

For Immediate Release  
March 12, 2018

***GEMA ÁLAVA receives an Honorary Recognition Award for her Artistic Trajectory at the II World Summit of the Arts for Peace and Life, Ecuador.***



The **II WORLD SUMMIT OF THE ARTS FOR PEACE AND LIFE**: A pact of tenderness for Mother Earth, from Ecuador, grants the artist **Gema Álava** an **Honorary Recognition for her trajectory**. The award highlights the positive outcome of Álava's multidisciplinary projects, especially the art project **HEXAGONOS**, which marks with 24-carat gold hexagons strategic points where artistic talent and culture are concentrated.

**This award highlights the importance of projects that create synergies between artists and organizations for the construction of artistic-educational platforms that promote the expansion of culture while creating an awareness about the respect for nature.**

*“Humanity is at a crucial point where it cannot forget its capacity to inspire. When artists, like bees, are not allowed to pollinate, their panels—and potential—fall to the floor. It’s crucial to build sustainable Cultural Beehives and learn to walk among Hexagons”,* states Álava.



*HEXAGONS, 2018, Gema Álava. Caldera of the active volcano Pululahua. Quito, Ecuador*

The first hexagon of 2018 was placed in the Geobotanical Reserve of the crater of the active volcano Pululahua in Quito, where interactions with other international artists will take place, and will be documented by Álava in a series of books written by the artist, and edited by the journalist **Marta Ruiz-Torres**. Torres-Ruiz has received jointly with Álava an award for her journalist trajectory, which promotes and facilitates the visibility of cultural projects in collaboration with contemporary artists.

**Álava and Torres-Ruiz will receive the awards in Quito from the president of the II World Summit of the Arts, Ricardo T. Lovato, on March 24, 2018 after a ceremony at the Pyramids of Cochasquí, heritage of the pre-Inca culture.**

Gema Álava's work will be exhibited in collective exhibitions during the II WORLD SUMMIT OF THE ARTS, from March to June, in the **House of Culture of Quito** and in the **Archaeological Museum of Cochasquí**, Ecuador.

The book –which questions the uncertainties of the art world; offers solutions to the challenges of transmission of Culture at the beginning of the 21st century; and It's a witness of the artistic potential in **European, Anglo-American and Latin-American countries**– will be presented in September in the context of an individual exhibition, also entitled Hexágonos, at the art gallery **Maus Contemporary** in the **USA**.

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**THURSDAY MARCH 22, 11AM – 1PM**  
**MUSEUM AND FOUNDATION GUAYASAMÍN**

**WORKSHOP LEAD BY GEMA ÁLAVA: "INSPIRING AUDIENCES"**

On the occasion of the inauguration of the II WORLD SUMMIT OF THE ARTS and in order to generate synergies between artists, educators and institutions, Álava will give an interactive workshop on the future of culture: "**Inspiring Audiences: give me a museum to get lost in and a work to find myself**" where he will try multidisciplinary ways of creating conversations that have resonance with the public.

"A museum is a place to meet, to get lost, to play hide and seek, to ask discreet or indiscreet questions. Establishing a conversation in a museum, or with a museum, can be an experience that changes a life, marks a *beginning*, a *later*, or a *perhaps*," says Álava.

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**FRIDAY MARCH 23, 9PM**  
**CENTRO DE ARTE CONTEMPORANEO DE QUITO**

**PERFORMANCE BY GEMA ÁLAVA: "HEXAGONOS" IN CONCERT WITH DANEE RAMÓN**

As part of the events of the II WORLD SUMMIT OF THE ARTS, the Ecuadorian singer and producer Danee Ramón will give a concert tuned to 4.32 Hertz at the Democratic Café--Contemporary Art Center of Quito. The tuning 4.32 Hz coincides with the tuning of the buzzing of the bees and, during the concert, Álava will install on the stage a 24-carat gold hexagon, which will mark the location where the sound and vibration 4.32 Hz will be projected globally. Both performance and concert will be documented in a video that will be part of the project HEXAGONOS.

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**II WORLD SUMMIT OF THE ARTS FOR PEACE AND LIFE: A pact of tenderness for Mother Earth**

The II World Summit of the Arts of Ecuador is organized by the Inti Amaru Visual, Poetic and Sound Arts Corporation of Ecuador, and aims to create dialogue between artistic, academic and spiritual fields, in connection with the ancestral wisdom of peoples' cultures, as an example that promotes respect, peaceful coexistence between peoples and nations, and encourages the preservation of life and nature of the planet.

The first Summit was held in 2015 and the second World Summit **opens on Thursday, March 22**, in one of the most emblematic basilicas in Latin America: the **Basilica del Voto Nacional**, in the historic center of Quito and Cultural Patrimony of Humanity. **127 artists from more than 60 countries** participate, **from five continents**, among which stand out the Philharmonic Orchestra of Ecuador, Thierry Singer (France), Birthe Pedersen (Denmark), Andre Pilz (Germany), Lia Berhane (Eritrea), Mynor Cojulun (Guatemala), Carlos Romero (Colombia), Fernando López Guevara and Renato Ulloa (Ecuador).

**Ricardo T. Lovato**, president of both Summits, states: "All the events of the Summit are called Full Moon Rituals, for being these rituals done ancestrally in pre-Inca cultures with the goal of reaching agreements. At the Summit we expose our points of view as artists, and we communicate through dance, music, theater, poetry or painting because there is an urgent need to rediscover our spiritual essence through the arts and further promote respect to the earth and to the human being."

The exhibitions and concerts will take place from **March to June** in the **House of Ecuadorian Culture**, the **Municipal Auditorium Cantón Mejía**, the **Cochasquí Archaeological Museum** and the **Cochasquí Pyramids**, among other prominent cultural spaces of Ecuador.

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## GEMA ÁLAVA

(Madrid, 1973) Lives in New York. Multimedia visual artist and Culture Councilor of the World Council of Peoples for the United Nations. Her work has been exhibited at the Solomon S. Guggenheim Museum, the Queens Museum of Art and the Headquarters of the United Nations, all three in New York; the Margulies Art Collection at the Warehouse in Miami; and MANIFESTA 8, European Biennial of Contemporary Art. Her Trilogy Tell Me - Find Me - Trust Me (2008-2010) has been awarded a 2011 Peter S. Reed Foundation Fellowship. **She writes for FronteraD and her work is represented by Maus Contemporary.**

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Corporación de Artes Visuales  
Poéticas y Sonoras INTI AMARU  
del Ecuador