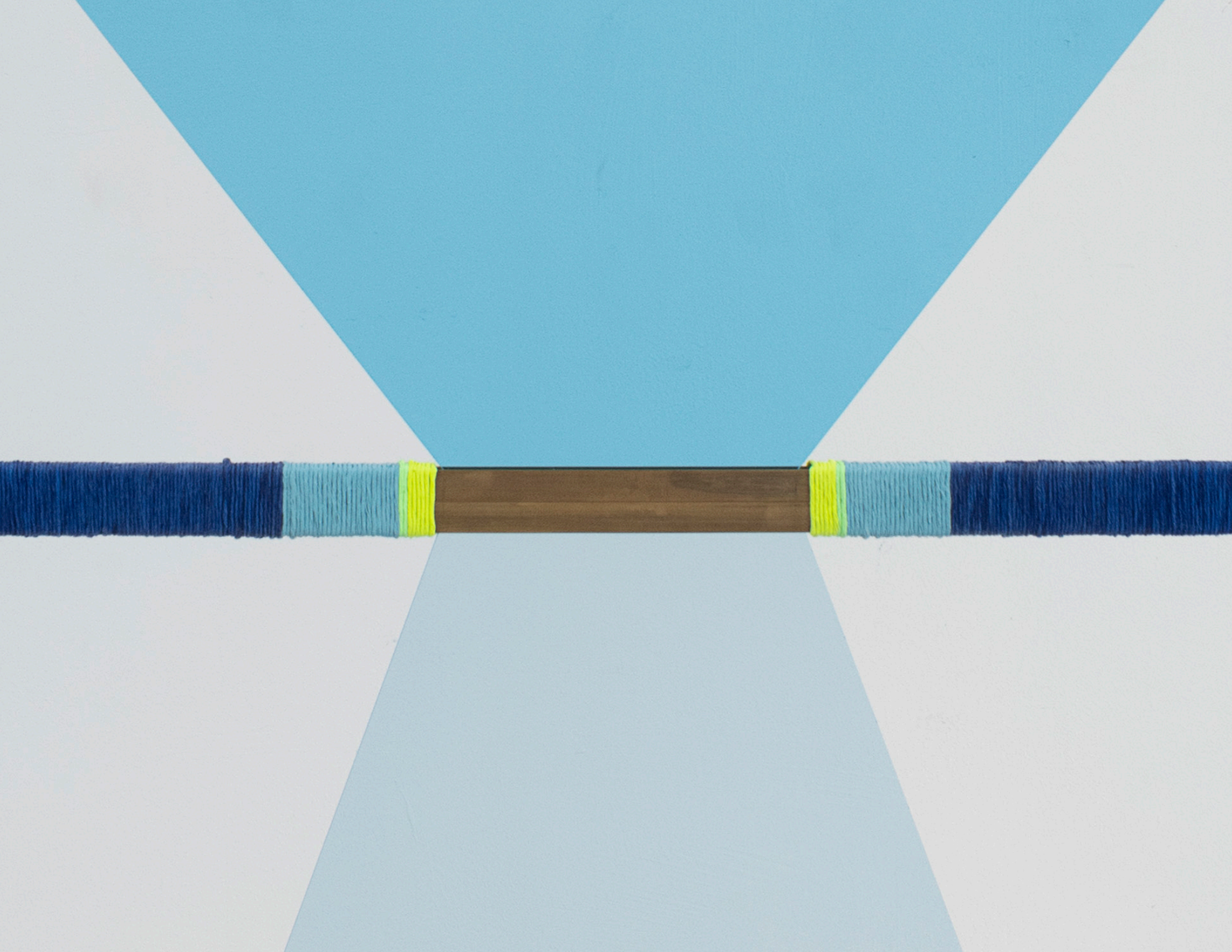




CLAUDIA PEÑA SALINAS  
Atli Temoayan

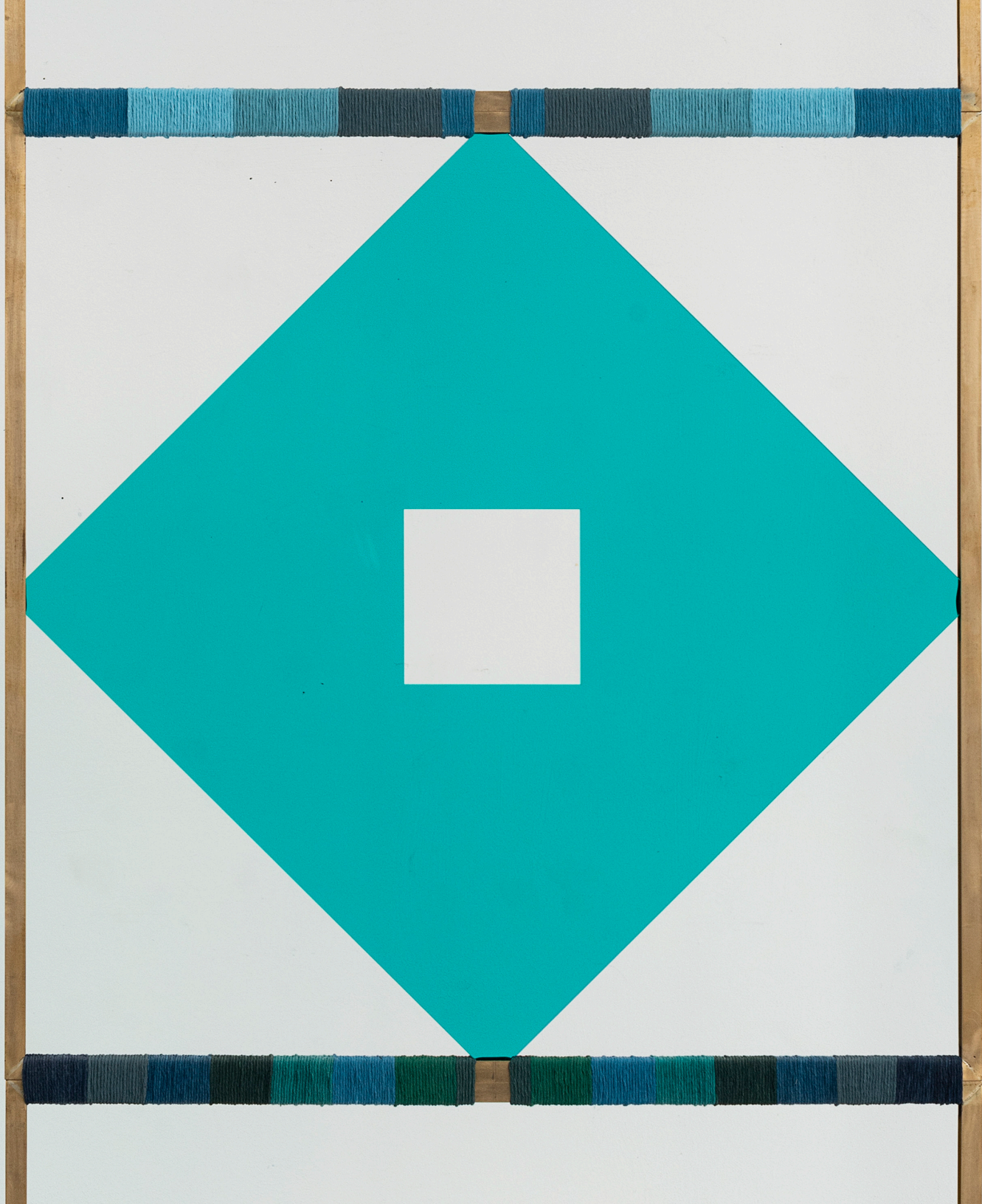


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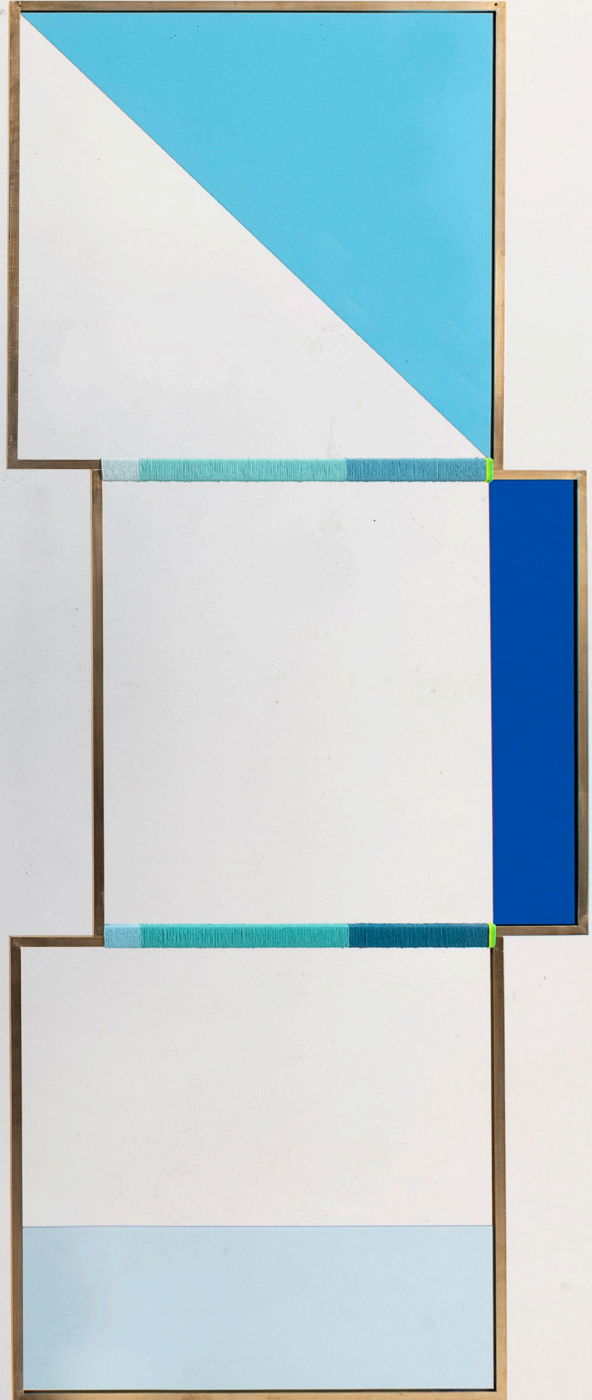
