

THREADS

Mater's Interwoven Narratives of Diversity

2024



MATER is an interdisciplinary and extensive network that seeks to articulate the multicultural and profoundly biodiverse territory of Perú, and to reveal its complex intricacies to the world by not only making them visible but also accessible to our senses. Moreover, it serves as a conduit for connection.

The interplay between gastronomy, science, art and humanities, embodies the multifaceted approach in which Mater processes diversity, both the natural and cultural realms. By threading together facts, narratives, landscapes, people, ingredients and techniques, unexpected patterns are revealed and new conversations unfold. At the heart of Mater's approach lies a recognition of the stories within the stories, the layers of interconnections that shape our understanding of life.

Materiality serves as a pivotal aspect of our exploration, offering multiple pathways for diverse experimentation and expression, embracing change in a research practice that delves into the essence of raw materials, their seasonal fluctuations, traditional knowledge and life processes embedded within. This approach not only deepens our understanding of that which surrounds us but also serves as a bridge for intercultural exchange as we move through different landscapes and ways of perceiving, weaving together the fabric of shared human experience.



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MATER
THREADS

*Mater's Interwoven
Narratives of Diversity*



HUATIA

The *Huatia* stands as one of the most symbolic culinary traditions in the Andean region of Peru. It is a cultural act of reciprocity that takes place during the harvest season, and embodies a deep connection to the earth. It serves as a dual expression: a tribute to the Pachamama (mother earth) for her sustenance and a means of nurturing her in return. It also represents a moment. A meaningful gathering to give thanks and to reunite those who worked hard on the farmlands.

For its development, an oven is built with dry and compact earth rocks -locally called *qurpas*-. These are arranged forming a dome and then a small opening is left to insert stems and leaves, that allow the entry of airflow for combustion within. As the temperature reaches its optimal level, various roots and tubers—potatoes, ocas, and mashwas - are introduced through the oven's upper section and the openings get sealed for perfect cooking. Once cooked, the harvest is shared, a moment of communal celebration and sharing.

PIECE ·01
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فرن الهواتيا

تبرز أفران الهواتيا، ومعها إحدى أكثر تقاليد الطهي محلية في منطقة جبال الأنديز البيرونية، وهي فعل فطيرة التراب، المصنوعة تحت أي فناء موسم الحصاد. لتجسد ارتباطاً وثيقاً بتاريخنا كأرض هذه الأفران عن تحزينها لنا، وهي تعبير عن العزيم والاحترام. إن التمسك بالارتباط مع الأرض ينبثق عن العزم التي تمنحنا لها. ولما التربة فهي إلهتها بالاحترام في المقابل. وأفران الأرز الهواتيا أيضا لحظة مهمة للربط مع أول تجموع البشر، وهم شمل الأخص الذين عملوا بها في المزارع.

أبنى فرن الهواتيا باستخدام صخور أرضية جافة ومضغوطة، يخلق غليظاً جديداً يسمى "قوربا". أولئك الحصى تتشكل إلى قبة تحت مسمرة لوضع جذج النباتات وورقها، والتي تسمح بمرور هواء الفرن. فطيرة التراب في الداخل، وعندما تملأ إلى درجة الحرارة المثلى، تُغلق فتحة الفرن من الجزء الداخلي، على أنابيب الخشب والمفلور من جانبي الجزء العلوي، يتم إدخال الخضروات الجذرية على طهي لحظتها. بمجرد تمام التحميص، يتم مشاركة الحصاد في لحظة من الاحتفال والمشاركة المجتمعية.



Interpretation of a Huatia carried out by Virgilio.



ASSEMBLAGE

Artisans, techniques and materials from diverse backgrounds come together in a shared conversation. Each small element, meticulously crafted with distinctive materials such as corn husks, Amazonian palm fibers, cactus threads, clay, or dyed wool, speaks of its place of origin, carrying narratives deeply embedded in the earth. Primary techniques, such as knotting, or weaving, encapsulate gestures that harbor transmitted knowledge, showcasing a tangible language from which interconnected narratives and where different ways of creating converge.

