



ART IN PATTERNS:
FORM AND GEOMETRIZATION ACROSS
TIME AND SPACE

Organised by
Sanja Savkic Sebek,
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and Fernanda Gurovich

ONLINE CONFERENCE SERIES
MUSEO CHILENO DE ARTE PRECOLOMBINO

4, 11, and 18 June 2026 (Thursdays), 10 AM (Chile time)

**I. Forms of Abstraction in Indigenous
American Worlds — 4 June 2026**

Moderator: Felipe Armstrong

- **Bat-ami Artzi, Felipe Armstrong, Claudio Alvarado, and Fernanda Gurovich** — Americas (Prehistoric to Contemporary)
“Curating Indigenous Geometric Art from the Americas: Between Pan-Americanism and Localism”
- **Sanja Savkic Sebek** — Maya (Pre-Columbian)
“Surface, Pattern, and Reduction in Maya Visual Culture”
- **Max Carocci** — Indigenous cultures of Baja California, including the Kiliwa, Cochimí, Kumeyaay, and Luiseño peoples (Precolonial / pre-16th century to early contact period)
“Semasiographic Systems of Baja California: Non-Figurative Signs for Communicating (with) the Invisible”
- **Paolo Fortis** — Panama and South America (Traditional to Contemporary)
“A Geometrical Conundrum: Abstract Figuration and Figurative Action in Amerindian Art”

**II. Pattern Systems in African Art: From
Ancestral Memory to Contemporary
Innovation — 11 June 2026**

Moderator: Deborah Dainese (Sainsbury Research Unit for the Arts of Africa, Oceania and the Americas, UEA)

- **John Paul Nkwap** — Nigeria — Jos Plateau (Ancient to Contemporary)
“Pattern and Memory: Archaeological Perspectives on Design in Material Traditions of the Jos Plateau”
- **Emma Wingfield** — Côte d’Ivoire (Contemporary)
“Mapping Motifs, Weaving Worlds”
- **Maria Chiara Scuderi** — United Kingdom / Africa (Interwar Period)
“Patterns of Encounter: Adopting and Adapting African Pyrography Motifs in British Design”
- **Stefaan Vervoort & Rana Van Pellecom** — Belgian Congo (1950s)
“Black Skin, Abstract Patterns: Madeleine Christine Forani in the Belgian Congo (1954–55)”



**III. Non-Figurative Art Across Regions:
Tradition, Modernity, and Hybrid Identities**
— 18 June 2026

Moderator: Sanja Savkic Sebek, Museo Chileno de Arte Precolombino

- **Eva Zak** — USA / Indonesia (1970s—2000s)
“Patterning Translation: Victoria Barr, Indonesian Visual Systems, and the Limits of Western Abstraction”
- **Monica Croitoru-Tonciu** — Romania (Early 20th Century)
“Non-Figurative Motifs in Romanian National Style Architecture and Decorative Arts, early 20th century”
- **Maja T. Izquierdo** — Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, and Serbia (Balkans) (Medieval to Modern)
“Patterning Worlds in the Balkans: Non-Figurative Traditions and the Structuring of Perception”
- **Charlene Vella** — Malta (11th—16th Century)
“Repetition, Reflection, and Reuse: Non-Figurative Ornament in Medieval and Early Modern Malta”

