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NEWSLETTER

A VISION OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER COVERING LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ISSUES A PROJECT BETWEEN GREEN ZONE FOUNDATION AND TELESUR

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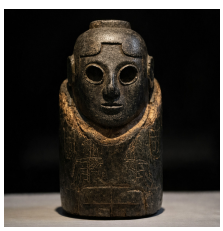
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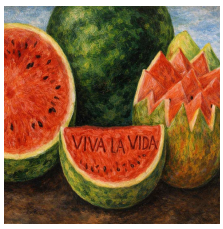
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43 Ancient Figures from the Caral Civilization Discovered in Peru.



Peruvian archaeologists found in Peñico an offering of 43 miniatures made of bone and wood that demonstrate the cultural continuity of the oldest civilization in America.

A collection of 43 ancient figures belonging to the Caral civilization was discovered at the Peñico archaeological site, located in the Supe Valley, north of Lima. The pieces, crafted from bone and wood, represent gods, animals, and human faces, and were presented at the Peruvian Ministry of Culture on Monday.

Archaeology

The discovery provides new evidence about the cultural continuity processes that developed in the region after the abandonment of the main urban centers of this civilization, considered the oldest in the Americas, which flourished between 3000 and 1800 BCE.

During the presentation, archaeologist Mauro Ordóñez, head of the Peñico archaeological site, told the EFE news agency that the miniatures date from between 1800 and 1500 BCE. However, the building where they were found is 3,800 years old. Ordóñez noted that specialists are awaiting the results of carbon-14 dating to confirm their exact age.

Regarding the significance of the find, the archaeologist indicated that the figures “have a very powerful iconographic charge in symbolic terms.” The collection includes anthropomorphic, geometric, and zoomorphic representations. Among the anthropomorphic figures, probable deities and authorities were identified, as well as a “Venus of Peñico,” a headless female figure.

The context of the find is fundamental to Peruvian archaeology. The miniatures were carefully arranged around semicircular stones and show signs of fire. This confirms that they were used in a ritual associated with the architectural renovation of the settlement’s main public building. *“They were found in an offering process… there is a context of respect at the time of leaving this offering,”* Ordóñez added.

GeographicReference

The urban center of Peñico, founded around 1800 BC on a 19.44-hectare site, emerged after the decline of the Sacred City of Caral-Supe, located 13 kilometers away. Far from representing a break, research shows that this city, which boasts 15 public buildings, functioned as a hub for integration between the coast, the highlands, and the rainforest, receiving goods from these regions.

Excavation work continues under the direction of archaeologist Ruth Shady, head of the Caral Zone. The team hopes to unearth more artifacts at the site and study other structures to understand the social dynamics of this ancient civilization.

Bolivia Reopens its National Archaeology Museum with pre-Hispanic Legacies and Repatriated Heritage an Exhibition.



Bolivia reopens museum with pre-Hispanic legacies and repatriated heritage representative pieces, according to specialists, continue to manifest themselves in different ways and give the nation's cultural richness.

On July 1st, Bolivia Archaeology National Museum (Munarq) reopened its doors with the permanent exhibition *'Eternal Roots, Living Legacies,'* an exhibition that highlights the connection between pre-Hispanic customs and current traditions of the Andean country.

After a revitalization process of nearly a year, supported by the Latin America Development Bank (CAF), Munarq presented the new exhibition, distributed across seven rooms, which explores the country rich pre-Hispanic heritage. The exhibition displays stone, organic, wooden, ceramic, and metal artifacts. *"Many customs we have in different regions of the country have been developed and are actually rooted in our past. The way we perform the ch'allar (blessing objects with alcohol), celebrate certain festivities, and believe in certain things, all have their pre-Hispanic origins,"* stated archaeologist Rubén Mamani, a professional in Archaeological Collections at the repository.

The specialist added that these pieces represent the "legacies left to us by our ancestors," which continue to manifest themselves in different ways and contribute to the nation's cultural richness.

The tour begins with the first hunter-gatherer inhabitants of what is now Bolivian territory, exhibiting arrowheads and a mural that replicates cave paintings. The second room addresses the first cultures from 2000 BCE emergence. The exhibit spans from the Inca period, showcasing ceremonial vessels, plates, and cups from the Chiripa, Wankarani, Tiwanaku, and Inca cultures, all achieved through the domestication of plants and animals that enabled settlement in fixed locations.

Subsequent spaces are dedicated to spirituality, ritual, and the connection with ancestors, as well as methods of communication, including quipus, a system of knotted and colored cords used for accounting. In the section on 'Immortality' and commemorations of the dead, the centerpiece is Saphi, the mummy of a 15th-century Inca girl from the Pacajes chiefdom in La Paz. This artifact was taken to the United States around 1890 and repatriated in 2019.

