



PAC ART

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PAC Art Opens Expanded Whitney Street Venue in Montrose with Inaugural Artist Residencies

Houston, TX — January 2026 — PAC Art announces the opening of its expanded 6,276-square-foot venue at 1919 Whitney Street in the heart of Montrose, marking a major milestone in the organization’s evolution and its growing role within Houston’s cultural landscape.

The new Whitney Street location brings together dedicated artist studios, an exhibition space, and a research library under one roof. This move represents a pivotal shift from PAC Art’s origins as an experimental, industrial warehouse–based artist-in-residence incubator on the outskirts of the city center to a permanent home embedded within one of Houston’s most vibrant cultural districts.

Since its founding in 2022 by Paola Crexeill, PAC Art has been driven by a commitment to artistic risk-taking, experimentation, and meaningful exchange. What began as a flexible, experimental hub for emerging and established artists has grown into an internationally engaged organization, now hosting an international artist-in-residence program alongside a range of offsite projects that extend its reach throughout the city and beyond. The new Montrose venue preserves this spirit of innovation while providing a stable, purpose-built space for long-term growth.

The inaugural residents of the Whitney Street space include international artists **Claudia Alarcón & Silät** (Claudia Alarcón, Andrei Fernández (curator/researcher), and Ermelinda Pérez) and Houston-based artist **Karen Navarro**, whose projects collectively explore weaving, hybridity, and the politics of cultural memory. They both will spend a month at PAC Art’s new space, concluding their residency on January 30, 2026.

Alarcón and Silät’s collaborative project centers on the concept of *Ipätsin*—a Wichí word that describes the act of twisting fibers together to form thread, and by extension, the gestures of weaving, binding, and creating new skin. Their residency and exhibition at PAC Art will explore weaving as both a material and symbolic process: a way of understanding how wounds close,



PAC ART

how fragile new surfaces form, and how care, time, and repetition transform rupture into continuity. In Wichí, *tayhin* names a continuous, unfolding action—“to be weaving”—and also describes the contraction phase of a wound as it begins to heal, while *layik* refers to the delicate new epidermal tissue that remains. Their residency will culminate in an open studio, a series of community events, and a talk with **Pablo León de la Barra**, Curator at Large, Latin America at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation, New York.

Working alongside them, **Karen Navarro** examines how syncretized symbols drawn from Indigenous cultures in Argentina have been appropriated and hybridized to construct national identity while erasing their origins. Through references to the Aymara aguayo, the guarda pampa belt, yerba mate, and ceibo flowers, Navarro treats everyday and ceremonial objects as carriers of memory, labor, and resistance. Her practice uses fragmented and disrupted imagery to expose how visual culture absorbs and overwrites histories, allowing what has been erased to re-enter the frame and resist closure. What results is a deeply personal and material-driven exploration of identity, symbolism, and transformation.

Situated at the nexus of Houston’s museum district, the Whitney Street location positions PAC Art as a cultural anchor and a platform for dialogue between local and international artistic communities. With an ethos rooted in care, collaboration, and critical inquiry, the new space is designed to foster deep engagement—supporting artists in their practices while inviting the public into conversations that shape contemporary art and culture.

The opening of the expanded PAC Art venue signals a new chapter for the organization, strengthening its ability to convene, create, and connect across disciplines, geographies, and communities in Houston and beyond.

For more information about PAC Art and upcoming programs, visit www.pacartresidency.org or follow [@pac_arthouston](https://twitter.com/pac_arthouston)



PAC ART

Artists bios:

Claudia Alarcón & Silät

Claudia Alarcón (b. 1989, Argentina) is an indigenous textile artist from the La Puntana community of Wichí people of northern Salta. Alongside her individual practice, she leads the Silät collective (formed in 2023), an organisation of one hundred women weavers of different generations from the Alto la Sierra and La Puntana Wichí communities.

The Silät collective emerged from the Thañi/Viene del monte organization, a wider public project aimed at reviving ancestral textile traditions across the Salta region. Coordinated by Alarcón and working closely with curator Andrei Fernández since 2015, Silät explore the possibilities of artmaking within and beyond these traditions. The collective have evolved established techniques into new forms, producing large-scale images that exploit the textural intricacies and earthy colours of chaguar yarn and natural dyes. In coordinating the production of the Silät collective, and leading experimentations in material and subject matter within their practice, Alarcón supports creativity, independence and self-sustaining practices, and provides a means for women across generations to transmit a contemporary indigenous culture into the webs of international art dialogues, beyond ethnographic readings.

Karen Navarro

Karen Navarro, currently based in Houston, is an Argentinian artist of Mapuche, Guaraní and European descent who works across the mediums of photography, collage, and sculpture. Her work investigates the intersections of identity, representation, race, and belonging in reference to her migrant experience, her Indigenous identity and the history of colonization and its influence. Navarro is interested in the nuances of identity, the constant hybridization of cultures, communication technologies and the concept of beauty—aiming to create, through her work, space for acceptance and existence.



PAC ART

Navarro has won the Artadia Fellowship, the Top Ten Lensculture Critics' Choice Award, and the Houston Center for Photography Beth Block Honoraria, among others. And, in 2024 she was an artist in residence at the Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna Beach, FL. Her work has been exhibited in the US and abroad. Selected shows include Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (CAMH); Artpace, San Antonio; Galerija Upuluh, Zagreb, Croatia; George Washington Carver Museum, Austin, TX; FAR Center for Contemporary Arts, Bloomington, IN; Holocaust Museum Houston; and Melkweg Expo, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Additionally, Navarro's work has been featured in numerous publications, including ARTnews, The Guardian, Observer, and Rolling Stone Italia.

Speaker bio:

Pablo León de la Barra was born in Mexico City in 1972 and lives in Rio de Janeiro. He is Curator at Large, Latin America at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum and Foundation, New York (since 2015). He was previously the Guggenheim UBS MAP Curator, Latin America (2013-2015), Director of Casa França-Brasil, Rio de Janeiro (2015-16) and Chief Curator at MAC Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro (2017-20). He has a Ph.D. in Histories and Theories from the Architectural Association, London. He was founder and co-curator of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Bienal Tropical, San Juan, Puerto Rico (2011, 2016 and 2025), co-curator of SITE Santa Fe Biennial, New Mexico (2016) and curator of the Mexican Pavilion at the 2017 Venice Biennale. He was awarded the first Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros and Independent Curators International Travel Award for Central America and the Caribbean (2012) in honor of Virginia Pérez-Ratton. He recently curated the retrospectives of Cecilia Vicuña 'Spin Spin Triangulene' (2022) and 'Gego: Measuring Infinity' (2023) both at the Guggenheim Museum in New York, as well as 'Heitor dos Prazeres' (2023) at Centro Cultural Banco de Brasil, Rio de Janeiro; Gabriel Chaile at Fundación Cervieri Monsuarez, Uruguay (2025) and Allan Weber at Nottingham Contemporary and De La Warr Pavilion, UK (2025). He was president of the jury of the Prince Claus Awards (2022 and 2024) in Amsterdam, and is on the advisory boards of the Luis Barragán Foundation, Mexico City; Ruta del Castor, Mexico City; Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo, Sevilla; and the Nasher Sculpture Prize, Dallas, amongst others.