

esencia mapuche

an artistic initiative to explore
Mapuche identity

Project Report



The Melton Foundation



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Mapuche identity

Project Report

Esencia Mapuche Art exhibition
Partnership for Positive Change project - Melton Foundation



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With written contributions by
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on behalf of the entire project team

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Esencia Mapuche: Art exhibition | Partnership for Positive Change project - Melton Foundation

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Executive Summary

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been written in order to examine the outcomes and impact of the EsenciaMapuche project which was partially funded by the Partnership for Positive Change grant (P4PC) of the Melton Foundation. The report has been divided into eight parts to ensure a comprehensive coverage of the activities and outcomes of EsenciaMapuche the first half of 2012.

The initial question we raised was: *Is there a deeper reality about the Mapuche, than what we see portrayed in the Chilean mass media? ...*

The Mapuche people in Chile has a vast and rich culture that most of the Chilean don't know and are not interested to explore because they don't feel related to it. The colonization of the Spaniards and the Chilean government was rooted in their intolerance of the existence of different people, and has left as a result, an environment of discrimination that nowadays people "say" is subtle in the cities, but is still very vivid in the countryside.

The folkloric or exotic vision of the indigenous problem, which shows an interest that is non functional and incompatible with the existent social canons, but likes the "indian" aspect of it such as the music, museum or reading material, doesn't fit with the fact that the Mapuche being the original inhabitants of the Chilean territory and ex owner of it, are today the poorest group in the country or those who live in extreme poverty. Still all we see on the media is the mapuche allied with the concepts of violence, terrorism or picturesque and folkloric, giving the Chilean population no other views but those extreme poles.

Our intention was to create our own images of the mapuche people and with the results, invite people to explore with love a culture that they don't know they do not know. Also to foster awareness and dialogue about topic such as stereotypes and respect. In all our activities we will be looking for exploring these issues in depth.

In this report we summarize all the activities of the first stage of the EsenciaMapuche project which is in its way of becoming an NGO. The project started with a trip to Antonio Cayun Llanquin - Mapuche community which is two hours from Temuco to the coast in the [Romopulli huapi area](#), where the first collaborating photographer and painter produced their work.

Afterwards they exposed their work in different settings, from universities, to a hospital, to a highschool, to an art Gala. In these events people discussed the work, shared their opinions and talked about the Mapuche.

We are so grateful for the opportunity of showing you, through our hands, what we know is good. Peace & respect is good, so we should fight for their preservation.

2

Online Presence

2. Online Presence

www.esenciamapuche.wordpress.com is the official website from where we share our activities, thoughts, experiences and work.

It began on January 31st and it has written collaborations from Brittany Peterson, MaY Garcés and Juan Antonio Perez.

Other Social Media we have utilized has been Facebook and Twitter.

Social media Stats

Twitter: From January 28, 2012 to June 30, 2012

542 followers

Facebook: From January 28, 2012 to June 30, 2012

259 friends

Blog: From January 31, 2012 to June 30, 2012

35 posts

On the last month the Esencia Mapuche Blog was seen from/many times:

 Chile	1,216	 Brazil	4
 United States	93	 Colombia	3
 Argentina	71	 Bolivia	2
 Belgium	70	 Australia	2
 Netherlands	26	 Japan	2
 Spain	23	 Switzerland	2
 Germany	14	 Italy	1
 Mexico	14	 Costa Rica	1
 Venezuela	12	 Panama	1
 Canada	9	 India	1
 France	8	 Singapore	1
 Peru	4	 Russian Federation	1
 Jamaica	4	 Norway	1
 Denmark	4	 Ecuador	1
 United Kingdom	4		

❖ Twitter / Facebook Poll

What is your relationship with the Mapuche people?

- *"This Indians are deep inside my blood and I'm sure that it is the one that shines the most, although my last name doesn't reveal it..."*
- *"It's direct, I am a descendant, I know how to speak basic Mapudungun and I know the history and the culture".*
- *I am from the north, I studied in a subsidized school and no one taught us anything about the Mapuche people. I have always admired them, their momentum and their fight. Keep enduring.*
- *Virtuous and peaceful human race, example of manliness, decency and transparency. ADMIRATION towards this race of GENUINE people!*
- *Inche mapuchengen. Tañi kuyfikecheyem Freire waria mew mulen, tañi lof Jose Luis Cariman pingey (Rough translation: I am Mapuche, My ancestors come from Freire, and my community is called Jose Luis Carimán).*
- *What is my relationship? I think everyone has a direct or indirect relationship with the Mapuche people, because we are occupying their lands...*

Have you ever felt discriminated by your Mapuche heritage? How?

