

MARIELA ANGELA PERALTA QUISPE

From a very young age, was surrounded by the handmade work created by her parents, an influence that sparked her interest in art and later led her to study Visual Arts at the Carlos Baca Flor School of Art in Arequipa. There, she explored different techniques that expanded both her creative practice and the way she observes the world.

Over time, she developed a particular sensitivity to small details, along with a growing interest in animals and wild landscapes. She currently focuses mainly on traditional feltmaking, a technique that, for her, represents a close connection between the land, animals, and handmade work.

In 2023, she visited the community of Pucasaya, where she shared this technique with local residents. Living alongside the community, exploring its landscapes, and learning more about its customs marked an important turning point in her work. It was also there that she became more familiar with the Andean cat and the conservation work carried out by the Andean Cat Alliance.

She later joined CATCrafts, contributing to the teaching of techniques for creating felt Andean cat figures alongside women artisans from San Juan de Tarucani. She also participated in the creation of a mural dedicated to the species in Yanahuara Square, in Arequipa.

She is currently a collaborating member of AGA and supports the quality control of the felt Andean cat figures produced through CATCrafts. For Mariela, this mysterious felid has become a symbol of connection with the Andes and a way of bringing art closer to conservation.