

Laurita Siles

Marbella, 1981 · Artist, researcher, inventor and cultural manager

Lives and works in the Valley of Karrantza (Bizkaia, Spain)

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Biography / Artistic Statement

Laurita Siles (Marbella, 1981) is an artist and researcher who lives and works in the Valley of Karrantza (Bizkaia, Spain), where she develops Mutur Beltz, a project that merges art, agroecology and contemporary design through the wool of the Carranzana sheep. PhD Cum Laude in Fine Arts from the University of the Basque Country (2017), her work weaves together the material memory of disappearing crafts, the ruins of the rural world and ecological urgency. She conceives artistic practice as inseparable from context, territory and community. Her career is shaped by displacement and cross-pollination: residencies, exhibitions and projects in Iceland, Canada, Portugal, Greenland, Germany and France have left a trace of collaborations, publications and tapestries where the intimate and the political converge. Her work finds a place in spaces where knowledge is transmitted from body to body: in workshops, talks, kitchens or embroidery. In recent years, her work has been recognised with the National Award for Entrepreneurship in Crafts (2024), the Elkarlan Award from the Basque Government (2024), the First Prize in Tapestries and Textiles from Fundación Unicaja (2024) and the Karrantza Naturala Award (2025), for her contribution to the cultural, economic and symbolic sustainability of a valley that resists.

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

2017 · PhD (Cum Laude) in Fine Arts, University of the Basque Country, UPV/EHU (Bizkaia, Spain).

2010 · Diploma of Advanced Studies in Art, Signification and Culture. UPV/EHU (Bizkaia, Spain).

2006 · Pedagogical Aptitude Certificate (CAP) in Visual Arts. Complutense University (Madrid, Spain).

2006 · Leonardo da Vinci Programme. Marlou Films (Bordeaux, France).

1999–2004 · BA in Fine Arts. Faculty of San Carlos, Polytechnic University of Valencia (Valencia, Spain).

2003 · Erasmus Programme. Iceland Academy of the Arts (Reykjavík, Iceland).

2002–2003 · Séneca Programme. University of the Basque Country, Faculty of Fine Arts (Leioa, Bizkaia, Spain).

2004–2005 · Promoe Programme. Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design (Vancouver, Canada).

1997 · Intermediate Degree in Music Theory. Conservatory of Music and Dance (Marbella, Spain).

ARTIST RESIDENCIES

2024 · The Factory Art Exhibition (Djúpavík, Iceland).

2022 · MING's Studio (Boise, Idaho, USA).

2017 · Shedding the skin (Linz, Austria).

2015 · BilbaoArte Foundation (Bilbao, Bizkaia, Spain).

2014 · Gullkistan, Residency for Creative People (Laugarvatn, Iceland).

2010 · Beyond Former Heaven, The Banff Centre (Banff, Canada).

2009 · MA Studio, UPV-EHU (Beijing, China).

2005 · Arteleku (Donostia-San Sebastián, Gipuzkoa, Spain).

AWARDS, GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS (Selection)

2025 · Production Grant, BilbaoArte Foundation (Bilbao, Bizkaia, Spain).

2025 · Karrantza Naturala Award (Karrantza, Bizkaia, Spain).

2024 · National Award for Entrepreneurship in Crafts. Ministry of Industry & EOI–Fundesarte (Madrid, Spain).

2024 · Elkarlan Award, Basque Government (Vitoria-Gasteiz, Araba, Spain).

2024 · First Prize in Crafts, Tapestries and Textiles category. Fundación Unicaja (Jaén, Spain).

2024 · Mobility grant. Etxepare Basque Institute (Djúpavík, Iceland).

2023 · Creation-Production grant in Visual Arts. Basque Government (Vitoria-Gasteiz, Araba, Spain).

2022 · AC/E PICE Mobility Grant. Acción Cultural Española (Boise, Idaho, USA).

2020 · LEADER Grant for innovation in crafts and territory (Karrantza, Bizkaia, Spain).

2015 · Production Grant, BilbaoArte Foundation (Bilbao, Bizkaia, Spain).

2014 · Residency Grant. Gullkistan (Laugarvatn, Iceland).

2010 · Grant. The Banff Centre (Banff, Canada).
2009 · Mobility Grant. UPV/EHU (Beijing, China).
2005 · Residency Grant. Arteleku (Donostia-San Sebastián, Gipuzkoa, Spain).

