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Isidoro

Alpaca Textiles in Huachipa

In 1975, when he was 17 years old, Isidoro started working in a small knitting studio as an assistant and cleaner. One day in the evening, after cleaning the workplace, his greed was too big and he started to experiment with the knitting machines.

Soon the owner became aware of him and made it possible for him to learn how to knit on an old loom. Finally he was promoted to knitter and learned to trade. But one day, when he "erroneously processed the wrong kind of cotton, he was fired.

Isodoro then worked as a car washer until he opened his weaving workshop. Finally, in 1998, he and his wife Agripina bought a large piece of land in Huachipa where they produce alpaca textiles.

They work with 18 employees and two administrators and make a very wide range of knit alpaca products. Isidoro runs his company with great honesty and responsibility. His son Tony and daughter Ruthy now also work for the company. Tony is proud that he learned from his father to give others the chance to learn the business.

A woman with dark hair in a braid, wearing a red sweater with white polka-dot trim, is working on a traditional textile loom. She is in a room with blue walls and a window showing a building outside. The loom is set up with colorful threads, and a partially finished textile with geometric patterns is visible. The scene is lit with warm, indoor lighting.

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Alicia and Mario

Knitting workshop in Cusco

The knitting studio of Alicia and Mario with its 12 talented employees in the Inca city of Cusco knits with great dedication the most beautiful patterns in high-quality alpaca wool. Mario and his team are always surprising us with their creativity and designs.

Anden Art has been working with Alicia and Mario since 2005. This has enabled them to start a small business with which both can also give other families a fair livelihood.

Mario himself comes from a knitting family and learned to knit with the hand knitting machine at a young age.

Knitting with hand knitting machines is a man's business in Peru. However, Mario and Alicia also teach women the elaborate art of knitting. Young people who have been looking for work for a long time are also introduced to the art. Only in one case are the women still better: in finishing work such as sewing, attaching buttons and quality control.

The use of alpaca fibres promotes sustainable agriculture in the Andes and gives many farmers a livelihood in their home villages.

A woman with dark hair, wearing a purple sweater with a white decorative border around the neckline, is smiling broadly. She is sitting in a room with a wall of colorful knitted items, including a red and blue striped piece and a yellow and white piece. A blue plastic bag is visible behind her. The background wall is a light, textured color.

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Flavio and Mrs. Ida

Knitting workshop in Lima

Flavio has been in charge of the knitting workshop in Lima since the very beginning. Through his many years of work with us he has managed to give his children a good education and to build a house.

The children's vests are made with hand knitting machines and subsequently embroidered with applications by Mrs. Ida's group.

Mrs. Ida came to Lima at the age of 6 and had her first child at the age of 14. When she was 30 years old, she had the opportunity to embroider and apply knitwear at home to secure her income as a single mother of 6 children.

She started with the application of 10 vests and little by little she got more and more orders, so that she was able to give her neighbours and acquaintances a job at home, which is compatible with raising children.

Today more than 40 women work with her at home. Her work makes her proud and means a stable and secure income for many mothers.



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Geovanna

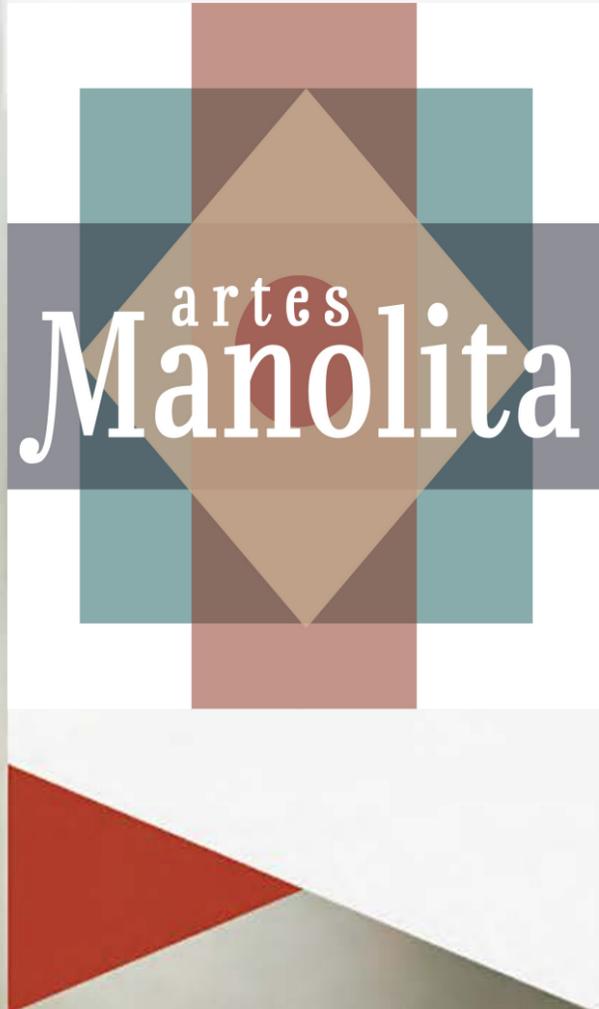
Knitting workshop in Caraz

The knitting workshop in Caraz is run by Geovanna and gives 11 women of all ages and single mothers the opportunity to work at home in a family friendly way.

The women can divide the work flexibly depending upon time and secure thus a livelihood for their families.

The knitting group produces special alpaca knitted caps for the winter.

The ladies of the Geovanna group knit the caps by hand and put a lot of love into each of them.



