

# Peru / Europe

## Ojo Verde

An artistic dialogue is taking place between the Peruvian Amazon and the forest of Brocéliande. Thanks to a cross-residency, a French storyteller and photographer meet a Peruvian storyteller and visual artist. In each forest, with the communities, they create stories, works and recitals that address the issue of preserving ecosystems.

### COUNTRY

Pérou and France

### LOCALISATION

Amazonie and Brocéliande

### DATES OF THE PROJECT

July 2021 - December 2021

### ARTISTS INVOLVED

Jessica Moulinet, Philippe Ranguin, Christian Bendayan, Rember Yahuarcani

### PARTICIPANTS

People from Iquitos, Members of Brocéliande associations

### FUNDING

Fonds Metis Budget 15,000 €

### PARTNERS

Alliance française du Pérou, Destination Brocéliande, Breton associations

### SECTOR AND SDG'S



## FROM THE AMAZON TO BROCELIANDE

Peru covers a large part of the north-western Amazon rainforest. The Amazon, the world's largest forest and the planet's green lung, has been facing major deforestation problems since the 1990s, leading to severe biodiversity loss and contributing to climate change. It is also populated by numerous communities who live directly or indirectly by and for the forest, and have a rich vision of its preservation, which is given too little consideration in the arenas of globalised public debate. The forest of Brocéliande, in Brittany, is both a sensitive area and an archetypal forest of Western myths. The forest is currently the focus of debate on how to regulate the area, protect the forest and ensure that human activities coexist.

## FORESTS AND PEOPLE

Metis initiates cross-residencies between Amazonia and Brocéliande, enabling two Peruvian and two French artists to meet and exchange ideas.

On the French side, storyteller Jessica Moulinet took part in the project. Originally from the forest of Brocéliande, she draws her inspiration from the spirituality of the peoples and myths of the forest, echoing the Celtic tradition of which she is the heir. At her side is Philippe Manguin, a photographer and graphic designer based in Brocéliande. Through his work, he reappropriates the forest, its moors and its light, and tells the legends of this land in a new way. Together, they will be undertaking a three-week residency in the Amazon.

On the Peruvian side, two artists have been mobilised. Christian Bendayan is a visual artist born in Iquitos, in the heart of the Amazon. Winner of Peru's National Culture Prize in 2012, he represents his country at various biennials and fairs around the world. He is also committed to promoting Amazonian art, organising exhibitions (notably at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Lima), documentary series and publications. Rember Yahuarcani is a painter and activist from the Aimeni clan of the Uitoto nation in the north of the Peruvian Amazon. In his paintings, animals, plants, people and spirits are interconnected. They invite the Western viewer to immerse themselves in the Uitoto culture, and to experience the world from a different system of thought.

Together, they have put their practices, lifestyles and imaginations into dialogue.

Their meeting gave them the opportunity to exchange ideas on the traditions and mythologies associated with the Amazon and Brocéliande, and to reflect on the links between man and the forest, on the symbiosis that is possible, and certainly necessary, for its preservation.

In Peru and France, they set up creative workshops to engage local residents of the two forests in sensitive reflection on their links with the forest and with living things, and on solutions for its preservation. The participants, in Peru and France, were able to express their links with the forest, and to realise that the problem exists elsewhere.

At the end of these residencies, recitals, stories and exhibitions were presented to the public. In Peru, the exhibition was held at the Alliance française in Lima.

The participation of the Destination Brocéliande tourist office enabled its members to enrich their view of the forest and their approach to forest conservation.

## THEY SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE

'People can live sustainably in symbiosis with their environment, with their forests. We should follow the example of the way of life of the native populations of Amazonia'.

LAURENT PACOUD, AFD DIRECTOR FOR PERU

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MILLION HECTARES DEFORESTED  
IN THE PERUVIAN AMAZON

4

ARTISTS MOBILISED

2

FORESTS IN DIALOGUE