

VIOLETA AYALA

Member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (Oscar)
b.1978 in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

Violeta Ayala is a filmmaker, technologist, writer, and artist. In 2020, she became the first Quechua member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. She is the co-founder of unitednotions. film and koa.xyz. Her most recent experience is Prison X (2021), an interactive VR animation, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and Cannes XR to critical acclaim. She wrote, directed and produced the award-winning documentaries Cocaine Prison (2017), The Fight (2017), The Bolivian Case (2015) and Stolen (2009) – Her films have premiered at major film festivals, including Sundance and Toronto, broadcasted on PBS, Channel 8, Señal Colombia, Ibermedia, World, and online platforms such as Amazon Prime and The Guardian. She has won over 50 awards and nominations including a Walkley (Australia's Pulitzer) and nominations for the IDA (Los Angeles), Rory Peck (London), Platino (Panama) and Fenix (Mexico). Ayala's art works include Flower Queens (a book of 3D-printed flowers and poems powered by artificial intelligence), koa.xyz (A ever changing interactive website), a metaverse gallery in cryptovoxels (winner of the overall honorable mention at the Indigenous Futurism Model-Making Competition of Yale's center for architecture) and Ephemera (an online zine where she writes about futurism). Ayala used AI to create Las Awichas (grandmothers in Aymara), a series of large format prints in honour of her female ancestors. The exhibition opened on 9/21/2022 at the Martadero one of the most prestigious art galleries in Bolivia.

FILMOGRAPHY

PRISON X, VR Interactive & Immersive Animation, 35 min, 2021
COCAINE PRISON, doc, 75 min, 2017
THE FIGHT, doc, 29 min, 2017
THE BOLIVIAN CASE, doc, 85 min, 2015
STOLEN, doc, 78 min, 2009

EXHIBITIONS

LAS AWICHAS, Martadero, Cochabamba, Bolivia, 2022
PRISON X, Forum Des Images, Paris, France, 2022

AWARDS/HONORS

Official Selection New Frontier, Sundance Film Festival for PRISON X, 2021
Veer Future Award Finalist, Cannes XR for PRISON X, France, 2021
XR Immersive Arcade, Games For Change for PRISON X, NY, 2021
Member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, 2020
Workshop, Puppet. Snake. Mask. Devil. Robot. For PRISON X, MIT Co-Creation Studio, 2019
Official Selection, Toronto International Film Festival, for COCAINE PRISON, 2017
Nominated Best Documentary Feature, Camden IFF 2017 for COCAINE PRISON, US
Best of Fest, IDFA, for COCAINE PRISON, Amsterdam, 2017
Best Cinematography, Walkley Awards (Australian Pulitzer Prize), for THE FIGHT, 2017
Nominated Best Short, International Documentary Awards, for THE FIGHT, US 2017
Jaime Escalante Medal for Extraordinary Talent in Filmmaking, 2018
Audience Award, Toulouse Latin America FF, for COCAINE PRISON, France 2018
DW Doc Dispatch Award, Sheffield Int Documentary Fest, for THE FIGHT, UK, 2017
Official Selection, Toronto International Film Festival, for STOLEN, 2009
Official Competition 2009, IDFA, for STOLEN, Amsterdam, 2009
Nominated for Premios Platino, for THE BOLIVIAN CASE, Spain, 2016
Nominated for Premios Fenix, for THE BOLIVIAN CASE, Mexico, 2015
Audience Award, Sydney Film Festival, for THE BOLIVIAN CASE, Australia, 2015
Special Presentation, Hot Docs, for THE BOLIVIAN CASE, Canada, 2015
Best Short Film, The Right Cut for THE FIGHT, Venezuela 2020
Grand Jury Prize, London International Film Festival for THE FIGHT, UK 2018

