



Camila Puya de Arcos

ARTISAN AND DESIGNER

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THE FIRM

Margaret de Arcos is a Spanish firm that hand paints natural silk, creating unique pieces for more than 25 years. The brand begins in 1996 at the hands of the master artisan Margaret de Arcos, who discovers in natural silk, and the benefits of this fabric, the possibility of creating exclusive accessories through painting.

Since 2017, the designer Camila Puya has taken the reins of the studio

Margaret de Arcos, second generation artisan of the brand, who studied at the IED Istituto Europeo di Design and whose previous trajectory comes from the world of fashion.

In 2021 Camila, as the creative director of the firm Margaret de Arcos, is included in the prestigious and exclusive international guide of artisans Homo Faber Guide, created by the Michelangelo Foundation, for her artisanal and creative painting work on natural silk



CAMILA PUYA DE ARCOS

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

“The way of working with silk and the mixture of colors are an innate part of my life.”

For Camila Puya de Arcos, the link between natural silk, the use and artisan application of color and pattern making was always very present. At just 6 years old, she began a link with painting and handling colors from a purely aesthetic perspective, a training that arises from spending hours with his mother Margaret de Arcos, the influence of his father as a painter and a multitude of trips and cultural visits.

This visual culture, appreciation of light and color, and manual practice lead her to be interested in researching silk as a material and mixing and fixing colors. During her studies at the IED, she discovered her true creative facet, unifying her concerns through the world of fashion.

During her formative years, Camila regularly traveled to Seville to continue training as an artisan and develop her own research on hand-painted silk and its application in fashion. This makes her even more enthusiastic about this job and decides to dedicate herself to it. At that time, Margaret de Arcos was already a benchmark for artisan silk work and collaborated with brands such as El Caballo or Agua de Sevilla, and institutions in the business field through pieces of protocol.

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In 2013 Camila finished her studies at the IED and her end-of-degree project on hand-painted silk applied to fashion gave her the chance to collaborate on a collection for the 2014 Cibeles Catwalk with the renowned Spanish firm ALVARNO where she made 10 hand-painted silk pieces for said collection.

That same year, the Madrid Costume Museum selects one of his designs to be exhibited in the "Best Theses of the Instituto Europeo di Design 2014" exhibition.

In 2015, Camila was invited by her professor and thesis director, Catherine de Cleen Bello, to New York where she lived for three months. On this trip, by the hand of Catherine, Camila visited and knew galleries, artists' and designers' shops, as well as received classes on design company management. These months were fundamental in her career as they broaden her vision of fashion and design from a business point of view and its application to crafts.





2015

Her definitive return to Seville in 2015, coincides with the presentation of her first collection "Camila Velvet", which included pieces of clothing and accessories. With this line of products, the firm parades on numerous catwalks in Andalusia and work intensifies in Margaret de Arcos's workshop.

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2017

Two years later, in 2017, coinciding with the retirement of the founder, Camila Puya de Arcos took over the reins of the firm's creative direction.

With her at the head of Margaret de Arcos, the firm began a new journey. This moment coincided with Camila's invitation to participate in the International Fair "Ambiente" in Frankfurt, within the "Talents" section. This was going to be her first international experience, after which, Camila will make the leap to the "Paris Fashion Week", being accepted in 2018 to exhibit her collections in "Tranoi", and during the following two seasons in "Premiere Classe Tuileries". Thanks to this, Margaret de Arcos became known internationally and began to work in multi-brand stores all over the world.

Margaret de Arcos, as a firm, is positioned in the accessories market and in the fashion and decorative sectors. Its own production and collections gain strength in the market, making the workshop grow in the face of an increasingly important demand.



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2018-2019

In the years 2018 and 2019, Camila collaborates with Ria Menorca in the creation of two collections of Menorcan sandals, making the original designs in hand-painted natural silk, both for women and children. Both summer collections with very colorful models were presented in Singapore, and later sold all over the world.





2019 - 2020

As creative director of Margaret de Arcos, Camila defines her way of painting and working with silk as “an innate part of her life.” A perfect mix between craftsmanship and design, full of color nuances, light effects and details that fill the pieces.

