

Aluaiy Kaumakan



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Born 1971 in Pingtung County, Taiwan
Lives in Sandimen Township, Pingtung County
Paiwan Nation, Paridrayan Community, Taiwan
Indigenous Peoples.

Interdisciplinary textile sculptor and installation artist Aluaiy Kaumakan belongs to a leading noble family of the Paiwan Nation from the Paridrayan Community of Pingtung County in southern Taiwan. She creates sculptures with wool, cotton, copper, silk, and glass beads, weaving organic or vegetal forms. Aluaiy Kaumakan uses 'Lemikalik', a Paiwan artistic technique that consists of weaving in concentric circles – intertwining life memories of tribal nobility to form a place for an Indigenous Taiwanese uprising and its legacy in art, ecology and cultural politics. Her practice is inspired by her Paiwan culture and tradition and by her role as an Indigenous woman responding to current issues. In 2009, her village was hit by the particularly violent Typhoon Morakot, forcing the inhabitants to relocate to the Rinari community. Looking for ways to connect members of her displaced community through a creative process, which reactivates and transforms a set of traditions, her work in customary culture becomes a statement about developing ways to dwell in a disturbed environment.

Aluaiy Kaumakan's project for the 23rd Biennale of Sydney is co-curated by Taiwanese Indigenous curator Biung Ismahasan (Bunun Nation) working closely with the Curatorium of the 23rd Biennale of Sydney.

Semasipu – Remembering Our Intimacies, 2021 – 2022

wool, cotton, silk on cloths by inking

Courtesy the artist, Paridrayan Community elder women, Linkous Kuljeljelje, Chun-Lun Chen & curator Biung Ismahasan

Commissioned by the Biennale of Sydney with generous support from the Taiwan Ministry of Culture and Cultural Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Sydney and assistance from the Council of Indigenous Peoples

Aluaiy Kaumakan - Biennale of Sydney

Aluaiy Kaumakan belongs to a leading noble family of the Paiwan Nation from the Paridrayan Community of Pingtung County in southern Taiwan. She creates sculptures with textiles, fibers, copper and glass beads to weave organic forms. Aluaiy Kaumakan uses *lemikalik*, a Paiwan practice of weaving in concentric circles intertwining memories of tribal nobility. In 2009 Kaumakan's village was hit by violent Typhoon Morakot, forcing people to relocate to the Rinari community. For *Semasipu Remembering Our Intimacies* Kaumakan has returned to her ancestral village to collect cultural belongings and objects printing on silk through a rubbing process. One of the important cultural objects is *dredredan* an ancestral earthenware reimaged in woven form.



Kaumakan has connected members of her displaced community through a participatory process exploring the concept of *Sicevudan* which means emergence of the river in the deepest mountain. Elder women have lead ceremony with Kaumakan on returning to their ancestral waters. *Semasipu* means the sensorial ability to soothe lead by elder women. Kaumakan says 'Rubbing carried the definition of my life, returning me to my ancestral town: Paridrayan community, my home, my cultural heritage, my childhood memories. After Typhoon Morakot on 8 August 2009, we were not allowed to return to our community. It is impossible for us to dismantle and relocate the community, so what should we do? By rubbing, letting that trace be produced through my hands, I carry something of that memory into my work.'





"THE BEST ART IN THE WORLD"
MAY 2023

Dear Earth: Art and Hope in a Time of Crisis at the Hayward Gallery

Dear Earth

Hayward Gallery

June 21 through September 3 2023

By **DELIA CABRAL**, May 2023

The Hayward Gallery will be hosting an extensive climate change themed exhibition featuring over 15 artists from far reaching parts of the globe. They will represent varied cultural backgrounds and views and draw on a range of media, including sculpture, photography, video and soundscapes. *Dear Earth* will create an inspiring space for contemplation and reflection. The exhibition is set to open on June 21st. and run through September 3rd. *Dear Earth* seeks to encourage visitors to explore the unique beauty of nature and its importance in our lives. The list of artists and their origins and locations includes:

- **Ackroyd & Harvey** - British based
- **Andrea Bowers** - Los-Angeles-based
- **Imani Jacqueline Brown** - from New Orleans, living in London
- **Agnes Denes** - Hungarian-born, based in New York
- **Cristina Iglesias** - Spanish installation artist and sculptor living and working in Torrelodones, Madrid
- **Aluaiy Kaumakan** - from the Paiwan Paridrayan tribe of indigenous peoples in Taiwan.
- **Jenny Kendler** - lives and works in Chicago.
- **Richard Mosse** - Irish currently based in New York
- **Otobong Nkanga** is a Nigerian-born visual and performance artist based in Antwerp, Belgium.
- **Cornelia Parker** - British based
- **Paul Pulford and Grounded Ecotherapy** - London based
- **Himali Singh Soin** - currently works in between New Delhi and London.
- **Hito Steyerl** - German based
- **Daiara Tukano** - Brazilian visual artist, independent communicator, indigenous rights activist, and human rights researcher who belongs to the Eremiri Häusiro Parameri clan of the Yépa Mahsã people (known as Tukano)

Aluaiy Kaumakan, also known as Wuyuling, is an interdisciplinary textile sculptor and installation artist from the Paiwan Paridrayan tribe of indigenous peoples in Taiwan. She has been commissioned to create one of her large enveloping and flowing installations. Wuyuling's immersive installation weaves a connection between the indigenous peoples of the past and seeks to connect with us in the present. She brings to light a personal and human narrative in her work employing traditional techniques, weaving in concentric circles using recycled fabrics, bright colours and familiar patterns to create a nostalgic and visceral response.



Aluaiy Kaumakan, The Axis of Life & Vines in the Mountain, 2018. Recycled fabric, cotton, organic cotton. Wool, ramie, cotton, copper, silk, glass beads. © Aluaiy Kaumakan. Courtesy of Taipei Fine Arts Museum.