Best Short Documentary, Sose International Film Festival for THE FIGHT, Armenia 2018
Best Short Documentary, Inclus Film Festival for THE FIGHT, Spain 2018
Best International Short, Overcome Film Festival, for THE FIGHT, Brazil 2018
Best Short, Articulo 31 Film Festival, for THE FIGHT, Spain 2018
Nom Stefan Jarl Award, Tempo Doc Festival, for COCAINE PRISON, Sweden 2018
Finalist Sony Impact Award, Rory Peck Awards, for THE FIGHT, UK, 2017
Best Short, International Human Rights Festival in Sucre, for THE FIGHT, Bolivia, 2017
Bertha Britdoc Journalism Award, Good Pitch NY, for COCAINE PRISON, US, 2013
Puma Creative Catalyst Award, Britdoc Foundation, for THE BOLIVIAN CASE, UK, 2012
Best Feature Documentary, Pan African Film Festival, for STOLEN, LA, US, 2010
Grand Prix, Art of the Document Film Festival, for STOLEN, Warsaw, Poland, 2010
Best Documentary, Anchorage International Film Festival, for STOLEN, US, 2010
Best Film, Festival Internacional de Cine de Cuenca, for STOLEN, Ecuador, 2010
Best Documentary, Africa Film Festival, for STOLEN, Port Harcourt, Nigeria, 2010
Best Film, River's Edge International Film Festival, for STOLEN, US, 2010
Best Editing, Documentary Edge Film Festival, for STOLEN, NZ, 2010
Special Jury Mention, Documentary Edge Film Festival, for STOLEN, NZ, 2010
Best Feature, Rincon International Film Festival, for STOLEN, Puerto Rico, 2010
Silver Olive, XV International TV Festival Bar, for STOLEN, Montenegro, 2010
Special Mention, Ojai Film Festival, for STOLEN, California, US, 2010
Audience Award, Amnesty International Film Festival, for STOLEN, Canada, 2010
Audience Award, One World Human Right Film Festival, for STOLEN, 2010
Special Award for Excellence, Amazigh Int Film Festival, for STOLEN, Morocco, 2012

EXPERIENCE

2019 - LA LUCHA (In Post Production), Feature Documentary.

Writer, Director, Producer, Editor

Funders: ITVS Open Call Production Fund, Screen Australia, Sundance Documentary Fund, Screen NSW, AXS.

2017 - 2021 Prison X, VR Interactive Experience.

Writer, Director, Lead Artist, Technologist & Producer

**The experience is entirely created by BIPOC creators from 3D illustrators, technologists to programmers to sound designers and composers.*

Website: <https://linktr.ee/prisonx>

Festivals: Official Selection, Sundance Film Festival 2021, World Premiere
Veer Future Award, Cannes XR, France, 2021 + 10 festivals worldwide.

Selected Reviews

"The Best Non-Linear Narrative...The most ambitious interactive narrative piece this year (2021)." VOICES OF VR

"Violeta Ayala's Prison X - Chapter 1: The Devil and The Sun, stunned us at Sundance this year." NO PROSCENIUM

"Captured a state of dream logic that I so often want in VR." FORBES

"Asserts Indigenous aesthetics and cosmologies that not only were erased and devalued by colonial Spanish rule, but are woefully underrepresented in digital media today." ART IN AMERICA

2016 - 2017 THE FIGHT, short documentary.

Writer, Director & Producer

Website: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/ng-interactive/2017/may/05/fighting-for-a-pension-disability-rights-protesters-in-bolivia-face-barricades>

Selected Reviews

"Extraordinary, just hits you in the face" CHRISTIANE AMANPOUR CNN

"The most politically explosive documentary of 2017" NO FILM SCHOOL

"This is committed, compelling observational documentary-making at it's best, with super-beautiful characters at its core." RORY PECK AWARDS JURY

"A deeply humane and moving documentary" AUDIENCE AWARD, SHEFFIELD DOC FEST

"A brilliant, shocking and moving film" BBC

"The real big achievement is, they've woken up Bolivian society...you hear people talking about it on the bus" AMERICAS QUARTERLY

2010 - 2017 COCAINE PRISON, feature documentary

Writer, Director & Producer

Produced by Daniel Fallshaw, Australia.

Co-Produced by Cedric Bonin, France and Redelia Shaw, US.

Broadcaster: Doc World, PBS

SVOD Worldwide: Amazon Prime

French Distributor: Juste Doc, Opened in Cinemas in all France in November 2019

Festivals: Official Selection, Toronto International Film Festival 2017, World Premiere

Best of Fest, IDFA 2017, European Premiere.
Official Competition, Habana International Film Festival, Cuba, 2017 + 40 festivals worldwide.