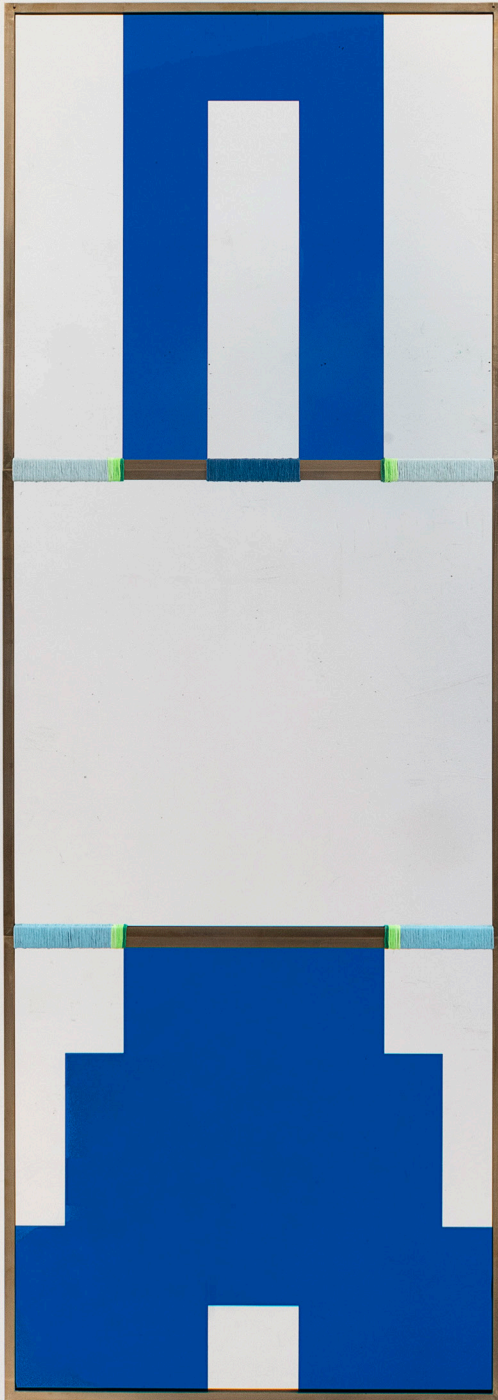
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The project is based on the concept “Atli temoayan” (meaning ‘stream of water, downwards’) contained in the first Nahuatl-Spanish dictionary. This element is related to the artist’s previous research on water deities, water bodies and their symbolism in ancient Mexican mythology.