- *I have felt the discrimination sometimes. First the discrimination from those who are mapuche to those who are mixed-mapuche or not entirely mapuche....to whom they would say "You are not mapuche"; the discrimination from those who are criollo people, who would highlight your mapuche origin without being it totally...."you are mestizo"; the discrimination from those who take advantage of being "mapuche" in order to get Chilean scholarships or benefits without knowing the mapuche culture, they say..."I'm mapuche and I study with a scholarship" but you ask them: Do you speak Mapudungun? They'd say "No, but I have the scholarship".*
- *To tell you the truth, when I was little at school they would call me "indio" (Indian) sometime, but years later I run into the girl that would say that to me and she told me she loved mapuche culture, so I think In this regard we are moving forward.*

3

The Exhibition

3. The Exhibition

It consists of ten watercolor paintings and eleven photographs that were the result of the 8 days the artists spent at Romopulli Island in a mapuche community in Chile. They were on display, juxtaposed alongside mainstream media portrayals of Mapuche people.

Photography

"With my photography (journalism photography) I'm aiming to capture the truth. I can't represent it in my own personal way or edit it until I get what I want. I want to be in that exact moment to show something no one else could have seen but me".

Brittany Peterson



THE FAMILY EMBRACE

Uncle Isaías, who lives in Santiago, hugs his niece Isabel on the shore of Lake Budi. They have not seen each other for five years, but he arrives now with his daughter Damaris to visit for a week. Two of his siblings went by boat to the nearby town to get him. Although he has been in the capital, Santiago, for about 40 years, he still makes jam the way his family did when he was a child, and teaches words in Mapudungun to “winka”(non mapuche)children who pass through his wife’s store in Santiago. He does what he can to keep his culture alive in his adopted city. But there’s something about this house, this family, this land that calls him back and causes a lump on his throat.



Candlelight

The Cayun siblings sit around a candle to talk because there was a power outage in the region that evening. This was the day that their brother Isaiah came to visit with his daughter from Santiago. The four of them began to remember the times when the eight siblings lived in the countryside together. They recalled that their mother, who died at the age of 97, was raised in a traditional ruka home and always wore traditional clothing.

MAPUCHE GIRL

Katy is the only girl among her siblings. The three of them live with their parents in the house next to their grandparents. Their parents do not have many job opportunities on the island, and in the last years they have had to travel to another community to harvest potatoes for a few weeks, leaving the kids at the care of their grandparents. Harvesting potatoes is a difficult job and pays little money, but there are not many options. Since Katy's parents do not have steady jobs, they plan to move to Temuco for more work opportunities. This means that the children will have to be separated from their grandparents, who will continue to farm their land in RomopulliHuapi. Katy and her grandparents have an inseparable affection, which will be hard to overcome when they move.



THE VISITS

Everyone helps carry the things that brought Uncle Isaiah from his home in the urban Santiago to visit family in RomopulliHuapi. There is only a one-way dirt road to get from the community to the nearby town of Puerto Saavedra, and it is often more convenient to go by boat to other towns such as Puerto Dominguez or Carahue. This part of the lake was all planted land before the 1960 earthquake. The lake was small, but grew after the earthquake and destroyed many crops.



THE HOUR OF THE SIESTA

Lalo Cayun sits in the shadow of the smoky shed before heading out to harvest wheat. He, his brother Antonio and his sister Juana are the last siblings to work the land of their mother. There are a couple of brothers who have land nearby, but they almost never see each other. Since Lalo and Juana are unmarried and Antonio is a widow, the three depend heavily on each other and have unique responsibilities. Lalo does a bit of everything, but says his brother Antonio is a great carpenter.



THE FISHERMAN

Antonio Cayun checks out the fruit of the morning's catch. He is the last fisherman on the island, since many fish have disappeared when swans arrived in 1990. Although he catches fewer fish than years before, he relentlessly goes out every night in his boat to place the net and goes out to pick it up each morning. If he catches a lot of fish, he sells some to a neighbor. But the majority of the time he catches 4 or 5, which is what he needs to feed his family.

BREAKFAST

Isabel has not yet had breakfast, but leans over a fire in the shed to heat up smoked fish for her kitten. Later, she has to herd the sheep to the lower field to graze and let the pigs out of the barn for feeding. "That is why she is so thin," says her cousin Paty. Isabel has a special affection for the animals. She recalls stories about when each of the chickens were chicks and worries about giving a hot breakfast to her cats. She is 20 and says that she would like to always live in the countryside.



