

Critic's Guide: Madrid

Ahead of ARCO art fair opening this week, a selection of the best shows in the Spanish capital

BY JULIA MORANDEIRA ARRIZABALAGA

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Donna Huanca, *Siltstone (Azul)*, 2016, oil, acrylic and pigment on digital print on canvas 1.9 x 2.9 m.
Courtesy: Travesía Cuatro, Madrid

Donna Huanca, 'Lengua de Bartolina Sisa'

Travesía Cuatro

24 February - 29 April

The Bolivian-American artist's first solo exhibition in Spain is without doubt one of the exhibition highlights during this year's ARCO, after her impressive performance and show at the Zabłudowicz Collection during Frieze London last autumn. Huanca's work draws attention to the body but specifically to the skin: as a porous contact and exchange surface with the world. Naked bodies concealed under layers of paint, latex and cosmetics activate her installations, unpacking codified cultural gestures through a visceral entanglement of prostheses.

The title of her exhibition in Travesía Cuatro references the Aymara fighter Bartolina Sisa, who led the successful indigenous uprising against the Spanish in Bolivia in 1781. Captured a year later, she was publicly humiliated and executed in Madrid's Colonial Square (today's Plaza Murillo, at the south end of the Prado Museum), her body cut into pieces and sent to different villages as a warning. Not to be missed are Huanca's performances on the nights of the 23rd and 24th to understand what this new chapter will bring forth.