VOLUME 66
22 JUNE 2026

NEWSLETTER

A VISION OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES



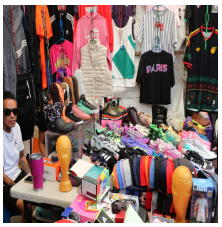
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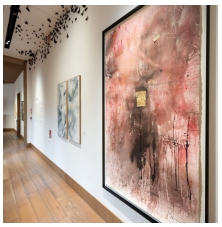
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Ecuadorian Biologists Discover New Species of Terrestrial Frog.

The species has been recorded only in two locations in Rio Blanco.

On Monday, Ecuador's National Institute of Biodiversity (Inabio) announced the discovery of a new species of terrestrial frog called Pristimantis etsa, found in the Cordillera del Condor, the natural border between Ecuador and Peru.

The discovery was made in the Rio Blanco area during scientific expeditions along the San Francisco University of Quito and the University of Wollongong (Australia). The identification was based on morphological and genetic evidence.

The name etsa comes from the Shuar language, where it represents a figure associated with the Sun and the transmission of knowledge, reflecting the relationship between biodiversity and Amazonian cultural heritage. The species has been recorded only in two locations in Rio Blanco, at elevations between 1,655 and 1,830 meters above sea level, and has been observed at night on shrub leaves in humid montane forests.

Researchers warn that its distribution is very restricted and it faces threats from mining, agricultural expansion, and forest fragmentation. They recommend classifying it as vulnerable according to IUCN criteria.

The Cordillera del Condor has historically been a center of biological diversification and also a space of cultural significance for Indigenous peoples.

This finding adds to a long tradition of discoveries of endemic amphibians in the Amazonian Andes, where local communities have played a key role in the conservation and transmission of knowledge about the fauna and its relationship with the natural environment.



Mexico's La Lagunilla Market Adapts International Menus Amid World Cup.

Tourists highlighted that the experience combines gastronomy, antiques, vintage clothing, and handicrafts.

Mexico City's La Lagunilla market has adapted to the atmosphere of the 2026 World Cup with menus in English, themed products, and decorations featuring the flags of the participating teams, seeking to attract the international fans who come to the capital.
Vendors like Erik Castillo, who specializes in hot dogs with recipes from different countries, prepare versions inspired by Germany, Italy, the United States, and Morocco, and plan to incorporate new offerings depending on which teams play in Mexico.
Tourists highlighted that the experience combines gastronomy, antiques, vintage clothing, and handicrafts, describing it as a "chaotic" but attractive space, different from conventional tourist sites.

Traditional vendors emphasize that La Lagunilla has been receiving foreign visitors for decades and that its appeal lies in "the mix of commerce and community", with activities like the coin toss that foster a sense of connection with customers.
After the opening match at Estadio Azteca, Mexico City will host four more matches, including Mexico's clash against the Czech Republic on June 24, as well as two knockout rounds.

Mexico already defeated South Africa 2-0 in the opening match, with goals from Julian Quiñones (8th minute) and Raul Jiménez (66th minute). The match was marked by three expulsions, two of them for South Africa.

These activities show how popular spaces like La Lagunilla are becoming part of the World Cup experience, offering cultural and commercial offerings that complement the sporting festivities and reinforce the city's international profile.



Lima Hosts the 19th Latin American Opera Conference.

The nineteenth edition of the Latin American Opera Annual Conference (OLA) brings together experts and cultural managers in Lima to discuss the adaptation of the genre to new times, technological challenges and emerging audiences.

On Wednesday, the nineteenth edition of the Latin American Opera Conference (OLA) opened in Lima, bringing together a diverse group of experts, cultural managers, artists, and authorities.For the next three days, the renowned Municipal Theater of Lima will host this international gathering, which aims to establish itself as a space for conversation, updates, and analysis, as well as a strategic venue for initiating and developing collaborative projects in the region.

“OLA exists so that we can accompany and support each other on this journey, so that we can listen to each other, grow, inspire each other, and empower one another, thus taking opera to new places, new audiences, and new times,” OLA Director Paulina Ricciardi said, adding that her organization hopes the event “will be a space that strengthens human relationships.”

On Thursday, ‘La púrpura de la rosa’ will be performed. After admiring a colorful Andean parade with Las pastoras de Yuyos, attendees will also witness this historic work, considered the first opera composed and performed in the Americas, which arrives on stage 325 years after its creation.

