

## Diana Mercado's Exhibition, A Tale of The Andes, at The Gallery at Green & Stone in London

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*A Luz de Luna (Under the Moonlight)*  
Oil, amethyst and gold leaf on linen, 2024



*Sueños Dorados (Golden Dreams)*  
Oil and gold leaf on linen, 2024

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**Exhibition Dates:** 19 May – 31 May 2025

**Exhibition Location:** The Gallery at Green and Stone, 251 Fulham Road, London SW3 6HY

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### ***Hidden by Inca princesses, Atahualpa's gold ransom still lies lost in the Andes....***

The Gallery at Green and Stone presents an exhibition of new works by Ecuadorian artist, Diana Mercado, *Un Cuento de Los Andes* (A Tale of the Andes), her fourth solo exhibition in London. The exhibition explores themes of identity, heritage, and memory. Born in Guayaquil, she left her home in Ecuador as a child and immigrated to the United States.

*A Tale of The Andes* draws its inspiration from the artist's memories of childhood stories about the Inca civilization told to her by her grandfather. This collection of works remembers and pays tribute to a time when the Inca civilization was the largest in South America and brings to life the richness of Andean culture and the resilience of its people.

Mercado uses different materials and techniques to recreate the wonder and magic of the ancient civilization that fascinated Europeans in the sixteenth century. Her creative process incorporates gold leaf, glitter, gemstones, and sand blended on the canvas with oil paint to highlight the tension between the Spanish conquistadors' greed and her deep-rooted pride in her Inca heritage. This curious and inventive approach compels the audience to immerse themselves in the narrative. Key themes of memory, heritage, and empowerment are addressed throughout the works. At the center of the exhibition is the legend of the lost gold of Atahualpa, the last Inca emperor – a ransom meant to be paid to the Spanish conquistadors but hidden away high in the Andes by loyal Inca princesses.

"Under The Moonlight" imagines an Andean paradise inhabited by the Inca before the Conquest. The richness of the gold leaf and the use of gemstones to recreate a surreal landscape evokes the beauty and ethereal wonder of the forests. "Golden Dreams" cherishes childhood tales of the Inca not just as a source of strength and resilience but as an inheritance to be passed down to future generations of the Ecuadorian identity and proud heritage.

Diana Mercado received her BA and MA from Columbia University. She previously studied at Chelsea College of Arts, London, and The Art Academy, London, as well as the New York Academy of Art. Mercado now lives in New York, and her work is held in numerous private collections in both the United States and Great Britain.

A complete catalogue of the exhibition will be available:

[dianamercadofineart.com](http://dianamercadofineart.com)



[thegalleryatgreenandstone.com](http://thegalleryatgreenandstone.com)