

Biographical note: education artistic activities and achievements.

‘María de la P’ is the artistic name of Fátima Rodríguez de Peñaranda. Fátima began her university art studies in 1979 and obtained a Bachelor’s Degree in Art at the Universidad Complutense of Madrid, specializing in painting. There she was introduced to tall heddle textile arts and collaborated on various projects including the Aranjuez’s First Tapestry Prize.

In this first period, she expressed herself mainly through oil painting of scenery based on both imagined and real places and people. In 1994, upon obtaining a drawing teaching position in the Spanish public school system, she moved to the province of Huesca, in Aragón, where she came back to working with textile arts. Here she established her brand ‘*Creaciones Maria de la P*’ and began to sell her textile designs.

Since this period, her work has been based mainly on batik and painted, dyed and sewn collage canvas. Sponsored by Huesca’s City Hall, she participated and organised a number of exhibitions reflecting her artistic career. She has also arranged several textile installations in the rural area of Bolea as well as in the city of Huesca.

In 1999 she moved to Zaragoza and started learning serigraphy, a technique to which she dedicated the next fifteen years of her life. Her serigraphic work aims to introduce art designs into commonly used objects, such as seats, curtains, bed sheets, cushions and tablecloth pieces. Her textile prints has been exhibited in the Textile Museum of Terrassa (Barcelona) and the Ibercaja bank in Valencia, as well as in Abizanda, province of Huesca, and Alagón, province of Zaragoza. During this time, she also worked in other projects like *Hambre y Deseo* (‘Hunger and Desire’), which was exhibited in the Languages Academy of Zaragoza, where she linked her art with her Buddhist studies.

In 2007 she released a webpage to show and sell her products online. In 2010 her printed designs travelled to the Indigo Fair in Brussels with marketing as a clear goal. In that same year she participated in the II Textile Gathering of Guimaraës, in Portugal. Since then, the theme of women has become a thread in her work, particularly around the silence that usually surrounds work traditionally thought of as female. *Ellas* (‘Them’) and *The Last Party* (sic) are two examples of this trend. In 2013 she started a blog where she shared her day-to-day activities and her overall trajectory as a textile artist.

In 2015, she left her teaching post to live in a small village in the Pyrenees, near the French border, where she engages in traditional weaving practices. Here she co-founded the *Asociación Cultural Pyrenes, Diseño y Artesanía del Pirineo* (‘Cultural Association Pyrenes, Design and Crafts of the Pyrenees’), actively giving workshops and exhibiting her work, both in Spain and France.

Since 2015, Fátima has continued to work on serigraphy while also being inspired by a homage of ancestral work traditions in Jaca, Huesca, through a textile exhibition centered on the goddess Athena and Pyrene, the woman who gave name to the Spanish-French mountain range.

Enlivened by the theme of the role of women in the world, she has created several collections of tall heddle tapestries, which were exhibited in Huesca’s City Hall in 2020, as well as on other low heddle designs like *Piratas* (‘Pirates’) during the 2021 lockdown.

Lately she has brought her creative weaving to the *Festival de Mujeres Artistas Rurales* (‘Fair for Rural Artistic Women’) as part of a collective exhibition of women from various artistic disciplines. She also participated on the *Feria de la Repoblación para Mujeres Emprendedoras Rurales* (‘Repopulation Fair for Rural Entrepreneurial Women’), with a stand of her textile designs and for the recovery of traditional textile arts. For more information about her work, please visit creacionismariadelape.com.