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## Andean Chuspas at BGC Focus Gallery, New York

April 25, 2014

At the Focus Gallery at the **Bard Graduate Centre**, New York, *Carrying Coca: 1,500 Years of Andean Chuspas* is showing to 3 August 2014. Both weaving and coca have been vital components of daily life, ritual practices and social relationships in South America for thousands of years.

The exhibition explores textile traditions in Peru and Bolivia and the story of the sacred and contested substance the Chuspa bag is designed to carry. Archeological Nazca examples are shown that have never been exhibited elsewhere and weaving development is traced through the ages with examples collected in the 20th century from highland communities and modern bags produced for the souvenir trade. The materials and techniques used reflect global environmental and economical impacts and mirror the varied cultural attitudes towards coca itself.

Curated by Nicola Sharratt, the show runs simultaneously with *Waterweavers: The River in Contemporary Colombian Visual and Material Culture* in the main BGC Gallery space.

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Chancay Chuzpa, Central Peru, 1000-1467 AD. Camelid fiber and cotton, Courtesy of the Division of Anthropology, American Museum of Natural History



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*Chuzpa, Inca, Ancon, Peru. AD 1450–1532. Camelid fiber and cotton, courtesy of the Division of Anthropology, American Museum of Natural History.*



*Two chuzpas (detail), Nazca, Peru. 100 BC–AD 700. Camelid fiber and cotton, courtesy of the Division of Anthropology, American Museum of Natural History.*



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*Chuzpa, La Paz, Bolivia. Accezioned in 1937. Leather, pigment, metal, thread. Courtesy of the Division of Anthropology, American Museum of Natural History*





*"Campesino con chuzpa," ("peasant with coca bag"), Martin Chambi, photographed near Cuzco, Peru, 1934. Martin Chambi archives.*





*Chuzpa collected in Pocoata, Bolivia, in 1969, courtesy of the Division of Anthropology, American Museum of Natural History*





*Q'ero, Cuzco, Peru. 1956. Courtesy of the Division of Anthropology, American Museum of Natural History*

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