felt and industrial embroidery. Size: 120 x 110 cm. 2019



NAPA  
Installationview of a 100 Meter long rope. 2021



Videoinstallation view at Villa Romana, Florence. Exhibition "MAI Museo Antropologico Immaginario" 2020

*The man of stone and other treasures* deals with the genocide in Tierra del Fuego, the survivors and the human remains that can be found in various museum collections in Europe, Chile and Argentina. The starting point for the research was the collection of the Museum of Anthropology in Florence and the book *Studio sopra una serie di Crani di Fuegini* (Study of a Series of Skulls of Indigenous Fuegians) by anthropologist and museum founder Paolo Mantegazza.



The wall projection shows how Marcela Moraga was leafing through this book as part of her research when she happened to find a postcard of Carmelo, an Indigenous child. During her research she met Carmelo's family, who are featured in the Videoinstallation in the form of a family album, a gift to the artist.



wooden box with photographs  
size: 32 x 16 cm.





One monitor displays drawings of various skulls and human remains of the people of Tierra del Fuego that were brought to European museums during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

On another monitor, the artist presents a series of photographs of the sculpture David as well a figure of a giant Indigenous person from Tierra del Fuego, which belongs to the collection of the museum in Florence. The story of *The man of stone*, which recounts the horror of the Yagan people (Yamana) during the genocide, is narrated in the installation by ethnographer Martin Gusinde.



## THE HUMBOLDT PENGUIN



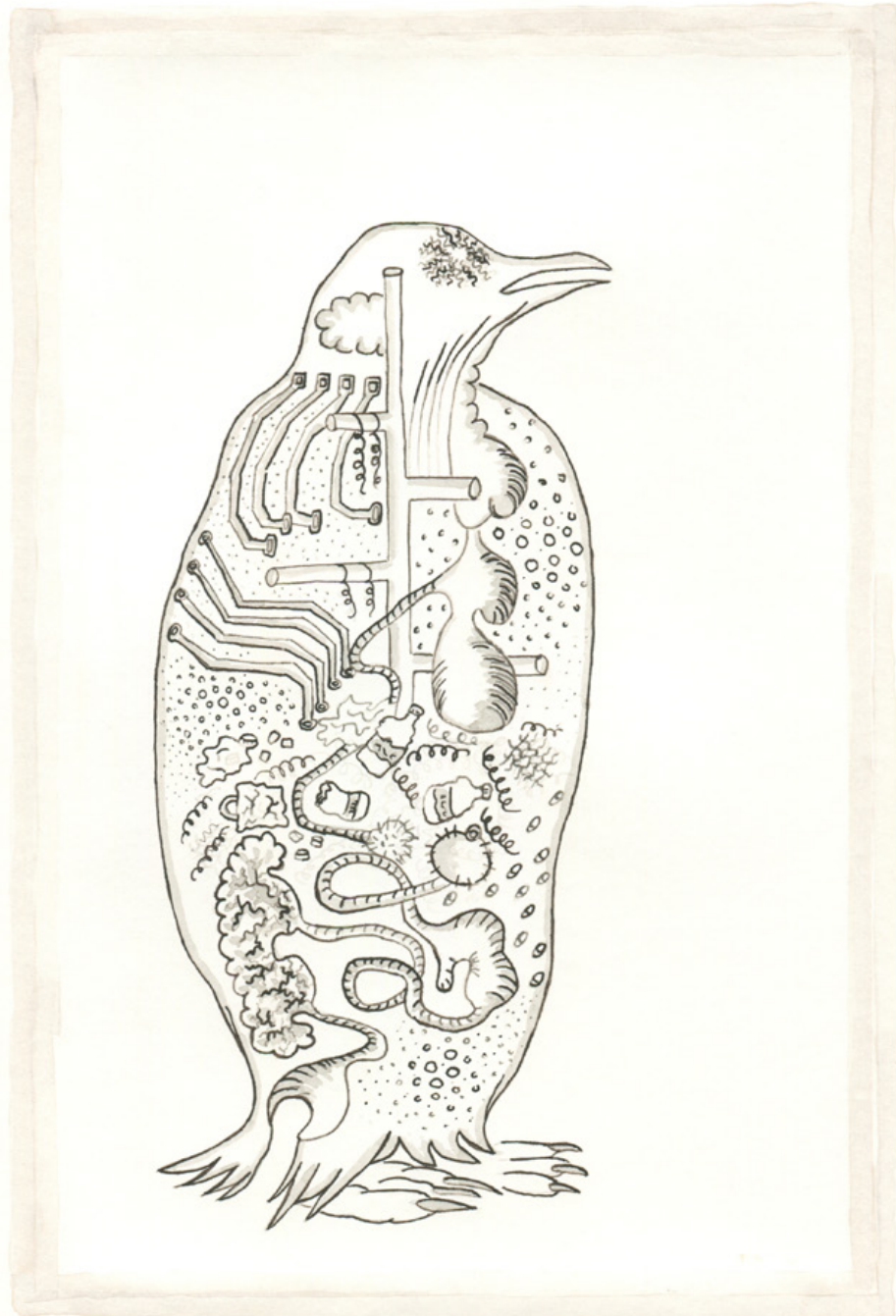
Photo documentation of the performance. It was presented as part of the project „Desviarios“ (Course Deviations) at the Volkspark Humboldthain. Berlin, 2021. Curated by Paz Ponce Bustamante.

Most humans believe that penguins live only in Antarctica. But the Humboldt penguin originally inhabits the Pacific coasts of Peru and Chile, where the cold waters begin to warm. Many penguins of this species also live in many zoos around the world. This versatility in adapting to different landscapes allows this bird to have a diverse knowledge of climate change and human behaviour. On a walk along the border of the Humboldthain Park, where there is a transparent, shiny wall separating the city from the park, the penguin told us about its knowledge of botany, the planets, America, Antarctica and zoos; and he read some paragraphs from the books: “The Wall” by Marlen Haushofer, “The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt’s New World” by Andrea Wulf and “Neither spices nor species. Chronicle of Patagonia” by Marcela Moraga.





In 2018, Marcela Moraga participated in the artistic research program „Magallanes 2020“ in Punta Arenas, Chile. The artist was invited to realize her own project during her stay in Patagonia, which was supposed to include contacts with on-site research institutions in the fields of oceanography, marine biology, paleoecology and history as well as with the local community. Moraga left Berlin-Moabit, having prepared herself by reading the diaries of the Italian explorer Antonio Pigafetta and other travel reports of historical expeditions to Patagonia. What she actually found on her journey, however, differed significantly from the naturalistic and colonialist descriptions of the 16th-18th centuries. Neither spices nor species documents the artist’s own journey with drawings, photographs and texts. The chronicle is a kind of science fiction novel that describe the events between fiction and reality. Published by Ediciones Popolet, 2019. Spanish / English



Drawing: graphite, ink, nib and brush. Paper for ink drawing. Size: 210 x 297 mm.



## FUTURO

The video - performance "Futuro" was carried out on the bank of the Strait of Magellan in Patagonia, Chile. The performance took place 500 years after the Magellan expedition and the first circumnavigation of the Earth. In the performance, the artist walked across a wasteland and then she stuck a flag in the sand. The flag has the word "Futuro" (future in Spanish) which is only possible to read it being upside down.