The final room also features an illa, or Andean deity carved in stone, an iconic figure illegally removed in 1858 and returned in 2014 by a Swiss museum. Mamani explained that originally this Andean stone illa or deity represents a woman, but when it was repatriated it was given another connotation, associating it as a precursor to the Alasita festival, the miniature wishes celebration.

Bolivians Promote Marraqueta Bread as Heritage of Humanity.



La Paz artisan bakers commemorated Marraqueta Day.

On Monday, Bolivian artisan bakers commemorated Marraqueta Day, celebrated every July 6, by announcing their intention to request UNESCO to declare Marraqueta bread a "heritage of humanity".

"The marraqueta is a bread like no other. It has even crossed borders." The goal is for "the whole world to know that the marraqueta is from Bolivia," emphasized Dandy Mallea, La Paz Artisan Bakers Federation leader.

This emblematic food, popularly known as the 'bread of the day,' was already declared a Cultural and Historical Heritage in 2006. Recently, a municipal law passed in 2024 ratified this recognition and officially established the event.

The artisanal production involves flour, water, salt, and yeast, and the rolls rest in jute cloths before baking.

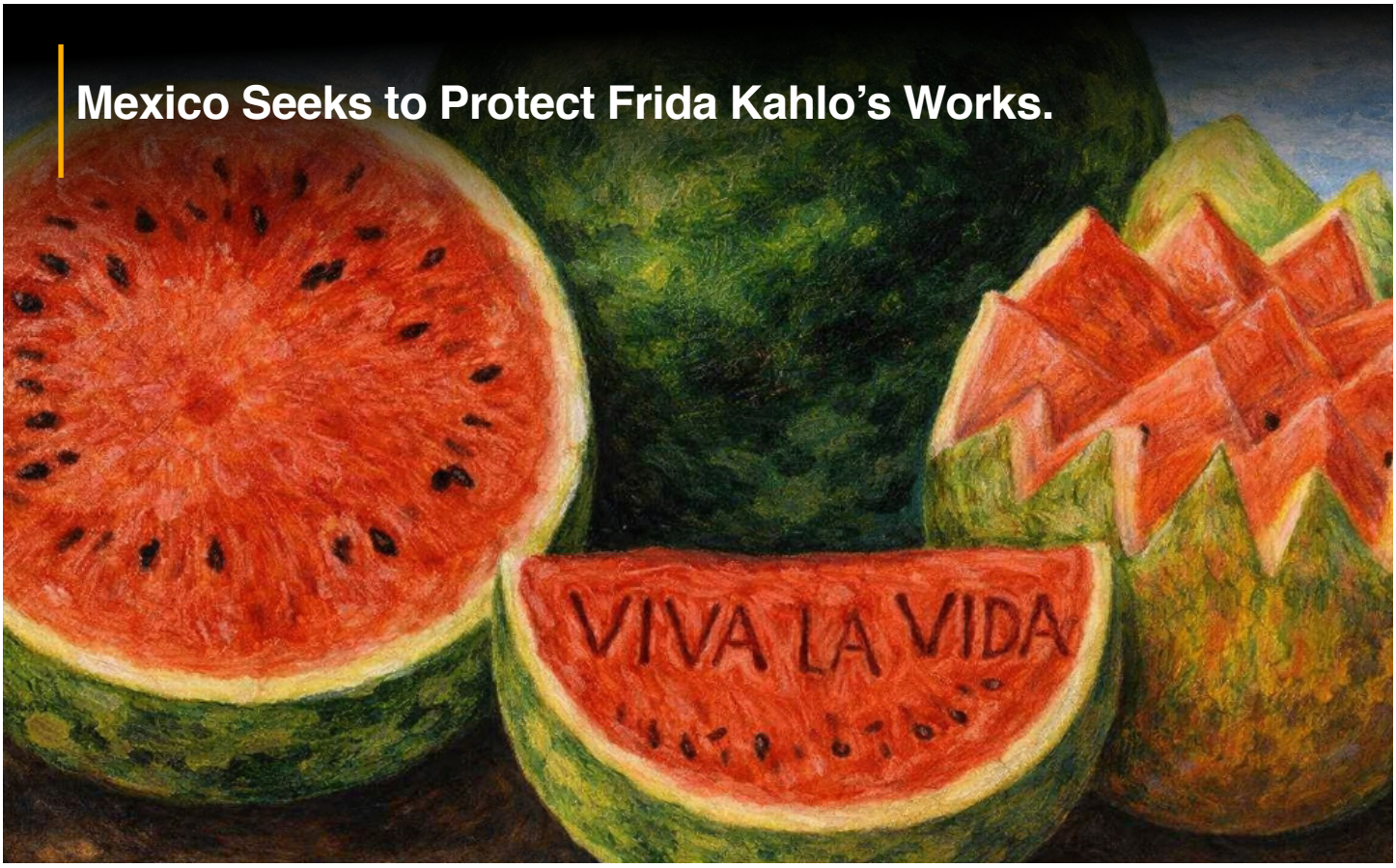
Geographic Reference

Anthropologist Diego Noriega explained that its unique consistency, crispy on the outside and soft on the inside, is achieved thanks to the water, La Paz the altitude (over 3,600 meters), and the use of refractory ovens with clay brick vaults. These baking techniques are inherited from ancestral cultures, such as the Tiwanaku and the Inca.