Website: www.cocaineprison.com

Selected Reviews

"Truly Unique" VICE

"Compellingly Kafkaesque" FILMMAKER MAGAZINE

"One of this year's most striking testimonial films" THE GLOBE AND MAIL

"Heartbreaking and Indicting" CINEMA TROPICAL

"Passionate, compelling and fascinating documentary that will push audiences to explore the idea of a legalized drug industry" SHE DOES THE CITY

"Ayala has achieved something extraordinary in the realm of docu-fiction." STRAIGHT

"Truly jawdropping story of injustice" THE MOVEABLE FEST

"Fascinating and heartbreaking" IN REVIEW

"One of the 12 best films from Latin America of 2017" EL PAIS

"Far from stereotypes like Narcos, Cocaine Prison is intense, a real feminist film" MOUSTIQUE

2011 - 2015 THE BOLIVIAN CASE, feature documentary.

Writer, Director & Producer

Produced by: Daniel Fallshaw.

TV Distribution: IBERMEDIA to all public broadcasters in Latin America and Spain

Festivals: Special Presentation 2015: Hot Docs, Canada - World Premiere

Doc Competition 2015: Sydney Film Festival, Australia (Audience Award)

Nominated for Premios Fenix 2015: Mexico.

Nominated for Premios Platino 2016: Spain.

Website: www.theboliviancase.com

Selected Reviews

"Instead of asking us to question the guilt or innocence of these women, Ayala asks us to confront how gender—and also race and class—affects how we assign guilt." VICE

"An eye-opening criminal exposé" INDIEWIRE

"Very entertaining film and it's just jaw-dropping.. It's a kind of film that you couldn't write as fiction" ABC

"This is reality TV meets true crime in a grand criminal exposé that sheds light on modern crime and punishment." SHE DOES THE CITY

"A cleverly constructed piece of cinema that's ultimately very effective. It actively lures its audience in with a promise of a 'suspense-thriller' narrative but doesn't limit itself to popcorn entertainment." 4:3

"The most notable film of 2015, The Bolivian Case is a brave film that follows the thematic narrative line of it's creator; the drug war" EL DEBER

"The best of 2015, Violeta Ayala is showing that is one of the most gifted investigative filmmakers of our times" CARMATTOS

2006 - 2009 STOLEN, feature documentary. Writer, Director & Producer.

Broadcaster: PBS World, US Nationwide, 26th Feb 2013, within a 2-hour special report that includes an interview with the directors and a panel discussion.

Festival Screenings: Official Selection 2009 - Toronto International Film Festival
Official Competition 2009 - International Documentary Festival Amsterdam (Finalist)
+ 80 prestigious festivals worldwide and winner of 15 awards including Best Feature Doc at the 2010 Pan African Film Festival in Los Angeles, Grand Prix at the 2010 Art of the Document Film Festival in Warsaw, Golden Oosikar Best Doc at the 2010 Anchorage International Film Festival, Best Film at the 2010 Festival Internacional de Cine de Cuenca in Ecuador and many more.

Website: www.stolenthedocu.com

Selected Reviews: "Suspenseful, scary, and displaying personal bravery by Ayala and Fallshaw, this exceptional film is a searing testimony to man's continued inhumanity to man." SEATTLE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

"The existence of modern slavery has been detailed in books like Kevin Bales's Disposable People, but rarely has it been covered on film as intimately as in Stolen." Thom Powers, TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

"Pacy, exciting and hugely engrossing. Guaranteed to spark intense debate about the relationship between documakers and their subjects wherever it's shown." Richard Kuipers, VARIETY

"Riveting stuff." Greg Quill, THE TORONTO STAR

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2022 Design & Mentor "Expylab 2022", a visionary experiment in Latin American futurism, Asuncion, Paraguay.