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Anna

Knitting workshop in Otavalo

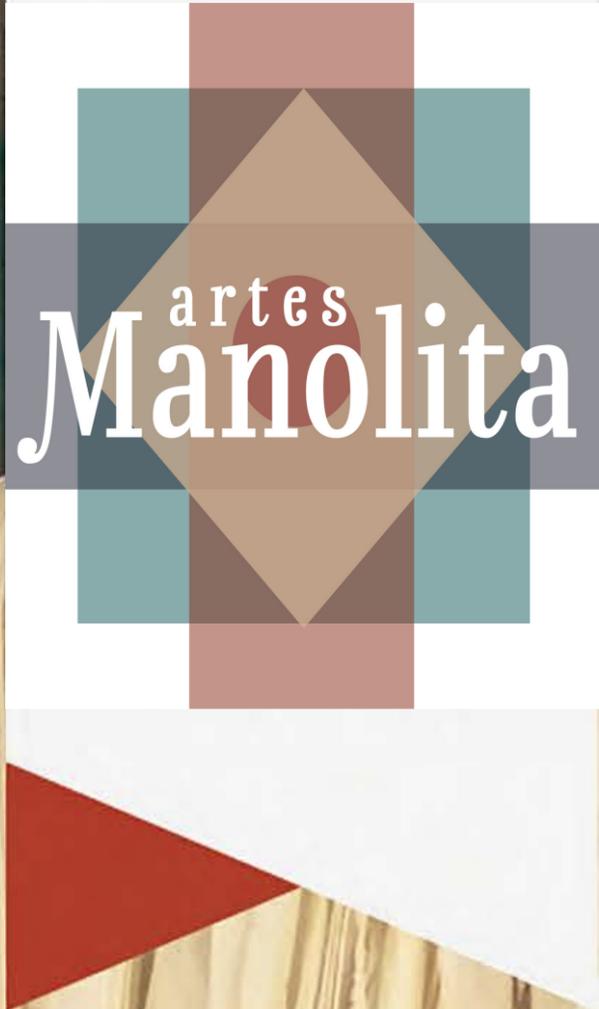
Anna comes from the town of Quinchuqui and has her knitting workshop in Otavalo. Thanks to her parents, Anna was able to attend school and with a lot of love she learned the traditional art of knitting from them.

The knitwear is produced with great dedication and responsibility.

The children's vests made by Anna's group are woven with a hand knitting machine.

No electricity is needed for the weaving process, the wool is only guided by hand.

It is mainly sheep's wool yarn in different colours that is used for the production.



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Lourdes

Textiles workshop, Lima

The textiles workshop of Lourdes in Lima, dyes the high-quality and much valued cotton fabric from Peru itself, as she is a trained chemist.

Together with her husband she runs the textiles workshop. The cotton fabric is first cut to the individual garments and then sewn together with a lot of love.

The pieces are then dyed, observing all legal standards, and Lourdes always strives to minimize the impact on the environment.



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Luis and Flor

Ceramics workshop , Lima

The gift articles from the ceramics workshop of Luis and Maria bring double joy.

The production and sale of the ceramics have enabled many people to earn a sustainable living from meagre living conditions.

For example, Luis was able to set up a small workshop with 21 people, including 19 women. With the help of Anden Art, he managed to build a small brick house from a cardboard and tin hut.

In Maria's workshop 11 people work, 10 of them women, who support their families with their work or make their studies possible.

Where they are given away, they bring another smile to the people' faces.

They are first modelled, then dried in the air, painted and burned for the first time in a ceramic oven. Then they are refined with a glaze and burned a second time in the oven.

The fabrication is done with a lot of love and care for detail.



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Jorge

Stone carver, Lima

Jorge always wanted to be a stone carver, because he saw this handicraft at his uncle's from an early age.

In 2003, with a \$500 microloan from Artes Manolita, Jorge was able to start his own business as a stone carver.

The talented Jorge works with his wife and employs 3 people and casts breathtaking stone carvings for fair trade.

The materials used range from soapstone to countless semi-precious stones such as agate, jasper, lapis lazuli, malachite, obsidian or onyx.



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Vidal

Keramikatelier in Cusco

Vidal's ceramic workshop was founded 35 years ago as a family business. In this workshop decorative tableware of high quality is produced.

Vidal uses only natural mineral glazes and each piece is hand formed with great love. The individual family members share different responsibilities and roles in the manufacturing and marketing process.

Vidal creates the design, his wife Audberta does the purchasing and supervises the glaze process. His son prepares the clay and makes the packaging. Another family member draws the clay on the turntable.

A total of 5 people work in the workshop. Vidal is happy that he was able to enable his children to study with his work. And more importantly, he says, everyone is happy to have a decent job.

The production:
First the clay is prepared, then the clay is placed on the turntable where it is pulled by hand. Then the clay is glazed and burned.



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Yandira

Jewelry workshop in Lima

Yandira specialises in costume jewellery and the processing of natural materials such as tagua nuts, orange peels and mango potshells.

Through this activity she is able to finance her studies at a university and is currently studying business administration.

The jewellery is made at home and provides many women with a secure income.

The demand for the Tagua nut directly contributes to the preservation of tropical rainforest and thus also of the animal societies living in it.

When the stone nut fruits are harvested, the palm trees remain intact and are even cared for so that the renewable harvest is plentiful.

Where the stone nut has become a convincing economic factor for the locals, deforestation interests will be opposed.