PIECE ·02
ASSEMBLAGE



Wall composition made out of diverse fiber and ceramic elements.

Customized size.
Ref 1.70 x 2mt



PEOPLE AND PLANTS

The realm of plants traverses many of Mater's areas of interest. Our daily interactions in the Andes of Perú have led us to collect over 250 specimens. This documentation extends beyond biological characteristics. We are driven by the desire to explore traditional knowledge rooted in the communities neighboring Mil. We believe this knowledge is not only crucial for understanding but also for preserving local stories and practices. In collaboration with Peruvian illustrator Tania Brun, we portray a few of those plants that inspire us. Through these artworks, we celebrate nature and local practices, delving as well into the aesthetic, and spiritual connection to the earth and our ancestors.

PIECE ·03
PEOPLE AND PLANTS



06 botanic illustrations screen printed on cotton paper, featuring plants from the Peruvian Andes. Each with an immersive video through QR code.

Size: A2 / 42 X 59.4cm each.



COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS

Diverse ecosystems along Peru's coast, each with the unique ingredients that characterize its landscape. From the serene mangroves to the dynamic estuaries, and from the arid forests to the abundant ocean, every element speaks to the intricate web of life that thrives along Peru's coastline. Through these still life compositions, we honor the rich biodiversity and the vital role these ecosystems play in supporting both wildlife and human livelihoods. More so, it stands as a visual reminder of the delicate balance between nature and humanity.

PIECE ·04
COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS



*06 still life photographs
featuring products sourced
from ecosystems along the
coast of Peru.*

*Size: A2 / 42 X 59.4cm each.
A3 option also available.*



ANATOMY OF THEOBROMAS

Cacao, scientifically known as *Theobroma cacao*, thrives in the fertile soils of the Peruvian Amazon. Mater's particular focus, with respect to this fruit, has been to make visible the specialty and expressive complexity of native varieties of cacao, particularly the Chunchu, from the Cusco region. Alongside this cacao, sharing the same ecosystem, you may find lesser known but equally fascinating members of the *Theobroma* genus: Copoazú (*Theobroma grandiflorum*) and Macambo (*Theobroma bicolor*). Together, they all offer unique culinary possibilities.

At Mater, we embrace the diversity of the cacao native varieties and value every part of the fruit. Our exploration and innovation extend beyond the typically used seeds, as we strive to utilize every fraction of the fruit: endocarp and mesocarp from the pod, skin, central vein, mucilage, bean shells and even the leaves, highlighting the importance of recognizing and maximizing the potential of our resources and creativity.

PIECE ·05
ANATOMY OF THEOBROMAS



→ Flat screen.
Video
showcasing cacao
processes .



Staging: "Decostruction of Theobromas",
dissected parts of
cacao/copoazu/macambo showcased
upon a a rectangle module.



PANTONE

Inspired by the rich biodiversity of Peru's Coastal, Andean, and Amazonian regions, this display of textile panels embodies the essence of diverse ecosystems. Crafted from fabric swatches naturally dyed with ingredients native to these areas – including tubers, fruits, plants, roots, barks and seeds – the pieces reveal a large spectrum of colors. Utilizing traditional dyeing techniques and mordants such as alum stone, colpa clay, and pH modifiers, the artwork reflects the vibrant hues of Peru's culinary landscapes. It serves not only as an artistic expression but also as a scientific inquiry into the relationship between food, color, and biodiversity.