2022 Masterclass "Building El Cholaverso", VR Fest MX 2022, Mexico DF.

2022 Panelist “Metaverso Latinoamericano”, Sanfic, Santiago, Chile,
2022 Masterclass “Prison X & Building the Neo Andean Metaverse”, Forum Des Images. Paris, France.
2022 Keynote “Film Futurism” at the William and Louise Greaves Filmmaker Seminar by Black Star Film Festival. Philadelphia, US.
2022 Masterclass “Envision and Materialise your own Digital Identity” at Electric South, Johannesburg, SA.
2021 Panelist “Making the Metaverse” at Double Exposure Symposium.
2021 Featured Speaker at Games For Change, a worldwide leading XR, tech and games conferences. New York.
2021 Named a trailblazer by Screen NSW, Sydney, Australia.
2021 Amongst 20 Australian Creatives for IWD 2021, Sydney, Australia.
2020 Established the Community Board, a representative body of filmmakers and professionals from BIPOC-led collectives and organizations.
2020 Luminaries Panel for “Editing History” together with Eve L. Ewing, Assia Boundaoui, Aymar Jean Christian, and Gene Luen Yang, Sundance Film Festival 2020.
2019 Keynote address “Intersection between journalism, art and freedom of expression”, IFEX, Berlin
2018 Masterclass “The impact of journalism and storytelling”, Tempo Impact Conference, Stockholm.
2018 Guest Filmmaker at Journalism Plus (AIDC Australia 2018) discussing the role of filmmakers and journalists in the fast changing media landscape.
2017 Guest Filmmaker featured in a conversation with the Deputy Foreign Director at CBS News Tony Calvin during the Double Exposure Investigative Film Festival, DC 2017.
2012 Case study of THE BOLIVIAN CASE at the Norwegian International Short Film Festival, Grimstad, Norway.
2010 Guest Jury at the Norwegian International Short Film Festival, Norway
2010 Masterclass on ‘Writing for documentary’ at the National Film and Television School in London, UK.
2010 Masterclass on ‘From idea to doc’ at the Edinburgh College of Arts as part of the “Bridging the Gap” series; organised by the Scottish Documentary Institute.
2009 - 2010 Guest at various film festival panels such as IDFA TV, Frontline Club, Stranger than Fiction in NY, etc.

PUBLISHED WRITING

July 2020, Filmmakers Magazine, Plan of Action: BIPOC Documentary Professionals Respond to the Pandemic and Protest Movement.
Feb 2017, The Huffington Post, Recognition is for white Australia
Feb 2017, The Huffington Post, Advance Australia White
Jan 2017, The Huffington Post, #WhyIMarch
Dec 2016, The Huffington Post, Prisoner #B57661
Nov 2016, The Huffington Post, The Water War
Sep 2016, The Huffington Post, Liberté, égalité, fraternité?
June 2016, The Huffington Post, The Wicked Granny
May 2016, The Huffington Post, Water Canons Used On Disabled Protestors in Bolivia
May 2016, The Huffington Post, My Right to Live with Dignity
Feb 2016, The Huffington Post, Fair Trade Cocaine
Jan 2016, The Huffington Post, White People on Patrol
Aug 2015, The Huffington Post, The Firsthand Racism I Experienced in Australia
Nov 2013, The Huffington Post, Is Bolivia the New Afghanistan, or Is O’Grady From The WSJ Delusional?
August 2013, The Huffington Post, The Whistleblowers and Latin America
July 2013, The Huffington Post, What If Snowden Was on Board the Bolivian President’s Jet?
June 2013, The Huffington Post, Cocaine: Just a Commodity?
Feb 2013, Indiewire, First Person: The ‘Stolen’ Filmmakers Explain How a Doc About Refugees Became a Controversial Film About Reported Slavery
Oct 2006, The Age, Police Start Woodside Probe Over Bribery Claim
June 2006, Sydney Morning Herald and The Age, Slick Operator - It was the front page of the Sydney Morning Herald. This article was the catalyst for the Australian Federal Police to open an investigation into Woodside’s bribing a Mauritanian Government official.

EDUCATION

2006 Bachelor of Arts, Charles Sturt University, Australia.
1995 High School Diploma, Aleman Santa Maria, Bolivia.

Title: **Cyber Punk Tinkus**

Date: 2023

Materials: Digital Print on Clear Acrylic.

Installation made with fluorescent tubes and steel.

Short Description: Cyber Punk Tinkus is an installation commissioned by the art gallery El Martadero for March 2023.



CYBERP&NK T#NIKU

Title: **Las Awichas**

Date: Sep 21 2022 - Oct 31 2022

Materials: A collection of six large format digital prints on canvas and two in clear acrylic. Two photo albums with 35 digital prints on photographic paper.

Dimensions: 2 X 2.7 m.

Short Description: Las Awichas (Grandmothers) are a IRL exhibition generated with AI and Photoshop commissioned by El Martadero for BIDA Fair.