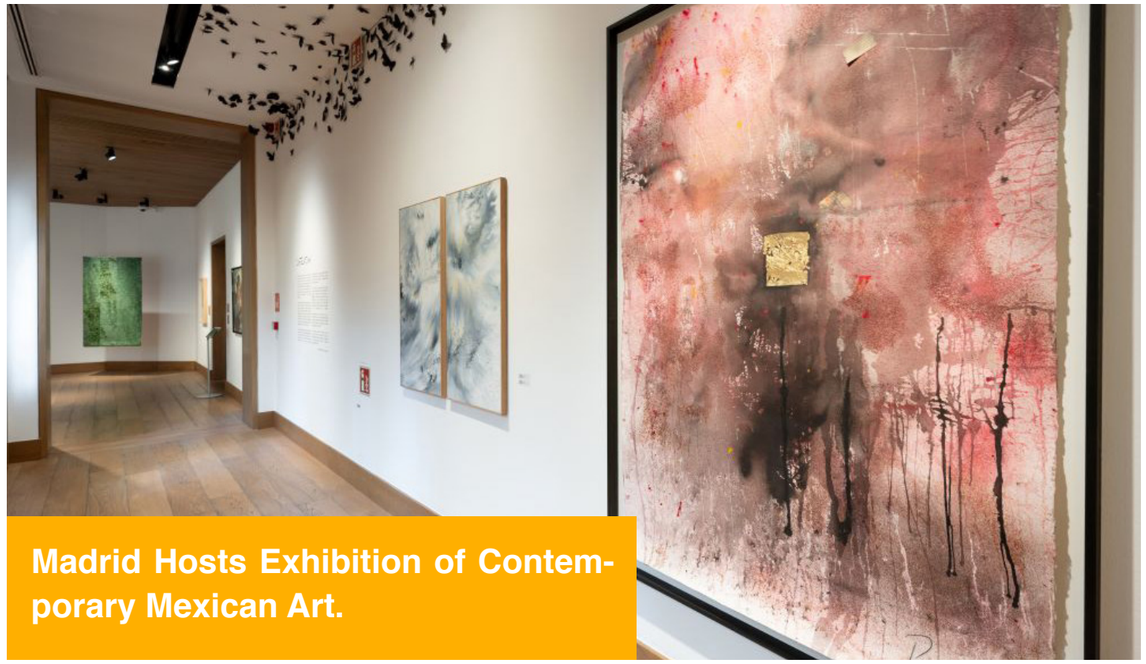
Carmen Larenas, OLA president and director of the Santiago Municipal Theater, explained that workshops and conferences will address the leadership and governance of cultural projects, an essential aspect in these complex times. She maintained that the performing arts face unavoidable challenges such as the rise of technology, the renewal of audiences, the general crisis in education, and polarization. Regarding this panorama, the president of the OLA Network reflected: *“The arts are a way of constructing meaning. Undoubtedly, the upcoming debate is ethical: what will be the agreed-upon limit between technology and humanity?”*

She emphasized that the stronghold of art is *“emotion, the emotion that is human,”* which allows us to express and transform pain, loneliness, and joy. Furthermore, she indicated that opera must update its outreach to the public through marketing, noting that “being a space for encounter is an exception in today’s world.”

Lima Mayor Renzo Reggiardo inaugurated the event and celebrated the city’s transformation into an epicenter for dialogue on best practices and sustainability.

“We firmly believe that culture is not an accessory to urban development. It is one of its fundamental pillars,” he affirmed, concluding that a city that invests in this sector strengthens its identity, promotes inclusion, fosters creativity, and generates better opportunities for its citizens.

The event reaffirms the region’s commitment to keeping classical artistic expressions relevant in the face of contemporary challenges.



Madrid Hosts Exhibition of Contemporary Mexican Art.

The event coincides with the meeting between King Felipe VI and President Sheinbaum.

On Friday, Casa de Mexico in Madrid inaugurated the group exhibition “Latency,” which brings together five leading figures in contemporary Mexican art: Perla Krauze, Knut Pani, Cristobal Ascencio, Flor Pandal, and Andrea Bores.

Curator Karmele Rodriguez explained that the exhibition, which will be open until August 30, focuses on the “empty space” between what we want to remember and what we actually remember, an interval she interprets as a place of possibilities and creation.

The works of Perla Krauze and Knut Pani focus on materiality, showing memory as an accumulation of strata and experiences. In contrast, Andrea Bores works with matter that draws on memory to recall its own structure, generating a dialogue between the physical and the symbolic.

The third narrative of the exhibition presents memory as a fragile act, exposed to loss but sustained by recollection. Here, the works of Cristobal Ascencio, who rescues images with digital errors, and Flor Pandal, who captures memories arising from meditation and introspection, stand out.

The exhibition is part of the Mexican tradition of linking art and memory, where the personal and the collective intertwine. In Mexico, memory has been a recurring theme in contemporary art, from the exploration of identity to the preservation of cultural heritage.
The choice of Madrid as the venue also reflects the Casa de Mexico’s commitment to building cultural bridges between Europe and Latin America.

The opening of the exhibition coincides with the upcoming meeting between King Felipe VI and Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum in Mexico City. Both initiatives reflect an effort to build cultural and political spaces between Spain and Mexico after years of diplomatic tensions.



Peru Denounces Intentional Destruction of Pre-Hispanic Geoglyph.

The case adds to other threats to Peruvian cultural heritage, such as damage to the Nazca Lines.

On Monday, Peru's Ministry of Culture denounced the intentional destruction of the pre-Hispanic geoglyph known as the Triple Spiral, which is more than a thousand years old and is located in archaeological zone 11 of the Santo Domingo Ravine.

La Libertad's Directorate of Culture confirmed that the geoglyph was erased by manually removing soil, resulting in the complete loss of this archaeological evidence related to the worship and management of water in ancient societies on the northern coast.

The incident occurred just days after a state operation to recover illegally occupied land within the protected area, leading to the presumption that the destruction was retaliation for actions taken to defend cultural heritage.

The archaeological zone encompasses more than 1,500 hectares and preserves evidence of human occupation from approximately 11,000 years ago until the 15th century AD, making it a key site for scientific research and the country's historical memory.

The Culture Ministry will pursue administrative, civil, and criminal actions to identify and punish those responsible. The case adds to other threats to Peruvian cultural heritage, such as damage to the Nazca Lines and attempted occupations of archaeological sites in Cusco.

In Peruvian cultural tradition, geoglyphs have been considered symbolic expressions linked to the Andean worldview, especially in relation to water and fertility. Their destruction not only implies material loss but also a blow to identity.

The defense of archaeological heritage in Peru has historically been a challenge: from protecting Machu Picchu to recovering looted artifacts abroad, the country has sought to balance urban development and cultural conservation.

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