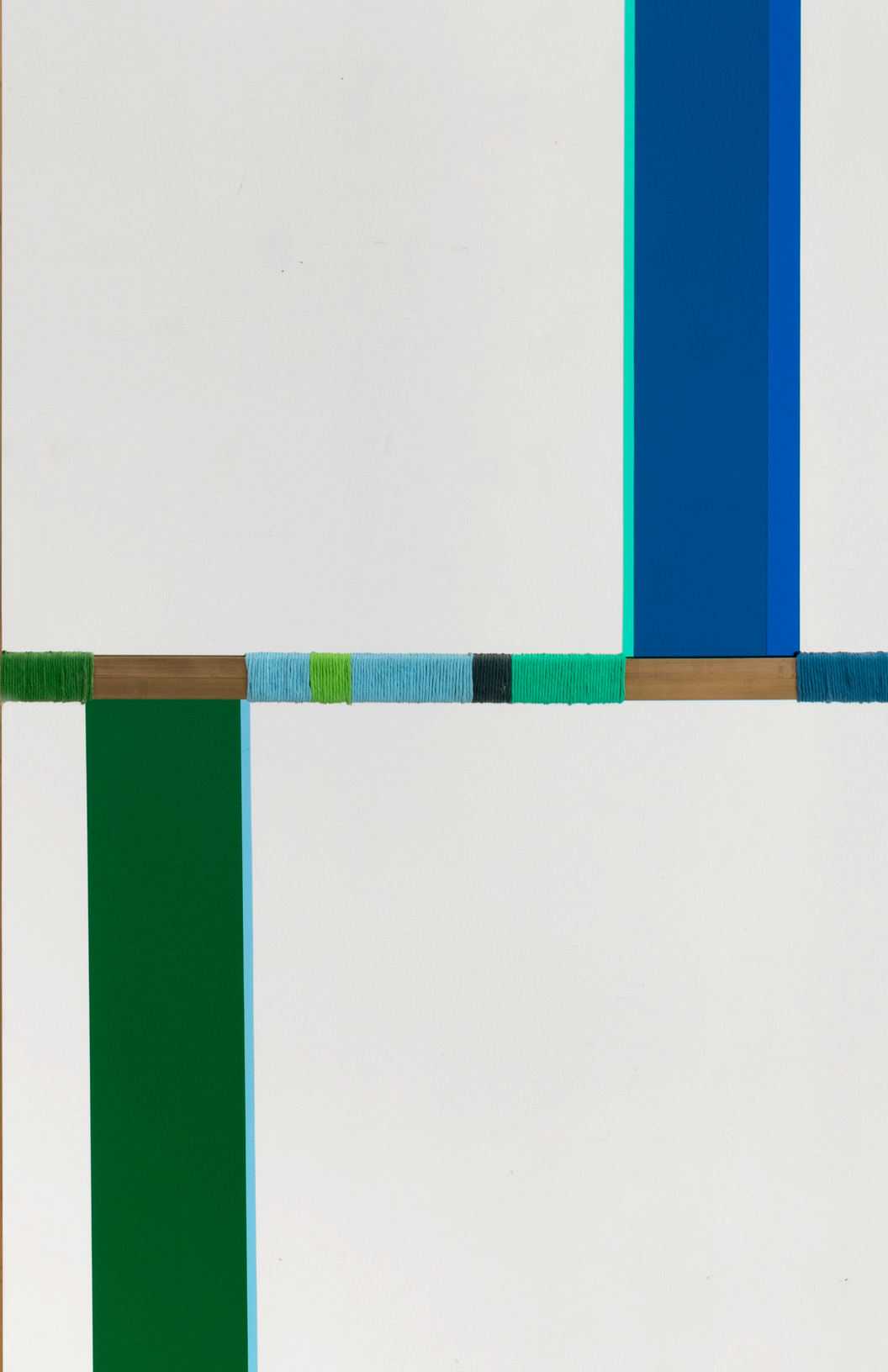
This site-specific project presents a new series of hanging pieces made of brass, plexiglass and cotton thread that highlight indigenous notions of verticality. The arrangement proposes a layered experience, where it is possible to walk and see through, as if it were a waterfall, generating a play of perspectives. Contrasting hand-dyed natural fibers with sleek materials, the artist creates a distinctive environment where myth, history and memory coexist.