LAS AWICHAS

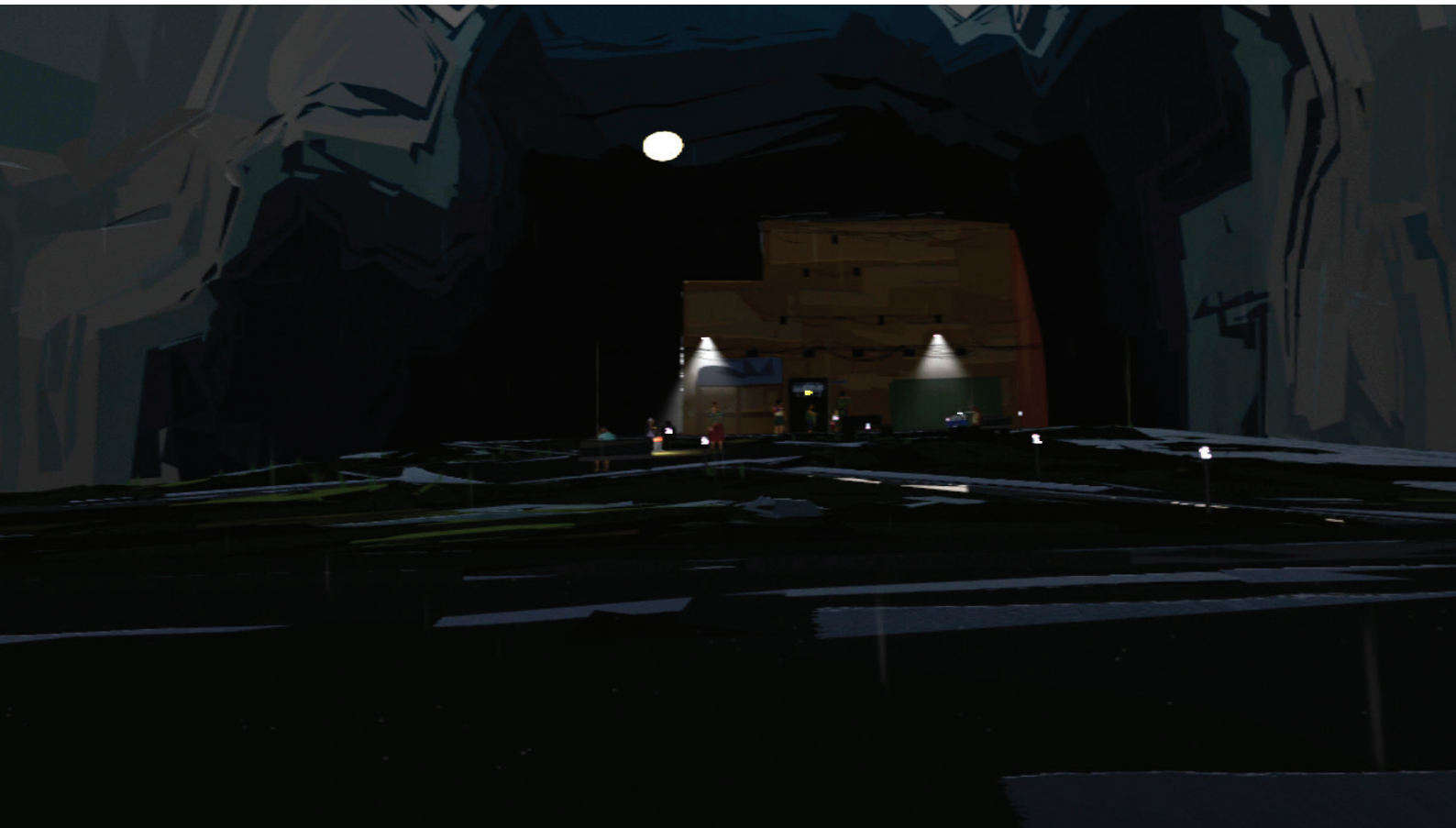


Title: **Prison X**

Date: Jan 2021

Materials: VR Interactive and Immersive Experience.