PLAYTIME

Children in Romopulli Huapi collide upon racing down a hill on cardboard boxes near their home. The oldest likes to play with an Xbox, but also leads the games he and his siblings play outside.



KNOWLEDGE OF THE SMALLEST

Francisco Cayún, who lives in Villarrica, comes with his two brothers and sister to visit his family in RomopulliHuapi each summer to help with the harvest. Francisco had to show his two older brothers, one from Santiago and the other from Paine, how to tie the ox to the wagon that they will use to harvest wheat.





PRAISE

PatyCayún plays the guitar in the Restoration Church of Quechucahuin, where she attends each Sunday with her cousin. The church is a 45 minute trip by boat. Ten years ago, Paty worked on implementing many training projects for her community with the help of the lonko (leader), and was financed by the International Development Bank. She says she tired of investing so much energy, only to see the sewing machines stolen by members of the same community, among other failures. She eventually became depressed and could no longer stand the work. She officially “quit” the community and almost killed herself. Today, she is healthy and happy helping the community through her special agricultural touch and through her involvement in the church. Although she is no longer a community member, the only difference is that she no longer attends religious ceremonies, which is a right reserved for members.

THE HARVEST

Andrés Paine Cayún throws a bundle of wheat to his brother Héctor, of Santiago, while his father Francisco guides the ox through the field. Although their lives are already established in other parts of the country, they return each summer to help their father with the harvest.



Watercolor painting

“I wanted to portrait beautiful moments. Not necessarily positive but the moments that caught my attention. I wanted to be as honest and clear as I possibly can, so simplicity and subtle colors will be my only tools to share how I lived them”.

MaY Garcés



THEY ARE WINNOWING FAVA BEANS

It may seem as a harmless activity, but these are the times that are always used as an opportunity to talk. Aunt and niece whisper with their hands in their tasks. There are always so many things to do. Seeds to plant, fruit trees to harvest, but that certainly doesn't mean that they will stay silent. Mapuche culture has always been transmitted orally and that is how you experience it in every dinner or walk. This culture expression hovers so fragile in the environment, that it is imperative to look for more effective and indelible ways to preserve it.



ABOUT TRADITIONS OR NEW CURSES

Although all of the daily activities are done away from it, everyone returns faithfully to watch TV every night. The physically unknown locations broadcasted in it become familiar; and suddenly we know even the darkest secrets of people who we would never want as friends.

There is no good cell phone signal in Romopulli huapi, but the cable TV antennas stand tall in several of the roofs. These are the media which, as in many of the houses of the Chileans, educates the children, distracts the young people and tells us a biased truth that inadvertently influences our conversations over dessert.

THE EVENING SHOW OF THE LITTLE PIGS

Act 1 - The sow and her 3 pigs eat apples out of the basin.

Act 2 - Piggy pig No. 1 and No. 2 grunt fighting for some apples.

Act 3 - Piggy No. 3 noticing this, races towards its siblings determined to end the dispute. But it slips landing with its buttocks in the dish.





THE BOAT'S ENGINE

Paty rows with strength, because there is no other option. The sea spreads its ferocity to this salty lake so she needs to stop, tell the direction of the wind and the intention of the currents, to set a course and reach her destination. This time, she directs the heavy oars to Quechucahuin, which is located 45 minutes rowing in the going and 45 minutes rowing back home. She does this trip every week without fail, often alone but sometimes with her uncle or cousin. She goes to visit church, and also to enjoy the company of her neighbors who receive her with joy and are quick to share everything they have.

THE JOURNEY IN THE PUBLIC BUS

The few buses that travel through this area are ancient, and inside them they carry tired workers, students and many, many, many others. The sweating image of a mother with her children almost defeats the heat and softens any viewer, although that doesn't change in any way her reality. Because today she will also return home, dusty and exhausted.



A WALK THROUGH THE ISLANDS

When in Romopulli Huapi, tell your legs to walk for a few minutes on the trails of the island. Stop, sigh and you will see the sky and the lake present the premiere and final performance of a world-class show, every single day.



FAMILY TIES, CULTURAL BARRIERS

During her visit, the little girl cousin from Santiago and the little boy from Romopulli Huapi play, know and explore the field of their grandfather. This story is repeated many times with different characters in almost every household in the community. There is always that someone who migrates to the city and is influenced by the new place. For better. For worse. It always depends on the lens of the beholder. Many conflicts are born, many opportunities are born. It has always caused disputes, which in some cases resolve in the neutralization of their origin. In others, it redefines, reinvents and strengthens their identity as Mapuche woman and man.