PIECE ·06
PANTONE



پانتون

هذا العمل المستلهم من التنوع الحيوي الذي في كل من المناطق الساحلية، ومرتفعات الأنديز، والسهول في البيرو وهو عبارة عن عرض فني لتعدد النكهات الطبيعية المتعددة التي تنتجها الطبيعة. يرمي المشروع هدفًا واسعًا من الألياف، وقد تم استخدام منتج من النباتات المعمورة (بشمع) في هذه الحالة من أجل استكشاف العلاقة بين تلك العناصر، مثل المذاق والرائحة واللون والحدود والبناء والبنية من أجل استخدام الألوان الطبيعية، وتعتبر النسيج التقليدية - مثل القطن وصن الجوزي وفهاتك الجوزية - بعض هذا العمل الفني الهيب الألوبن الصلبة والتي تستخدم المتكاملة بالطبيعي في بيرو والبيرو هو هذا العمل على تقدير التي تحدث في إحد أيضًا بيننا في العلاقة بين المصنوع والبيرو منجز الحيوي

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03 textile panels composed of dyed fabric swatches.

Size: 3.5mt x 0.40 cm. each.

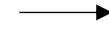
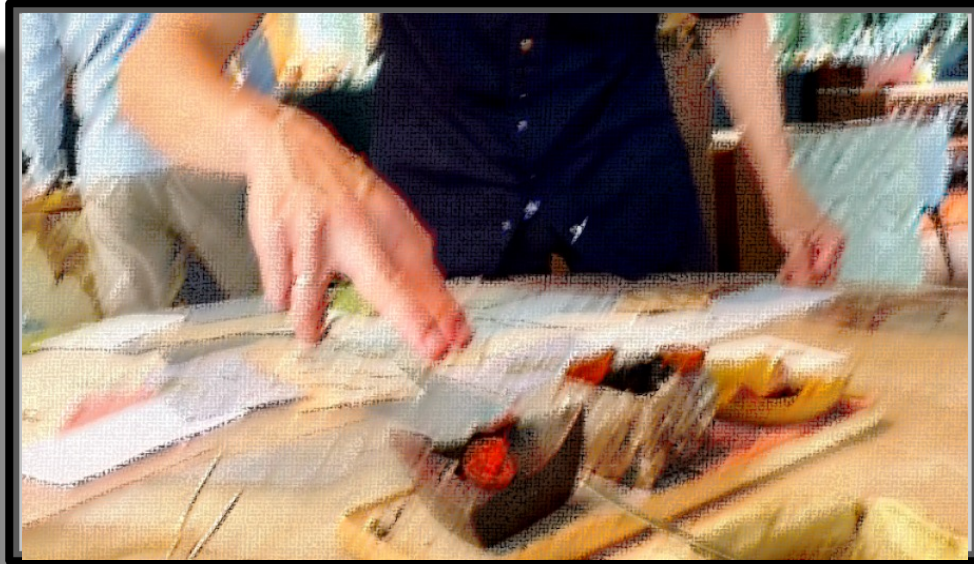


MIL

MIL Centro, chef Virgilio Martínez's gastronomic project, sits on the edge of the Moray Archaeological Complex, a system of terraces arranged in concentric circular terraces, thought to be an Incas center for agriculture research and experimentation with microclimates at various altitudes. At 3680masl, in the Sacred Valley of the Incas, in Cusco, MIL is surrounded by a rich cultural and natural landscape. A majestic range of sacred mountains frame the view, while patches of farmlands and hidden biodiversity alive with wild plant specimens and infused with traditional knowledge, shape the scenery and our everyday work and inspiration. Undergoing a captivating transformation with the change of season, transitioning between arid golden yellows to verdant hues; in such an environment, the question arises: How does one set a table? How does one capture the essence of the surroundings and bring the landscape indoors?

PIECE ·07

MIL



Flat screen: Visual registration of the making of the scene.



A representation that narrates what a table production is like at Mil Centro, located at 3600masl amidst the Andean landscapes of Cusco. Carried out by Virgilio.