Brooklyn-based artist Claudia Peña Salinas (b. 1977, Montemorelos, Mexico), has developed a significant body of work in sculpture, video, publications and installation that investigates aspects of indigenous art with the unique architectural vernacular for which Mexico is known. This is evidenced in the formal and material choices she makes, juxtaposing natural fibers with minimalist, metal sculpture. Referencing the diverse indigenous cultures native to Mexico, she also celebrates the country's long and rich history of Modernist art and architecture. Through her varied practice, Peña Salinas incorporates aspects of the cultural past and present, the sacred and the profane, the cultured and the popular, to create environments for myth, memory and personal experience to coexist.





She continues her ongoing research into Aztec mythology and builds a space where notions of verticality and water symbolism are present. The works create a distinctive environment that focuses on the concept of “Atli temoayan” (‘stream of water, down’ in Nahuatl) and links to her latest findings on waterfalls and strong female deities such as Chalchiuhtlicue (‘She of the Jade Skirt’). Peña Salinas’s suspended, square shapes made of brass and colored acrylic sheets reference the afterlife aquatic paradise Tlalocan —a space where one is invited to enter, see through, and engage with myth and history. The colored plexiglass, casting blue-green shadows evokes a layered and deconstructed experience. This new Peña Salinas’s series also draws on elements of traditional Japanese architecture such as a shoji —a door, window, or room divider that consists of translucent paper over a wooden frame.



Throughout this specific installation, Peña Salinas situates her work between legacies of modernism and indigeneity. By highlighting indigenous thought and worldviews through contemporary language, the artist draws attention to the collective cultural memory of the Americas and the current global water crises. Further, by employing the contrasting natural hand-dyed fibers with sleek metal, the artist creates a realm where mysticism, body, history and memory can be both explored and expanded.





Claudia Peña Salinas (Mexico, 1977) lives and works in New York. In recent years, she has developed a significant body of work composed of sculpture, video, publications and installations. The process of documentation, travel, collection, and discovery in Claudia's artistic practice points towards a spatial, material and temporal reflection; it is an intimate and personal way of relating to Mexico that reaches cultural and political dimensions. She has exhibited at Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College (2021); High Line (2021); Centre Pompidou (2019); MSU Broad Museum (2018), Whitney Museum of American Art (2018); Museo de Arte Carrillo Gil (2015); Queens Museum of Art (2012); Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico (2006) y El Museo del Barrio (2005), among others.

Liu  
2021  
Brass, plexiglass and dyed cotton  
thread  
72 x 27 in Approx.  
(Approx. 183 x 68.6 cm)  
Unique piece

Alc  
2021  
Brass, plexiglass and dyed cotton  
thread  
Approx. 72 x 27 in  
(Approx. 183 x 68.6 cm)  
Unique piece

Ali  
2021  
Brass, plexiglass and dyed cotton  
thread  
Approx. 72 x 27 in  
(Approx. 183 x 68.6 cm)  
Unique piece

Alu  
2021  
Brass, plexiglass and dyed cotton  
thread  
Approx. 72 x 27 in  
(Approx. 183 x 68.6 cm)  
Unique piece

Ial  
2021  
Brass, plexiglass and dyed cotton  
thread  
Approx. 72 x 27 in  
(Approx. 183 x 68.6 cm)  
Unique piece

Ifl  
2021  
Brass, plexiglass and dyed cotton  
thread  
Approx. 72 x 27 in  
(Approx. 183 x 68.6 cm)  
Unique piece

Iut  
2021  
Brass, plexiglass and dyed cotton  
thread  
Approx. 72 x 27 in  
(Approx. 183 x 68.6 cm)  
Unique piece

