Tawna PAVILION OF & ECUADOR 2026 Oscar

La Biennale di Venezia
61. Esposizione Internazionale d'Arte
Partecipazioni Nazionali

Pavilion of Ecuador at the 61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

The Pavilion of Ecuador at Biennale Arte 2026 presents *Tawna & Óscar*, an exhibition that challenges dominant ways of organizing life, knowledge, and territory. Featuring the Tawna collective and Óscar Santillán, and curated by Manuela Moscoso with the support of its commissioner, the Museum of Anthropology and Contemporary Art of Ecuador (MAAC), the project approaches art as a practice of attention.

Tawna & Óscar brings together the practices of Óscar Santillán and the Tawna collective to present two contemporary ways of thinking and making the world through relation. The project proposes an approach to art that moves away from fixed categories and closed hierarchies, focusing instead on processes of exchange that unfold across bodies, languages, territories, and times.

Curated by Manuela Moscoso, the Pavilion of Ecuador is conceived as a space of attention and listening. Rather than offering a single narrative, it invites visitors to slow down and engage with forms of knowledge that are often overlooked within dominant cultural frameworks. Emerging from Andean-Amazonian territories marked by linguistic, cultural, and ecological plurality, the project advances a situated position that understands knowledge as something produced through shared experience and ongoing relation.

The practice of the Tawna collective is rooted in Pan-Amazonian ways of thinking that conceive existence as an active continuity among bodies, territories, and forces. Working from community-based and embodied experiences, Tawna understands sexuality and dreaming as sensitive technologies through which life is oriented, knowledge is transmitted, and care is organized. In their practice, language functions not as distant representation but as a living force that participates in the making of the world, activating connections between the personal, the collective, and the spiritual.

Óscar Santillán's practice explores what exists beyond established notions of reality: those conditions that escape dominant systems of order and open other ways of perceiving the world. Moving across science, emerging technologies, and ancestral knowledge, his work insists on indeterminacy as a fundamental condition of life. From this perspective, the terrestrial, the technological, and the cosmic are understood as interconnected and continuously shaping one another.

The encounter between Tawna and Santillán does not aim for synthesis or resolution. Instead, it sustains an open space in which different ways of inhabiting and understanding the world can coexist without being reduced to a single framework. Art operates here as a practice that holds this openness, creating the conditions for new forms of perception, relation, and coexistence.

Rather than representing a fixed national identity, *Tawna y Óscar* proposes a contemporary position grounded in situated knowledge, relation, and material responsibility, offering tools to think with the present and imagine multiple possible worlds.

OSCAR SANTILLÁN is an Ecuadorian artist working between Ecuador and the Netherlands. His practice explores science, ancestral technologies, and the concept of the “Anti-world,” dissolving boundaries between the natural and artificial. His work has been shown internationally and he is active in art education.

TAWNA is an anti-colonial collective of Sápara, Kichwa, and mestizo artists founded in 2017. Working with video, photography, and living archives, they create narratives from Amazonian territories through ritual, dreaming, and community-based processes. Their work has been shown internationally.

MANUELA MOSCOSO is the inaugural Executive and Artistic Director of the Center for Art, Research and Alliances (CARA) and, in 2025, curated the 2ª Bienal das Amazônias. Formerly curator of the Liverpool Biennial (2021) and a senior curator at Museo Tamayo, Moscoso focuses her work on relational, political, and embodied approaches to contemporary art and institutions.

COMMISSIONER: **The Museum of Anthropology and Contemporary Art (MAAC)** is a key cultural institution in Ecuador, dedicated to preserving archaeological and modern heritage and promoting contemporary art. Located in downtown Guayaquil, on the banks of the Guayas River within the iconic Malecón 2000, the MAAC serves as a bridge between the city's historical past and its evolving cultural landscape.
As custodian of an invaluable collection of 60,000 pre-Hispanic archaeological pieces and 3,500 works of modern and contemporary art, the MAAC is committed to both preserving the past and fostering contemporary artistic expression. Its mission is to provide spaces for encounter and critical reflection, generate research material, and promote cultural programming that allows the public to reaffirm their local origins while participating in global and intercultural artistic discussions. With approximately 120,000 annual visitors and a robust public program that includes innovative exhibitions, artist residencies, and interdisciplinary research projects, the MAAC has established itself as a dynamic hub connecting archaeology, modern and contemporary art, and community-driven narratives with an international and dynamic view of culture.

INSTITUTIONAL LEADERSHIP: Romina Muñoz Procel (Vice Minister of Culture of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture, Ecuador), Stephanie García Albán (Executive Director MAAC)

PRODUCTION & PR: TAtchers’ Art Management

EXHIBITION DESIGN: Studio Manuel Raeder

SUPPORTERS: Embassy of the Republic of Ecuador in Italy, Vice Ministry of Tourism of Ecuador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, Identidad Nacional Foundation, EACHEVE foundation, Pily Estrada Lecaro, Instituto de Promoción del Ecuador (PRO ECUADOR), Imprenta Mariscal,

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PAVILION OF ECUADOR - ADDRESS: Castello 1636/A, Venice, Italy

OPENING: Thursday 7 May, 6PM, RSVP by 5 May to tatchersartmanagement@gmail.com

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC May 9 - November 22, 2026, daily except Monday, free entry. May: 11 - 6PM, June: 11 - 5PM, July-November: 11 - 4 PM

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MORE INFO: https://pavilionofecuador.art, https://www.instagram.com/maacec

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