In 2019, the firm Margaret de Arcos receives the Evolution and Quality Award from the Seville City Council. A recognition that praises the growth of the artisan firm through product diversification, the international expansion of the brand and its focus within the field of crafts, forming and expanding the recruitment of a team (artisan, design, sewing, marketing and commercial) with which to develop the artisan brand business.

From this moment, the firm is committed to the work of transmission and training, with the aim of perpetuating the artisan trade of silk painting. Every year two open workshops are held in which the techniques and main characteristics of the material and its work are taught. In addition, he actively participates in the training of new students through collaborations with the Faculty of Fine Arts, the Picasso Training Center, Loyola University and Pablo de Olavide University.

2020 coincides with a huge commitment to the firm and to take it further and further without losing sight of craftsmanship and creativity. The workshop is expanded with new professionals and Camila is committed to selling through the Internet, connecting with new audiences.

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2021

Her creative vision and her passion for silk make her continue researching this fabric, its types, uses and applications.

In 2021, Camila, in a continuous search to develop her trade and take the art of painting on silk to other points, bets on new products linked to the decoration sector, such as headboards, blankets, screens or lighting pieces.

In them, hand-painted silk, the use of colors and the firm's characteristic designs continue to be its pillar, now acquiring a new way of painting in large formats, where the handcrafted pieces maintain the artistic dimension.





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2021

In 2021, Camila Puya de Arcos, as creative director of the firm, was included in the prestigious international guide for artisans [Homo Faber Guide](#), carried out by the Michelangelo Foundation for Creativity and Crafts.

This international non-profit organization is world referenced that recognizes the excellence and mastery of manual work with an absolutely artistic character and linked to the world of design. In the Homo Faber Guide there is a selection of leading European artists in their respective disciplines, artisans and creators who become beacons and references for many other artists.



In 2023, Margaret de Arcos' space obtains the recognition of "Craft Point of Interest," an award granted by the Andalusian Regional Government that acknowledges the workshop's trajectory and its importance as part of the tradition and contemporaneity of its work.

Since the same year, Camila has been the president of ÁBACA, the association of women artisans founded in Seville in 2011 with the aim of promoting the city's artisan sector.

During this year, from March 21st to June 31st, the Castle of San Jorge hosted the exhibition "Masters of the Future," which brought together over 50 artists and artisan creators who reinterpret traditions with a contemporary approach. Margaret de Arcos participated with three pieces in this prestigious display; works in which Camila has worked on geometry and color to create three large-format lighting pieces, where hand-painted natural silk stands out, creating a play of colors through the passage of light.

Furthermore, in June 2023, Camila was selected as a Master Artisan within the prestigious training program of the Homofaber Foundation, the Homofaber Fellowship.

This educational program, which marks the beginning of a long-term partnership with Jaeger-LeCoultre, takes place in various European countries in collaboration with local members of the Foundation's network based in Switzerland, and its main objective is to assist with the professional integration of young graduates in the artisan sector through a funded training.

During this period, Camila will be responsible for sharing and passing on her knowledge about silk and the artisan tradition of weaving to the chosen student, as well as instilling in them a passion for professional, delicate, and unique work in the sector.



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In September 2023, Camila Puya de Arcos was awarded the Andalusian Craftsmanship Award in recognition of her exceptional craftsmanship skills and tireless dedication to preserving and promoting the artisanal traditions of Andalusia.

Throughout her life, she has honed a wide range of artisanal techniques working with natural silk, standing out for her precision and attention to detail. Her commitment to preserving Andalusian artisanal traditions has led her to actively work on passing down her knowledge to younger generations.

The award, presented by the Andalusian Regional Government, is a testament to her impact on the artisanal community of Andalusia and her dedication to excellence in her craft.



CAMILA PUYA DE ARCOS

MARGARET DE ARCOS' CREATIVE DIRECTOR

"Natural silk is a fascinating fabric; Starting from a blank canvas, in each design, and seeing how it changes with each brushstroke, the way the colors mix, their fall, softness, luminosity, beauty and resistance... It's something magical. Nothing exists before, no color, and suddenly at the end, that light..."

I have always painted on silk and creating unique pieces from it is part of my life. It is inherent to me and my only and best way of creating."





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Margaret de Arcos

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