

Artist Resources – Luchita Hurtado (Venezuelan-American, 1920-2020)



Hurtado, 2019
Photograph: Anna Watson

[Hurtado at Hauser & Wirth](#)

[Hurtado on Art21](#)

Listen to a 1994/1995 [oral history interview](#) with Hurtado for the Smithsonian Archives of American Art. The artist previously had exhibitions at The Woman's Building (*Luchita Hurtado: Grandview One*, 1974) and Transamerica Galleries (*West by Southwest*, 1990), but was relatively unknown until 2016.

[Park View Gallery](#) (now Paul Soto) installed the first major exhibition of Hurtado's work in over 40 years in 2016. *Luchita Hurtado: Selected Works 1942-1950* put the artist on the international stage. Read an [interview](#) with the artist about the exhibition in Artforum.

Hurtado was [included](#) in the [Made in L.A.](#) exhibition at the Hammer Museum in 2018. Watch an interview with the artist on [YouTube](#) coinciding with the show.

[Serpentine Galleries](#) organized Hurtado's first major, international retrospective in 2019. *Luchita Hurtado: I Live I Die I Will Be Reborn* then traveled to the [Los Angeles County Museum of Art](#). Watch a [conversation](#) between the artist, Hans Ulrich Obrist (Artistic Director, Serpentine Galleries), and Jennifer King (Associate Curator of Contemporary Projects, LACMA). Read a review in the [Guardian](#) by Adrian Searle and one by Illene Dube in [Hyperallergic](#): "Finally, a Deeper Look at Luchita Hurtado's Long Career."

Read an interview with the artist in [The Art Newspaper](#): "At 99, I'm another person entirely": Luchita Hurtado on fossil fuels and new challenges ahead."

In 2020, Hauser & Wirth NYC organized [Luchita Hurtado: Together Forever](#). Read a review in the [Brooklyn Rail](#). That same year, Hauser & Wirth Zurich installed [Luchita Hurtado: Just Down the Street](#).

Hurtado died at age 99 in 2020. Read an obituary in [Time](#) written by Hans Ulrich Obrist and one in the [New York Times](#) about how the artist's work became a sensation in her 90s.

To commemorate Earth Day in 2021, LACMA released an ["Artists in Focus" video](#) surveying Hurtado's work intersecting with ecology, nature, environmentalism, and self-portraiture.

Hauser & Wirth's London 2022 exhibition of Hurtado's work showcased examples of her [Sky Skin series](#) that were previously unseen.

Read an [extended article](#) by Jennifer S. Musawwir In Daily art Magazine that surveys Hurtado's career and includes many quotes by the artist.



Hurtado in her Santa Monica studio, 1973
Photograph: Matt Mullican



Luchita Hurtado (Venezuelan-American, 1920-2020)

Mask, 1977

Oil on canvas

Private Collection, Los Angeles; L2022:56.1

Born in Maiquetía, Venezuela, Luchita Hurtado moved to the United States as a young child. The artist was deeply interested in environmentalism, mysticism, spirituality, and the connectivity of the cosmos, often turning to abstraction and unique perspective techniques to explore these themes. In the 1970s, Hurtado shifted her use of perspective to an upward-facing gaze, depicting the sky from the inside of caves, graves, or mountain passes. **Mask** is part of the artist's *Sky Skin* series reflecting on the sky in Taos, New Mexico. The grey, brown, and white feathers – typical of female birds of some species – hover in space and emphasize the vast expanse of sky above. Hurtado was fascinated by the use of feathers in Taos Pueblo and in indigenous rituals from other sites that involve floating feathers above bonfires. The artist once said: “I keep the words sky, water, earth, fire in my mind. Those are the elements, and that’s what my work has come to be about. That’s what I’m about.”

On view October 5, 2022 – January 8, 2023