Regarding its origin, historian Florencia Durán indicates that it was introduced by the Greek Michel Jorge Callisperis in 1908, while Antonio Paredes Candia attributes it to the Danes Andrés and Wigo Rasmussen in the 1920s. For the anthropologist, the marraqueta is a humble bread but ubiquitous on the Bolivian table.

"It is fulfilling its role as a symbol of identity, strengthening the identity of any La Paz meal," Noriega emphasized. Its nickname, 'bread of battle,' stems from its use in feeding soldiers during the Chaco War (1932-1935). It also played a vital role in combating hunger during the hyperinflation crisis of the 1980s

Mexico Seeks to Protect Frida Kahlo's Works.



Mexico's Supreme Court has resumed jurisdiction to determine whether the 1984 decree declaring all of Frida Kahlo's work an artistic monument can prevent the permanent export of pieces belonging to private collectors.

On Wednesday, the Mexican Supreme Court (SCJN) ruled by majority vote to reassume jurisdiction to determine whether a 1984 presidential decree can protect the entirety of Frida Kahlo's work and prohibit its permanent removal from the country, even when the pieces belong to private individuals.

ExecutiveBranch

The SCJN considered the matter of national importance regarding the right to culture versus the right to property. The analysis will focus on establishing whether Article 6 of the 1984 decree, which declared the entire work of the Mexican painter an artistic monument, can protect pieces such as "Self-Portrait with Medallion" (1948), belonging to a private collection.

The reassumption of jurisdiction was initiated by Judge Giovanni Azael Figueroa Mejía, based on an appeal for review 40/2026 filed by Banco Go for More (Ve Por Más in Spanish) in 2023.

Figueroa Mejía stated that the matter seeks to determine whether the decree exceeds the regulatory authority of the federal Executive Branch by prohibiting the permanent export of the artworks.

For his part, Judge Arístides Guerrero clarified that the restriction established in the decree is not contemplated "in Article 16 of the Federal Law on Monuments, which does permit the export of privately owned property."

The ruling could impact the movement of important private collections, such as the Gelman Collection, currently exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in Mexico City and scheduled to be transferred to Spain in 2026. It also affects the Dolores Olmedo Collection, housed in the museum of the same name, which recently reopened after a six-year closure.

Latinos& Latin-Americans

The works of Frida Kahlo (1907-1954) represent a high cultural and commercial value. 'The Dream (The Bed)' (1940) was sold for US$54.7 million at Sotheby's in New York, establishing itself as the highest-selling work of art by a female artist in Mexico at auction.



Peru to Set Machu Picchu's Tourist Carrying Capacity.

The Peruvian government awarded a technical study to determine Machu Picchu actual carrying capacity, with the aim of regulating tourist flow and preserving the heritage.

Peru will determine the exact number of visitors Machu Picchu can receive following the awarding of a carrying capacity study, announced the Foreign Trade and Tourism Minister, Berthin Gómez this friday. The initiative aims to establish capacity limits for the South American country's main tourist destination.

Demographics

The minister indicated that the study was awarded on Wednesday to an unidentified company. This work will require an investment of approximately US$880,000 and will have a completion timeframe of 190 days.

Currently, the ministry is carrying out the preliminary procedures, and the contract signing is scheduled for the second half of this month.

The objective is to have precise technical information for the management of the site. "We will be able to determine technically what the actual capacity of the Machu Picchu citadel will be," stated Minister Gómez.

The Inca citadel, located more than 2,400 meters above sea level in the Cusco jungle region, has been receiving an average of 5,600 visitors per day since June 19th due to the start of the high season.

In recent weeks, the high demand for tickets, which are mostly sold online but also at the Ministry of Culture office in the Machu Picchu district, has generated long lines and frustration among visitors, who sometimes have to wait up to a day to enter the archaeological site.

Arts& Entertainment

This technical assessment adds to concerns about the conservation of the heritage site. On May 25th, the international organization New 7 Wonders warned that risks and infrastructure problems persist at Machu Picchu, threatening its status as a new wonder of the world, awarded by the organization in 2007.


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