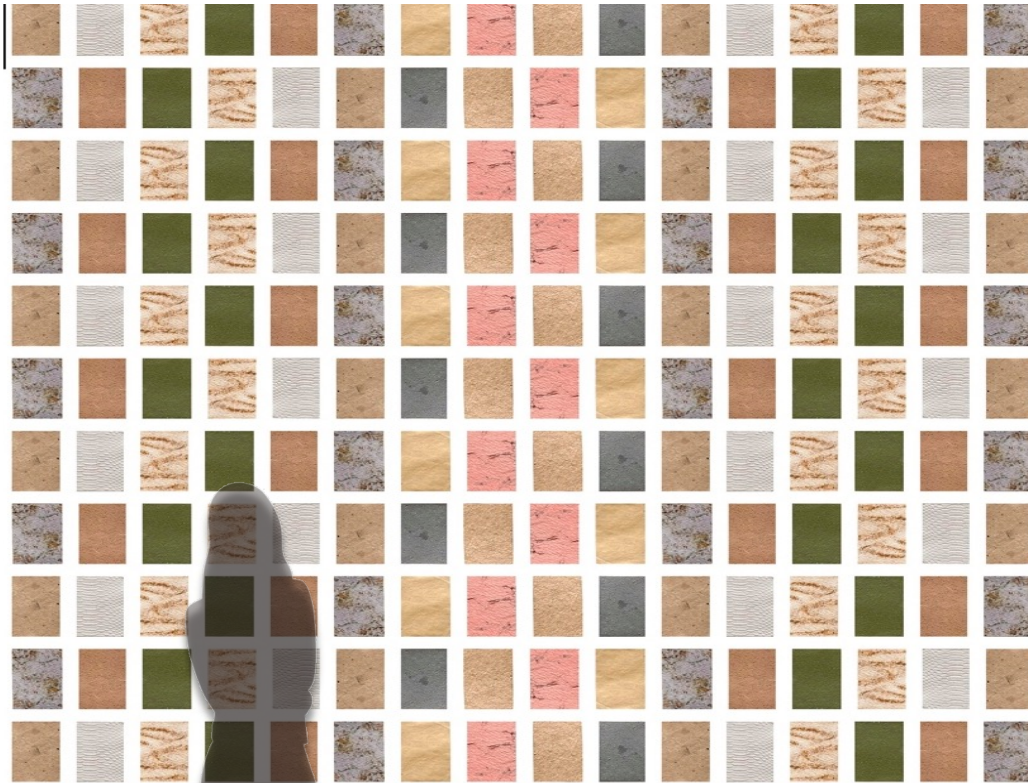
TEXTURES

Through a thoughtful selection of textured papers, we portray the wide spectrum of Peruvian landscapes. From the desertic coasts to the abundant jungles, and the depths of the ocean, each texture tells a story of Peru's natural diversity. All materials, sourced from across the country, include Yuyo seaweed, charcoal, clay from Cusco, cacao seed shells and oca powder, arapaima fish skin, fibers from bellaco, and raw banana, are used by local artisans in two different workplaces, one in the high-altitude rainforest and the other along the northern coast.

In collaboration with: Bosques de Papel / Artesanos Don Bosco

PIECE ·08
TEXTURES

CENTRAL



*Wall installation composed of
diverse textured papers.*

*Customized size.
Ref-. 2mt x 2.05mt*



RHYTHMS

The ancient art of backstrap weaving has long served as a profound reflection of the interconnectedness between humans, animals, plants, and the environment in pre-Hispanic cultures of Peru. As a narrative medium, textiles not only convey sacred stories but also depict the everyday life of Andean communities. This piece captures the dynamic transformation of Andean landscapes throughout the year, as they transition between rainfall and dry periods. By gathering threads dyed over the course of a year, it encapsulates the passage of time and the ever-changing rhythms of nature. With each season, a distinct palette of colors emerges, drawn from a diverse selection of plants used for dyeing. From the warm earthy tones of the dry season to the vibrant greens, yellows and purples of the rainy season, this textile stands as a time lapse of the entire annual calendar and nature's cycle.

Weaved by: Elba Henrriquez, K'acllaraccay, Maras-Cusco

PIECE ·09
RHYTHMS



Textile.
Size:3.70mt x 2mt x 0.60mt

PIECE · 10
Diversity of corns

CENTRAL



Size: 2 x 2
Crisp size: 10-15cm each