Ministerio de Educación y Cultura | Dirección Nacional de Cultura

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

Press Release, February 2026

The Uruguayan Pavilion announces Margaret Whyte's *ANTIFRAGIL* for the 61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia





Margaret Whyte, artist. Photo by Ph. José Risso. Patricia Bentancur, curator. Photo by Ph Sabrina Srur

The Uruguayan Pavilion unveils *ANTIFRAGIL*, a new installation work to be presented by artist Margaret Whyte and curator Patricia Bentancur at the 61st International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, from 9 May to 22 November 2026 (preview: 6–8 May 2026).

The idea of *antifragility*, developed by Nassim Taleb, describes systems that do more than simply survive disorder and instability, they become stronger and more adaptable because of them. Margaret Whyte's work reflects this idea. Her art grows out of tension, mistakes, and vulnerability, using them as creative forces. Rather than trying to eliminate chaos, she works with it, transforming uncertainty into a powerful and poetic form of resistance that expands how we see and understand the world.

ANTIFRAGIL brings together elements from different systems, allowing them to influence and transform one another. Textiles are combined with outdated technological objects — old machines, motorcycle helmets, and pieces of debris. Together, they form an assemblage that gains strength and

intensity through the friction between its parts. These connections also suggest a way of thinking about politics, echoing Arthur Danto's reflections on the relationship between art and philosophy.

"*The materials I work with carry histories of use, affection and exhaustion. When they encounter industrial and technological remains, they do not illustrate fragility — they reveal another form of resistance.*" Margaret Whyte states.

Margaret Whyte has developed a pioneering body of work, distinguished by both its conceptual strategies and its formal decisions. Focused on social and gender concerns, her expansive production resists constraint or simplification, claiming an essential place in the analysis of art history from a South American perspective. Whyte situates them within a broader spatial and sculptural investigation, challenging traditional hierarchies between craft and contemporary art.

For curator Patricia Bentancur, *ANTIFRAGIL* positions weaving and assembling as political technologies of protest and affiliation. The act of interweaving fragments becomes a model of thought — articulating relationships and proposing plural narratives that move beyond singular genealogies. Through this project, the Uruguayan Pavilion reflects on how alternative geographies and critical perspectives can transform not only artistic repertoires, but also modes of exhibition and knowledge production.

"*The presence of Margaret Whyte in Venice affirms the enduring relevance of a practice sustained over time, in which fragility becomes language and experience becomes material, projecting from Uruguay a singular voice onto the international stage.*" states Maru Vidal, National Director of Culture, from the Ministry of Education and Culture.





Margaret Whyte, *The Dark Side of the Present* (detail), 2021. Photo by Ph Eduardo Baldizan; Uruguay Pavilion, Uruguayan Ministry of Education and Culture.

Notes to editors

Title: ANTIFRAGIL
Commissioner: Martin Craciun, National Institute of Visual Arts - National Directorate of Culture – Ministry of Education and Culture
Curator: Patricia Bentancur
Exhibitor: Margaret Whyte

Dates: May 9 to November 22, 2026
Location: Uruguayan Pavilion, Giardini della Biennale, Venice

Margaret Whyte

Margaret Whyte lives and works in Montevideo, Uruguay. She has been a member of Fundación de Arte Contemporáneo (FAC) since its inception. Her practice experiments with multiple languages and supports, creating in situ installations that construct spaces where contingent ontologies coexist through a multiplicity of residues from ultra-capitalist culture.

She has received numerous awards and distinctions and has exhibited both individually and collectively in Uruguay, Argentina, Mexico, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Spain.

Patricia Bentancur

Patricia Bentancur is an independent curator specializing in Ibero-American art and its sociopolitical contexts, with a focus on the tensions between local narratives and international circuits. Her curatorial practice examines mechanisms of representation within the contemporary art system and understands mediation with diverse audiences as a constitutive dimension of curatorial work.

She has curated the Uruguayan Pavilion at the International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia on three previous occasions (2009, 2015, 2019) and co-curated the Bienal de Montevideo *El Gran Sur* (2012) alongside Alfons Hug and Paz Guevara. She is currently curator of *ANTIFRAGIL*, the project representing Uruguay at the Biennale Arte 2026.

Press enquiries

Sutton PR:
Ilenia Bolognesi, ilenia@suttoncomms.com, +33 (0)6 65 56 38 02
Beverly Bueninck, beverly@suttoncomms.com, +33 (0)6 50 99 52 00

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