Short Description: Prison X was entirely hand painted in 3D space with virtual reality glasses. Premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and Cannes XR



PRISON X

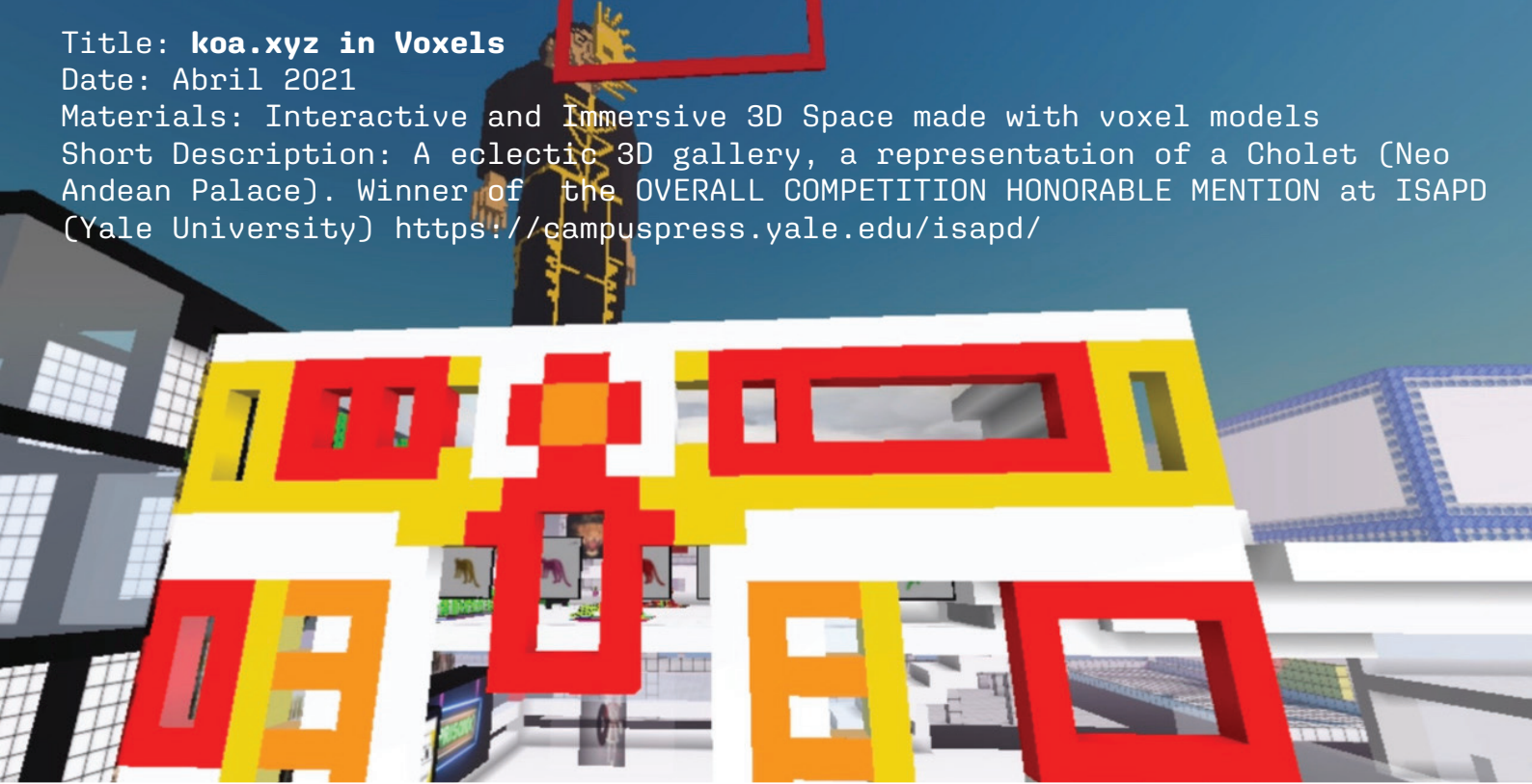


Title: **koa.xyz in Voxels**

Date: Abril 2021

Materials: Interactive and Immersive 3D Space made with voxel models

Short Description: A eclectic 3D gallery, a representation of a Cholet (Neo Andean Palace). Winner of the OVERALL COMPETITION HONORABLE MENTION at ISAPD (Yale University) <https://campuspress.yale.edu/isapd/>