PLAYFUL SILENCE

Aunt Juana and the new kitten spend hours playing. The aunt spins a yarn that she sheared from the sheep herself. She sits in the warehouse to turn the spindle with energy and to take out the sticks and the dry leaves that are stubbornly tangled in the hair of the sheep. She plans to make a new blanket for the house; what is better than playing with wool in the summer to sleep warm in winter, right?. The kitten on the other hand is not allowed to play with that precious wool, so it settles with attacking the pile of branches left for the fire.



QUERIES FOR THE REFLEXION

Everybody passes quickly by this mirror every day. It is hanging outside on one of the walls of the outdoor shower and a hand towel hangs next to it. This mirror catches the tired gaze of the fisherman and raises queries that his reserved attitude fails to respond. The *where's*, the *when's* and the difficult *why's* of a life story that has been wrought by actions rather than words.

The enigma in his look won't be solved unless we take time, respect, curiosity and some sweet cups of tea to find out.



UNDER THE SUN OF THE DAWN

The hands of this woman have alive. They give life to the seeds and give life to her people through her kitchen. One might think that the hard life of the country has specific labors for the strong male arms but it no longer looks like that. Everyone has to help in everything. And today they wake up without a schedule to help the ancient hands of the woman, to cut the wheat and to share the burden of the daily tasks.

Other resources on display:

- Banner (1 mtx90cms)

It helped explain the project intentions when the artists weren't there.



- Newspaper clippings gathered during January and February 2012
The team cut all mapuche news from “El Mercurio” and “Austral” newspapers.
- Comments notebook

4

The Venues

4. The Venues

➤ Opening Event

We held the opening event at the main hall at **UFRO** and we had more that 60 people on Main Hall at UFRO and over 50 people online that attended via twittcam the entire event (from 6pm -9pm aprox). We had attendees from the Netherlands, Japan, United States and more, and also people from all over Chile.

Melton Foundation members who helped us through the event: Francisco Oporto, Valentina Salas, Cristina Mardones and Manuela Camila, Martha Ramirez.

We had the special visit of Paty Cayún in whose house we stayed for more than a week in the mapuche community. She talked about the experience of living with two persons she had never met before, in a community that hardly ever has visitors. She was very greatful of this experience and share



After the presentation of our work and our team everybody enjoyed some traditional mapuche food brought from mapuche communities. (It consisted in tortillas, with a merkén sauce and apple chicha with toasted flour)

We finalized the evening with a very touching “Mapuche music Experimental Session” with "Angel Piana Group" and their guest musician Victor Cifuentes.

Mapuche Experimental Music - Victor Cifuentes (mapuche instruments & voice), May Garces (Voice), Andrea Gonzales (sampler audio), César Ibacache (guitar & trompe), Iván Monsalvez (synth), Freddy Humanzor (bass), Daniel Melillan (drums), Diego Almonacid (sound).

Recordings:

- [Experimental Mapuche music session / Experimental Mapuche Music session 2](#)
- [Livestream Recording](#)
- [Sum up video of Opening event and Exposition](#)

❖ Exposition N°1: De La Frontera University

Place: Central Hall at UFRO.

Duration: 1 month from March 9th until April 5th

Advertisement:

[PlazaTemuco](#)

[Agenda Temuco](#)

[Surco](#)

[Laopiñon](#)

[EdicionCero](#)

[EntretenidoMag](#) - Website for spreading cultural, sports and recreational activities in Temuco city.



Comments

Nada más que felicitar su hermoso trabajo realizado, al ver estas grandiosas pinturas y fotografías, creí que me encontraba una laguna de mis ojos. Me encantó la emotividad y sentimiento que tenía cada imagen, y lo que pasa en un día cualquiera en una comunidad. Siguen con esto, sigan así, pero darle a conocer al resto de la gente el cariño, la solidaridad, el esfuerzo, el respeto que habita en el campo y en nuestras comunidades. Saludos

Jaime Jaramillo Ariza. 19 años, estudiante Ped. en Historia en la UFRO.

[Signature]

PWKAYAN //

I just want to congratulate the beautiful work you did. Believe me when I say that when I saw this great paintings and photographs, a tear rolled down my eyes. I loved the emotionality and feeling that each image had, and what happens daily in a community. Keep doing this; keep up with this, so that you can show the affection, the solidarity, the struggle, the respect that lives in the countryside and in our mapuche communities, to the rest of people.

Respects

Jaime Jaramillo. 19 years old, History Education student at UFRO.