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022 · MING's Studio (Boise, Idaho, USA).
2021 · Si tú me dices beee lo ovejo todo. Nire bikote artzaina da. Orozko Museum (Orozko, Bizkaia, Spain).
2015 · Helarte es morirse de frío. Sala Rekalde (Bilbao, Bizkaia, Spain).
2012 · Beldur es un perro y otros dibujos de Laurita Siles. Algorta Cultural Centre (Getxo, Bizkaia, Spain).
2010 · Dinastía Trini. UPV/EHU, Campus of Leioa (Leioa, Bizkaia, Spain) / Sala Araba (Vitoria-Gasteiz, Araba, Spain).
2009 · Folk feelings and Underground explorations. MA Studio (Beijing, China).
2002 · Rayada. Nema Havd Gallery (Reykjavík, Iceland).

GROUP EXHIBITIONS AND SCREENINGS (Selection)

2024 · CONTEXTIL Biennial of Contemporary Textile Art (Guimarães, Portugal).
2024 · The Factory Art Exhibition (Djúpavík, Iceland).
2023 · Bapore Atelier (Balmaseda, Bizkaia, Spain).
2019 · La Carrera Loca ¡Nos vamos a dar un premio! Curated by Txema Agiriano, Sarean (Bilbao, Bizkaia, Spain).
2017 · Shedding the skin (Linz, Austria).
2015 · Collective exhibition, BilbaoArte (Bilbao, Bizkaia, Spain).
2014 · Gullkistan Residency (Laugarvatn, Iceland).
2010 · Beyond Former Heaven, The Banff Centre (Banff, Canada).
2005–2009 · Exhibitions at Espacio Menosuno (Madrid, Spain).

CONFERENCES, TALKS AND PANELS (Selection)

2024 · Textile Talks – CONTEXTIL Biennial (Guimarães, Portugal).
2024 · Carding Wool. V Sustainable Classroom Conference, CAAM (Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Spain).
2024 · Scientific Agitation Day. International University of Andalusia (Seville, Spain).
2023 · Zeberio KM0 Festival (Zeberio, Bizkaia, Spain).
2023 · Tecendo futuros. Contemporary textile practices. Artesanía de Galicia (Chantada, Lugo, Spain).
2023 · Pensar ifer de la ruralitat. Eima Creació Festival (Maria de la Salut, Mallorca, Spain).
2022 · V Forum on Culture and Ruralities. Ministry of Culture (Madrid, Spain).
2022 · Contemporary Textile Art Conference. Faculty of Fine Arts (Cuenca, Spain).
2022 · Bizkaia Design Week (Bilbao, Bizkaia, Spain).
2021 · Webinar on Sustainable Fashion. Slow Fashion Extremadura (Spain).

PUBLICATIONS (Selection)

2018–2025 · Coordinator and editor of catalogues of the Residencia del Buen Vivir (Karrantza, Bizkaia, Spain).
2022 · Chapter: Rethinking the Basque farmstead from creative experience. In Sánchez Duro, Oihane (ed.): Las creadoras jamás imaginan mundos en los que ganan, y otras ficciones (Spain).
2022 · Catalogue: Suturak. Near what is close. San Telmo Museum (Donostia-San Sebastián, Gipuzkoa, Spain) & Artium Museum (Vitoria-Gasteiz, Araba, Spain). Artwork and text by Laurita Siles.
2014 · DVD: helARTE es morirse de frío. Provincial Council of Bizkaia (Bilbao, Spain).
2009 · Publication: Dinastía Trini. UPV/EHU (Leioa, Bizkaia, Spain).

CULTURAL MANAGEMENT AND CURATING

2017–2025 · Direction and curating of the Residencia Artística del Buen Vivir (Karrantza, Bizkaia, Spain).
2017–2019 · Artzai Topaketa. Artistic agro-pastoral meeting (Karrantza, Bizkaia, Spain).
2008 · Exhibition: My father is an artist, but he doesn't know it. Espacio Menosuno (Madrid, Spain).
2005–2010 · Coordination of Certamen Menosuno Canal de Arte. Espacio Menosuno (Madrid, Spain).

WORKS IN MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS

Fundación Unicaja (Jaén, Spain).

BilbaoArte Foundation (Bilbao, Bizkaia, Spain).

MA Studio (Beijing, China).

Youth Department, Andalusian Regional Government (Andalucía, Spain).

City Council of Sanxenxo (Pontevedra, Spain).

City Council of Villarejo de Salvanes (Madrid, Spain).