

MISK'I KACHI RUNAKUNA

SWEET SALT PEOPLE/ GENTE DE SAL DULCE

Photographs by Laurence Salzmann

Text by Yolanda Carbajal Zuniga

On view to May 29, 2021

ABOUT THE GALLERY

For over four decades the gallery has been the region's only space/s dedicated to Puerto Rican and Latinx Art, highlighting contemporary artists from Philadelphia, the nation, and Puerto Rico.

The Exhibitions Program focuses on the constant evaluation of art, in particular, the artistic and cultural representation of Puerto Rico and Latin America as it supports the work of Puerto Rican and Latinx artists. The program aims to present quality exhibitions that are educational and engage the local community and the general public.

TALLER PUERTORRIQUEÑO

Founded in 1974, Taller Puertorriqueño, Inc. (Taller) is a community-based cultural organization whose primary purpose is to preserve, develop, and promote Puerto Rican art and culture, grounded in the conviction that embracing one's cultural heritage is central to community empowerment. Taller is also committed to the representation and support of other Latino cultural expressions and our common roots. *Fundado en el 1974, el Taller promueve el desarrollo de su comunidad y la diáspora latina y crea puentes de comunicación a través de toda la región.*

Taller Puertorriqueño
2600 N. 5th St.
Philadelphia PA, 19133
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Visit us @ TallerPR.org



This exhibition and related programming are primarily funded through PNC Arts Alive. PNC Arts Alive is a multi-year, multi-million-dollar grant initiative of PNC and the PNC Foundation, which receives its principal funding from The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. Now in its twelfth year, PNC Arts Alive challenges visual and performing arts organizations to put forth their best, most original thinking in expanding audience participation and engagement. More than 40 organizations across the region were selected for support in 2020 – including several first-time grantees, through a newly expanded PNC Arts Alive initiative to support smaller, community-based arts and cultural organizations. For more information about our grant and all of the funded programs, each selected for their bold thinking around increasing arts access and engagement, please visit <https://www.pnc.com/en/about-pnc>.



The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts



Detail: L. Salzmann, *Misk'i Kachi*; Pigment Print 2016-17 - Pigment Print

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EXHIBITION PROGRAMS

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Reception: Friday, April 30 @ 5:30 – 8:00 PM

The reception will take place underneath a tent in Taller's courtyard. Admittance to the gallery will be regulated. Free parking is available. Entrance on Huntingdon St.

Mask must be worn in the gallery and around Taller and social distancing observed.

Forty kilometers north of Cuzco, in Peru's Sacred Valley, near the town of Maras, are a complex of salt ponds that have been producing salt since pre-Inca times. Salt and mineral-rich subterranean streams are channeled into hundreds of ponds on terraced hillsides, where the mountain air evaporates the water, leaving salt crystals to be harvested by hand. These salt ponds and the lifeworlds they support are the subject of complementary bodies of work by American photographer Laurence Salzmänn, exhibited here in the United States for the first time.

Made between 2016-2020 in multiple visits to Peru, including a four month period during which Salzmänn was a Fulbright Fellow, these photographs explore the contemporary forms of an ancient Quechua-speaking world. This world is characterized by an extraordinary symbiosis of natural beauty, human ingenuity, and ecological wisdom. Salzmänn's black-and-white photographs of the salt ponds are ethereal and abstract, inviting open-ended contemplation. His color photographs of the people of Maras are not an effort to "capture" the *mestizaje* society, rather something like the reverse—an effort to release it into pictures. If each day Salzmänn spent in Peru were like a piece of fruit, his photographs are like drops gently squeezed from them, one by one: none captures the whole, but each concentrates something of the whole in itself. - Jason Francisco

Top: L. Salzmänn, *Salt Ponds of Maras; Salineras*, 2017 - Pigment Print



IN APRIL

((())) Virtual Event

Meet the Author on Zoom

GENTE DE SAL: VIDA E IDENTIDAD

Yolanda Carbajal Zuniga and Ann Peters

April 3, 2021 @ 3:00 pm | Free

Register online @ TallerPR.org

Join us for an insightful conversation with archaeologists Ann Peters and Yolanda Carbajal Zuniga on life in Cuzco, its history, cultural legacy, and the people of Maras. The conversation will take place in Spanish and English.

Yolanda Carbajal Zuniga, from a Quechua-speaking family, lives in Cuzco. She is a graduate in archeology from the National University San Antonio Abad of Cuzco and is now working on a master's degree in Management of Cultural Heritage at the same University. In 2016, Laurence Salzmänn asked her to be his assistant for the photographic and teaching projects that were part of his Fulbright Fellowship. One result of this collaboration is the text she created for Laurence's *Misk'i Kachi // Sweet Salt* photographs. This text provides yet another window for understanding the Andean culture of her ancestors.

Ann H. Peters is an anthropological archaeologist whose research focuses on the Central Andes (Peru, South America), specializing in historic and prehistoric textiles and the society and culture called Paracas. Over the past 40 years, she has collaborated in human rights campaigns, particularly advocating for the dignity and self-determination of the Maya and other weaving communities in the Americas. In both professional and activist contexts, her practice is bilingual and transcultural.

Top: L. Salzmänn, *Misk'i Kachi*; Pigment Print 2016-17 - Pigment Print



CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES: A DISCUSSION ON DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE WORK OF LAURENCE SALZMÄNN

((())) Virtual Event

Without Othering: The Art of Laurence Salzmänn

April 21, 2021 @ 7:00 pm | Free

Register online @ TallerPR.org

In response to Laurence Salzmänn's exhibition at Taller, join us for a discussion on the state of documentary photography and how culture shapes our understanding. The conversation will take into consideration issues of power and the relationship between the photographer, their subject, and the viewer.

With William Valerio, President of the Woodmere Museum and Sarah Stolfa, Chief Executive Officer, and Artistic Director of Philadelphia Photo Art Center. Moderated by Rafael Damast, Exhibitions Program Manager for Taller Puertorriqueño

((())) Virtual Event

**Salzmänn in Peru:
The Making of Misk'i Kachi Runakuna**

April 28, 2021 @ 7:00 pm | Free

Register online @ TallerPR.org

Meet the photographer and filmmaker, Laurence Salzmänn as he discusses the work that is featured in his show at Taller Puertorriqueño. With commentary and insights by Stephen Perloff, we will cover Salzmänn's documentary photography and film, and his transition to non-representational photography.

With Laurence Salzmänn, photographer and filmmaker, Stephen Perloff, the founder and editor of *The Photo Review*. Moderated by Rafael Damast, Exhibitions Program Manager for Taller Puertorriqueño



Top: L. Salzmänn, *Misk'i Kachi Runakuna*; Pigment Print 2020 - Pigment Print