I really wanted to pass by UFRO and see this exposition. I took the time needed to read, observe and feel. I'm deeply thankful for the carrying out of initiatives such as this, which reflects reality as complex and beautiful as it is.

There is a special beauty in the peace that is infused by the daily life photographs and paintings, of the ancestral "kimun" (wisdom in Mapudungun) that is reflected in them, that thrilled me and tightened my throat.

On the other hand when I saw the news I felt sick to my stomach thinking in the crossed violence, the discrimination, and the lack of respect that surprises me.

When I join both images, arises the personal challenge of spreading the beauty of a culture that I feel so mine.

Thank you for generating this spot of reflection, And may they be many more!!!

Hugs, Lucía Pérez, Sicologist

Tenia muchos ganas de pasar a la UFRO y ver la exposicion. Me tome el tiempo necesario para leer, ver y sentir. Agradezco profundamente la realizacion de iniciativas como estas que nos reflejan la realidad así de compleja y bella como es.

Hay una belleza especial en la paz que infunden las fotografías y cuadros de la vida cotidiana, del Kimun ancestral reflejado en ellas, que me emocionaron apretando mi garganta. Por otro lado, al ver las noticias se aprieta mi estómago pensando en la violencia cruzada, la discriminación y una carencia de respeto que me sorprende.

Al unir ambas imágenes, me surge (re-surgen) el desafío personal de difundir lo bello de una cultura que vive tan mal.

Gracias por generar este espacio de reflexión ¡¡y que sean muchos más!!

ABRAZOS

Lucía Pérez Bello
Psicóloga

Felicidades por este trabajo

Muy buena idea de mostrar la pobreza y desesperación que existe en las comunidades mapuches... Apoyamos a los peñis desde la fotografía, desde los colegios, desde la prensa, desde la educación. Mostremos lo que realmente se vive en los campos.

Chaltumay!!

Exequiel Sepúlveda
Profesor de Ciencias
IIE - UFRO

Congratulations for this work

It's a very good idea to show the poverty and desperation that there is in the mapuche communities...

Let's support the "peñis" (brothers in Mapudungun) from the photography, from the schools, from the education.

Let's reveal what is really lived in the country side.

Chaltumay!! (Thank you in Mapudungun)

Exequiel Sepulveda, Science Professor/ IIE-UFRO

❖ Exposition N°2: Hernán Henríquez Aravena Hospital, Temuco.

Place: Main Hall of the Regional Hospital

Duration: 2 weeks from April 9th until April 20th

The Exhibition was located on the principal entrance/ waiting room of main hospital in the region.

People would come to see their relatives from all over the region and stop to watch the exhibition.

Also many students do their practices here so we could reach more diverse people than at UFRO.

Hospital Website



Advertisement: UFRO radio interview



Comments

USAWO HERMANO MAPUCHE
INNECA BUE VAWO COMPARTIDO
EL FURSAMIENTO DE ESTA
NACION, QUE ALCANZA PARA TODOS.

Huinca Patricio 2012

Un afectuoso saludo hermano Mapuche.
Soy Soto. E ne Canastinesos, ne oñeow y Sotile
Mapuche, oñeow ne neñeow y su cultura.
Oñeow neñeow la paz para todos.
Saludos cordiales.
Juan Velasquez Polanco
Fco. 13/04/12

"Greetings Mapuche brother. We share such undeniable value in the forging of this nation, nation which is enough for all of us".
2012

*Huinca Patricio

*"Huinca" is a mapuche word used to describe non mapuches

An affectionate greeting Mapuche brother. I am a Police Sergeant of Mapuche blood and origin. I am proud of my father and his culture. I hope peace reigns for all of us. Best regards,
Juan Velasquez, Temuco, 04/13/12

ola:
Que bonito que alguien se de el tiempo de rescatar algo que parece perdido, o que nosotros no lo vemos, ya sea por la rutina laboral o el poco provecho del ocio.
Gracias... inmensamente esta muestra, me produce un gran placer al recordar momentos de mi infancia en un lugar llamado Huincullican, después Teodoro Schmidt, donde vivía mi abuela materna.
Y en día estoy tan lejos de ser esa niña... soy una profesional... y en lo más profundo de mis deseos siempre he querido volver allá (y lo voy a hacer) tengo un nudo en la garganta... y si no fuera porque me gusta escribir no podría haberme expresado.
"Estoy Feliz de encontrarme" en esta muestra.

Hello:

How nice it is that someone takes the time to recover something that seems lost or that we don't see whether it is because of the work routine or the bad use of leisure.

