



## Media information

Berlin

September 5, 2023

**PalaisPopulaire is hosting a comprehensive exhibition featuring the works of La Chola Poblete, Deutsche Bank “Artist of the Year” 2023.**

**Deutsche Bank has selected La Chola Poblete as its “Artist of the Year” for 2023 and will present the Argentine’s solo exhibition in Germany beginning on September 8, 2023.**

As a multifaceted artist, performer, and LGBTQ+ rights activist, she delves into a diverse range of media in her work, exploring themes such as the ramifications of the Inquisition, colonization, and the pervasive influence of global capitalism.

Born in 1989 in Guaymallén, a town nestled at the foot of the Andes in northwestern Argentina, La Chola Poblete’s exhibition, bearing the same name, pays homage to her origins and her formative years as a non-binary, Indigenous adolescent. At the same time, she leverages her personal narrative to confront the harsh realities of the erasure and stereotyping endured by indigenous communities and cultures, perpetuated by colonial forces, hegemonic power structures, and Christian religions. In doing so, the artist, who is a member of the collective Comparsa Drag, engages with the historical roles of women, transvestites, and transsexuals—all expressions of femininity that have historically been targeted or marginalized in religious and patriarchal power structures.

For her comprehensive solo show in Germany, La Chola Poblete has created an extraordinary “church of drawing,” a sacred space in which religious, political, erotic, pop-cultural, and Indigenous motifs and symbols overlap to form an immersive all-over. Series of large-scale watercolors, new photographic works, and an installation take center stage.

“Through her deeply personal and often unflinching creations, La Chola Poblete crafts a distinct artistic universe that resonates directly with all of us, inviting fresh perspectives on the contemporary world. Her ability to astonish us with entirely novel approaches, both in terms of content and form, exemplifies the essence of our ‘Artist of the Year’ program,” says **Britta Färber**, head of Deutsche Bank’s international art and culture program, who curated the current exhibition.

The central focus of the exhibition is a luminous red chamber adorned with graffiti depicting dancing figures, enigmatic visages, and the word “Guaymallén” etched upon its walls. On the floor, archaic-looking drawings evoke the Nazca lines of the Incas. In La Chola Poblete’s most recent large-scale watercolors, a medley of hybrid beings and symbols drawn from diverse cultural contexts converge. Of particular note is the recurrent exploration of the figure of the Virgin, a pivotal presence in both Christian and indigenous traditions. Adding to this intriguing ambivalence, two more renditions of this complex figure, crafted from bread dough, are prominently displayed within chapel-like cabinets.

La Chola Poblete tells tales of female martyrs and divine intervention, all viewed through a lens of self-empowerment, healing, and subversive reclamation. Through her art, which can be both brutally candid and laced with acerbic humor, she disrupts the complacency with which we continue to uphold the narratives of white patriarchal dominance in our modern world.

### **Information about the artist**

In Argentina, the Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires dedicated a comprehensive solo exhibition entitled *Ejercicios del llanto* (Exercises in Weeping) to La Chola Poblete in 2022. It was curated by Victoria Noorthoorn, the museum’s director, who along with Hou Hanru and Udo Kittelmann is part of the Deutsche Bank Global Art Advisory Council, which proposed the “Artist of the Year” for 2023.

*Guaymallén*, La Chola Poblete’s second solo show in Europe, features an array of new artworks. Her artistic journey has seen her participation in notable group exhibitions, including the Centro Internacional Das Artes Jose de Guimaraes in 2022, *34 Argentine Artists* at the Museo Moderno de Buenos Aires in 2021, and a show at MAC, Córdoba in 2019.

A publication documenting the exhibition will be published by Kerber Verlag in February of next year.

### **Program in the framework of Berlin Art Week**

As a part of Berlin Art Week, a comprehensive program centered around the *Guaymallén* exhibition is scheduled. On September 13, the PalaisPopulaire invites you to an Open House event, commencing at 6 pm. Additionally, on September 15 at 7 pm, La Chola Poblete, alongside the artist and trans activist Lola Bhajan, will present an exciting new performance. Lola Bhajan is renowned for her captivating voice and her deep connection to traditional rhythms such as baguala and vidala, whose origins can be traced to northern Argentina.

In collaboration with *Missy Magazine*, an Artist's Talk titled "Mi género es ARTISTA – My Gender is ARTIST" will be held on September 16 at 4 pm. During this discussion, La Chola Poblete and Sonja Eismann, the founder of *Missy Magazine*, will address topics surrounding queer and indigenous identity, as well as anti-colonial activism in Argentina.

Further details on the exhibition and the accompanying program can be found at [www.db-palaispopulaire.com](http://www.db-palaispopulaire.com).

Press photos are available at [www.photo-files.de/db-palaispopulaire](http://www.photo-files.de/db-palaispopulaire).

#lacholapbolete #ArtistoftheYear #PalaisPopulaire #DeutscheBankArtistoftheYear  
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### **About Deutsche Bank's art activities**

With its commitment to contemporary art, Deutsche Bank has set standards worldwide —whether with its art holdings, one of the world's most important collections of contemporary works on paper and photographs, with its international exhibition program, or with the PalaisPopulaire in the heart of Berlin. For many years the bank has been Global Lead Partner of Frieze, with its art fairs in London, New York, Los Angeles, and Seoul.