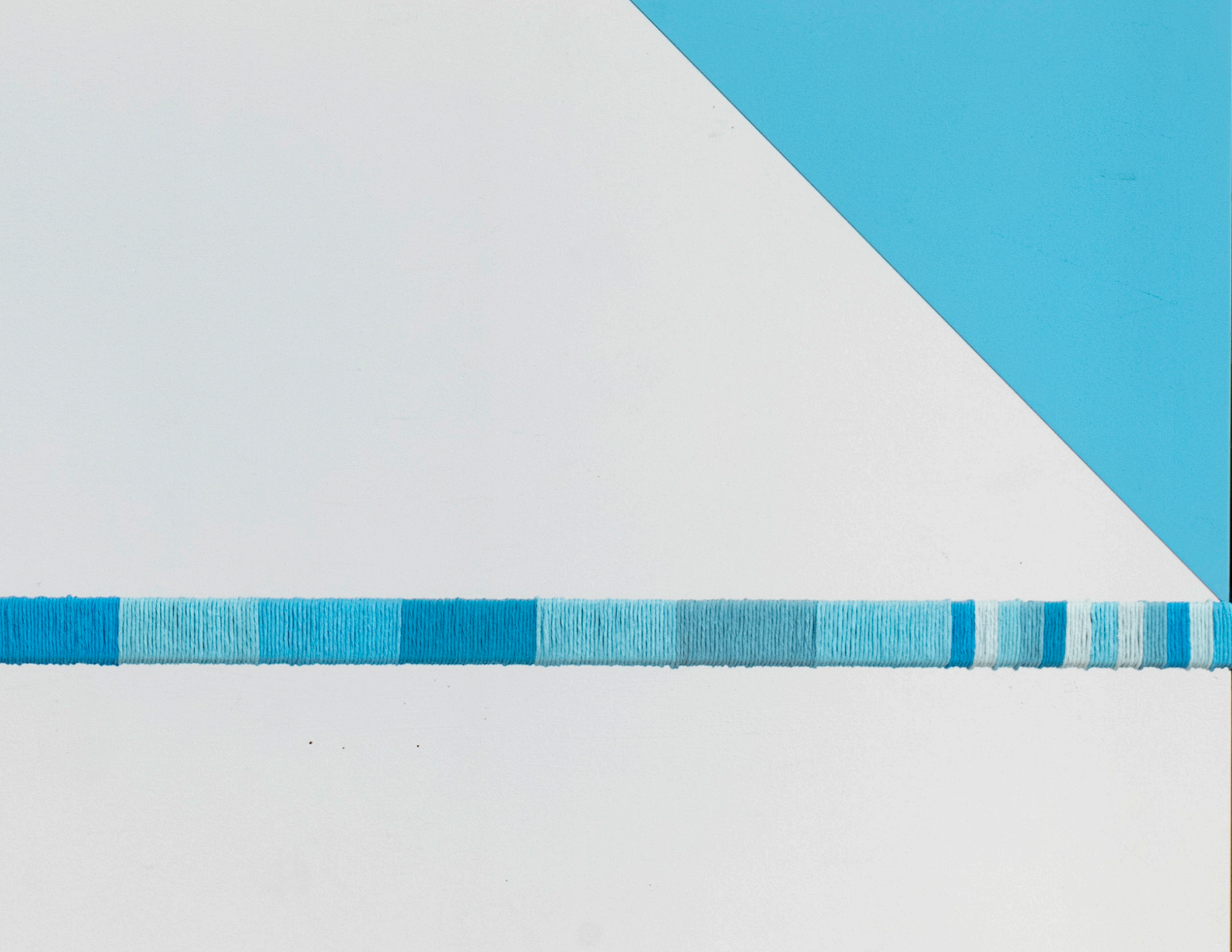
Liutlicue  
2021  
Brass, plexiglass and dyed cotton  
thread  
Approx. 72 x 78 in  
(Approx. 183 x 198 cm)  
Unique piece

Tle  
2021  
Brass, plexiglass and dyed cotton  
thread  
Approx. 72 x 27 in  
(Approx. 183 x 68.6 cm)  
Unique piece

Atle  
2021  
Brass, plexiglass and dyed cotton  
thread  
Approx. 72 x 55 in  
(Approx. 183 x 140 cm)  
Unique piece

Claudia Peña Salinas  
Atli temoayan  
Positions - Booth P01  
Art Basel Miami Beach 2021

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CLAUDIA PEÑA SALINAS

Atli temoayan

Dec 2021, Miami Beach

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