I'm immensely thankful...for this exhibition. It gives me a great pleasure to remember moments of my infancy in a place called Huincullican. It is located after Teodoro Schmidt, where my grandmother used to live.

Nowadays I'm so far away from being that child ... I'm a professional in what I do... and in my deepest wishes I've always wanted to go back there (and I will). I have a lump in my throat... and if it weren't for the fact that I like to write I wouldn't have been able to express myself.

I am Happy of finding myself in this exhibition

Thank You.

Adela Riquelme 04/12/2012

GRACIAS.

Adela Riquelme Riquelme
17/04/2012

❖ Exposition N°3: Catholic University Silva Henríquez

Place: UCSH Main Patio

Duration: 1 week from May 7th until May 11th

Esencia Mapuche was invited by Codemu and the School of Sociology of USCH to participate with its exposition in the week of the event and with the experience of the artists on the day of the Closing of the seminar.

The photographer and painter of EsenciaMapuche shared their experience of living and creating art in a mapuche community, in this event. They talked about the project, the role of media and the role of the spectator.

This exhibition was placed in the patio where all of the students had to pass by in order to go to their classes. Many of them would stay for long time watching the images and reading the captions.

Advertisement

- [Mapuexpress](#) Seminar in Santiago will explore concrete perspectives over intercultural development. EsenciaMapuche guest.
- [ISEES – Social Inclusion and Equality in Higher Education](#). Coordinated by EQUITAS foundation and financed by PHE of the Ford Foundation.
- [Observatorio Ciudadano](#) - ONG of defense, promotion and documentation of human rights.

Comments

It's needed to know other views, other ways of the mapuche people. We are all human beings . Thank You!"

*Newsario es conocer otras
visiones, otras formas del
pueblo mapuche. Somos todos
seres humanos. Gracias!*

- EsenciaM



La Escuela de Sociología UCSH
y CODEMU los invita al

Cierre del seminario "Hacia la construcción de una interculturalidad concreta.

Daniela Millaleo, cantante
Karen Wenul, cantante
Eliana Pulquillanca, poeta

junto a



El viernes, 11 de mayo
13 hrs, Universidad Católica Silva Henríquez

....venta de comida tradicional....
....abierto a todo el público....



❖ Exposition N°4: Art School Gala Temuco

Place: CRD International

Duration: One Day

EsenciaMapuche was invited by “Angel Piana group” (the band that played at the Opening Event of this project) to participate on this huge celebration of art in all of its forms.

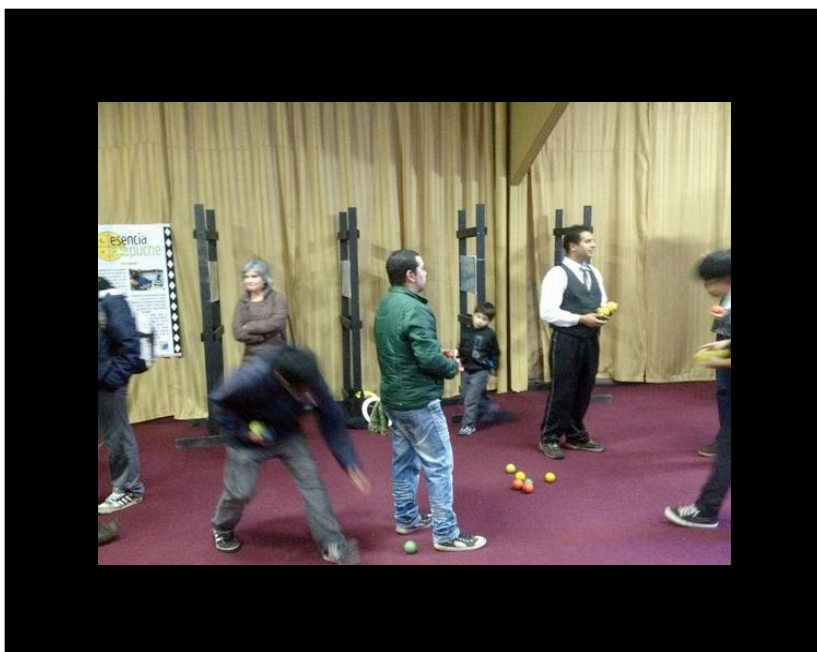
Around 300 people came by to participate in the different workshops (dance, juggling, trapeze etc) and to enjoy the musical shows. Everything was made to celebrate art and reflection.

In this event we met the young woman who had contacted us because she worked in NGO called Good Neighbors and wanted to visit the mapuche community we stayed in the summer.