Title: **Flower Queens**

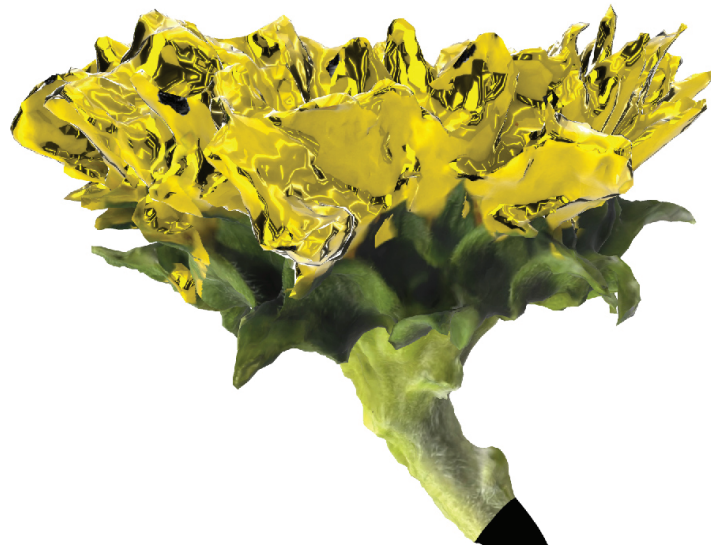
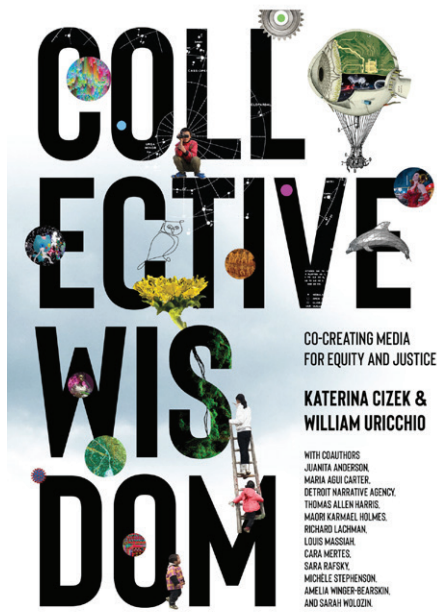
Date: Dec 2021

Materials: A collection of 3D Scans of handmade mini-installation of flowers, painted in 3D and photographed.

Short Description: A NFT Collection of Flowers and Poems. The MIT bought the sunflower for a book cover called Collective Wisdom.

<https://mitpress.mit.edu/blog/cover-story-collective-wisdom/>

FLOWER QUEENS

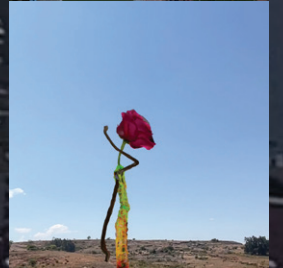
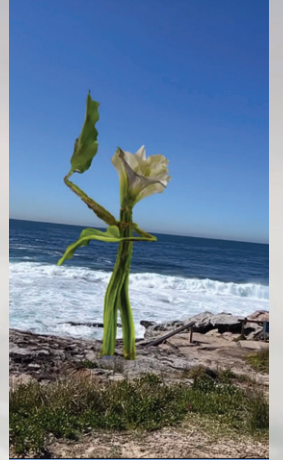


Title: **MetaFlowers**

Date: 2023

Materials: 3D scans of flowers

Short description: Work in progress, motion capture dancing flowers.



MetaFlowers

[HTTPS://WWW.VIOLETAAYALA.COM](https://www.violetarayala.com)

(I have designed and build my website)

[HTTPS://WWW.VIOLETAAYALA.COM/VIRTUAL-REALITY-1](https://www.violetarayala.com/virtual-reality-1)

[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/503422039](https://vimeo.com/503422039)

(Prison X trailer, I can provide an .exe on request)

[HTTPS://SKETCHFAB.COM/3D-MODELS/PRISON-X-6F632E4A581344DB82F69ED0AF676E06](https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/prison-x-6f632e4a581344db82f69ed0af676e06)

(3D model of the Prison and the characters)

[HTTPS://WWW.UNITEDNOTIONS.FILM/COLQUE](https://www.unitednotions.film/colque)

(A mood board for the Cholaverso)

[HTTPS://WWW.KOA.XYZ/](https://www.koa.xyz/)

(I have designed and build the website for koa.xyz)

[HTTPS://WWW.SPATIAL.IO/S/LAS-AWICHAS-2022-635069874050E10001CF22D3?SHARE=6386348068172790633](https://www.spatial.io/s/las-awichas-2022-635069874050e10001cf22d3?share=6386348068172790633)

(Web XR Gallery, replica of IRL exhibition)

[HTTPS://WWW.VOXELS.COM/PLAY?COORDS=N@745E,573N](https://www.voxels.com/play?coords=N@745E,573N)

(Koa.xyz in a 3d world)