So we went back to Romopulli Huapi with her and the Director of the Good Neighbors Chile and made contact with the school there and they will evaluate the possibility to do community development projects and education.

Advertisement:

- [Agenda Temuco- Culture & Entertainment in Temuco](#)
- [Meetbymax](#)



❖ Exposition N°5: We Tripantu Students Forum(memories and challenges for a multicultural society)

Place: Central Hall of the Polytechnics High school of Pitrufoquén, IX region.

Duration: 2 weeks

Using the contacts created in the first exhibition, the EsenciaMapuche expo travelled to a nearby town called Pitrufoquen. We were invited to participate in a very important event that the high school does every year since 2000.

The High school's Principal realized many unpleasant situations of bullying from the Chilean minority to the Mapuche kids and among mapuches as well. And as a large part of the students were from rural areas or mapuche communities, the director decided to conduct a Forum where the students would meet successful Mapuches, they would hear their stories and they would be inspired.

It was an honor to participate in this impactful event, with the work of EsenciaMapuche. [Polytechnic Highschool of Pitrufoquén.](#) (Chile) We Tripantu (Mapuche New Year) Celebration



5

Journalism Ethics Panel

5. Journalism Ethics Panel

In collaboration with the Journalism major at UFRO we hosted a discussion panel where we explore in depth some topics related with the title of the panel:

"The Mapuche in the press and the role of the media in Chile"

The speakers were:

Elias Paillán - Social Communications / Journalist. Works with Observatorio Ciudadano

Alonzo Azócar - Photographer/ Journalists/Professor UFRO. Expert in Photography, Identity and Indigenous issues.

Claudia Ancalao – History, Geography and Civic education Teacher. Mapuche Activist.

Pedro Cayuqueo - Journalist/ Director of Azkintuwe Newspaper and MapucheTimes

Panel recordings

- ❖ at [Puroperiodismo website](#) Online Magazine of the School of Journalism Alberto Hurtado University (Chile)
- ❖ Recording of entire Panel (Spanish) [Part 1](#) [Part 2](#)



**esencia
mapuche**

Panel: “Los Mapuche en la
prensa y el rol de los medios
de comunicación en Chile.

con
Alonso Azócar, fotógrafo
Claudia Ancalao, activista
Elías Paillan, periodista

moderador
Pedro Cayuqueo, periodista

El jueves, **3 de mayo**
9 hrs, Auditorio Selva Saavedra, UFRO Temuco
livestream x www.puroperiodismo.cl

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MeltonShare Session

MeltonShare Session

Conversations on Indigenous Conflicts and Peace-Building: A chilean experience

Marjorie Garcés



Presenter



Marjorie Garcés has a bachelor's degree in education and works as a freelance painter and singer in Temuco, Chile. She has coordinated projects sponsored by the Melton Foundation in areas such as Music, Education and Art; in India, China and Chile.

Dear MF members,

You are invited to participate in our next MeltonShare session titled "Conversations on Indigenous Conflicts and Peace-Building: A chilean experience" by Marjorie Garcés.

DATE: Saturday, May 5th

This online conference had a low attendance from the Melton Foundation fellows but there were some fellows from other organization joining in.

Brittany Peterson and May Garcés presented this Session.

Listen to the recording of the session [here](#).

Or watch the presentation used [here](#).

This session will analyze the development and early impact of "Esencia Mapuche" (the essence of the mapuche), which uses art to foster conversation about the Chilean-Mapuche conflict and its consequences on the population. We will also talk about examples of types of conflicts and resolution strategies around the world.



This presentation will share the outcomes of this MF funded project and aims to explore the interest there is among the MF family about this issues, in order to work towards their resolution.

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Press Coverage

7. Press Coverage (Most of the links will take you to sites in spanish but you will recognize the “Esencia Mapuche” in them)

- ❖ *“Esencia Mapuche, The Project inspired in the manhandle of the Chilean press towards the Mapuche people”.*

[LaOtraVoz](#) Journalism Media Online (Chile)

[Aureliennewenmapuche](#) Mapuche news (France)

[Mapuexpress Informativo Mapuche](#) Mapuche news (Chile)

[UnitedGeorgians blogspot](#) (Chile)

- ❖ *Mapuche: Art Exhibition on Identity Underway* -> [UNPO](#) Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization

- ❖ *“Picture of the day”* by Molécula web site

[9 de Marzo](#)

[10 de Junio](#)

- ❖ *“La Esencia Mapuche”,* post by Brittany Peterson

[La muralla](#)

Interviews

- ❖ *“Esencia Mapuche or the search for a people behind the prejudice”* by Pedro Cayuqueo

Read [Interview](#) on the Online Newspaper (Page 2, 3)

- ❖ *“Brittany Peterson: La prensa chilena reportea desde la perspectiva del conquistador”* by Daniela Fuentes

[Puroperiodismo](#) Online Magazine of the School of Journalism

Alberto Hurtado University (Chile)

[Mapuexpress Informativo Mapuche](#) Mapuche news (Chile)

- ❖ *“The Mapuche Essence”* by Sera Tolgay

[The Yale globalist: Chile travel blog](#)

- ❖ *“Art expo explores questions of Mapuche identity”* by Struan Campbell Gray

[SantiagoTimes](#)

[Mapuche International link News](#)

- ❖ *EsenciaMapuche on Canal 2 regional Television*

[“Nuestra Gente” morning show](#) (in Spanish)



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Conclusions and Moving Forward

8. Results, Moving Forward

This project has generated a lot of interest to people from all political views, religions and races. Also it has received interest from outside organizations curious for the model we could develop for carrying out this enterprise in the future. This has certainly surprised the team and confirmed the need for this kind of initiatives to take place, because there's openness towards a new view as we can all afford to be different.

In the more than 40 written comments (some very long ones) that we received in the expositions only a couple were negative, referring to personal opinions about the art, not what we intended to convey which was respect, the heart and essence of this project.

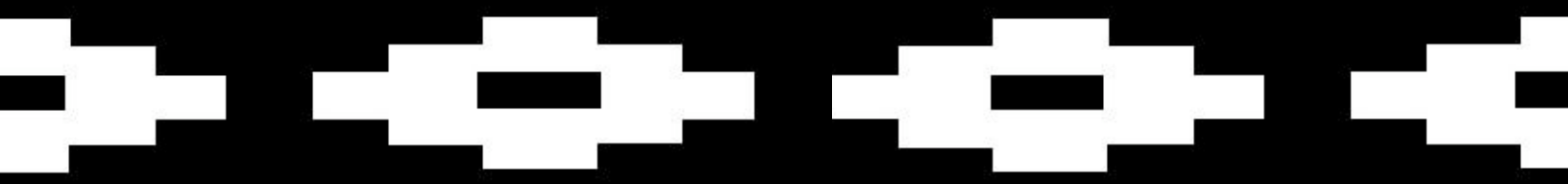
The team is working in following the steps to become an NGO and already has guidelines for its future actions.

Esencia Mapuche is an organization that supports artists who want to explore the diversity of the Mapuche people through their art, and helps exhibit their work in public spaces. Esencia Mapuche leads trips to rural communities travel to teach and guide teams of artists in creating their art in the context of the Mapuche culture. It also receives project proposals from professional artists who want to promote a relevant body of work, display or publish their art with this organization.

We believe that by being motivators and coordinators of art that explores issues related to the Mapuche people, we are helping to educate Chileans about Chile's largest indigenous population, contributing to peace by fighting ignorance and misinformation.

Our goals include:

- I. Working with artists (professional and amateur) Who may be Chilean, Mapuche or internationals; in the development of artistic projects that explore a wide variety of topics related to the Mapuche people, and
- II. Manage and coordinate the exhibition of the art in traditional and nontraditional spaces with the intention of exposing the work to many Chileans, expanding their knowledge of art and the Mapuche people.



EsenciaMapuche has essential administrative production and management costs. That is why it receives private donations to aid in post-production and exhibition of art, and to pay the administrative team and coaches who collaborate on the artistic trips. Educational institutions that collaborate with EsenciaMapuche undertake the cost of transportation and possibly additional costs to support their participating students.

The EsenciaMapuche team consists of Brittany Peterson (General Coordinator), Juan Perez Riquelme (Coordinator and Head of Communications), and Felipe Curin (Public Relations). May Garcés co-founded the project with Brittany and Juan, and currently works as a partner of the project in several areas.

EsenciaMapuche has two types of partners: art coaches and managers. The project is in the process of expanding the team. The core team is in Santiago, one coach is in Temuco, and they are expanding the network to other regions.

In 2012, there were five exhibitions, and for the second half is expected to have at least 10 exhibitions throughout Chile. We will continue to contact artists to collaborate with the project, so that we reach a target of 20 artists working with us this year.

Our hope is to create avenues and opportunities for artists from different art forms and backgrounds to create art inspired by the Mapuche people and communicate to others through their art.

