

**barbican**

# **Claudia Andujar: The Yanomami Struggle**



Thu 17 Jun—Sun 29 Aug 2021  
Activity Sheet

## INTRODUCTION & HELPFUL TERMS



Claudia Andujar is a photographer, and activist that has spent 50 years photographing the Yanomami people, an Indigenous people that live in the Brazilian rainforest. Andujar has devoted her work to supporting this community and the fight for their rights.

### Indigenous:

Indigenous people practice unique traditions; they retain social, cultural, economic and political characteristics that are distinct from those of the dominant societies in which they live. They are the descendants of those who inhabited a country or a geographical region at the time when people of different cultures or ethnic origins arrived.<sup>1</sup>

### Yanomami:

The word Yanomami comes from Yanomami thëpë which means 'human beings'. They live in the Brazilian rainforest along the border between Venezuela and Brazil. They occupy a territory that covers an estimated 180,000km<sup>2</sup> and their total population stands at about 36,000 individuals.



### A people:

A group of people who share a common culture, tradition, or sense of kinship, that often have common language and beliefs. For example, the English, Scottish and Welsh, who all exist as distinct peoples within Great Britain.

### Climate Change:

A change in global or regional weather patterns, in particular a change apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels.

<sup>1</sup> [www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/5session\\_factsheet1.pdf](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/5session_factsheet1.pdf)

## 1 THE LURE OF THE CATRIMANI

Each activity has a number. Make sure to follow these from **1-6** because there's only one way around the exhibition and you don't want to miss anything!

Andujar was born in Switzerland to a Jewish and Protestant family. She fled Europe after the Second World War and eventually settled in Brazil, embarking on a career as a photojournalist. Photography allowed Andujar to connect with the Yanomami.



Andujar experimented with her photography by using different techniques and films with an analogue camera (and not a smartphone!)

### Double exposure:

a technique that layers two different images into a single image, combining two photographs in one.

### Composition:

how the visual elements of a photo are arranged.

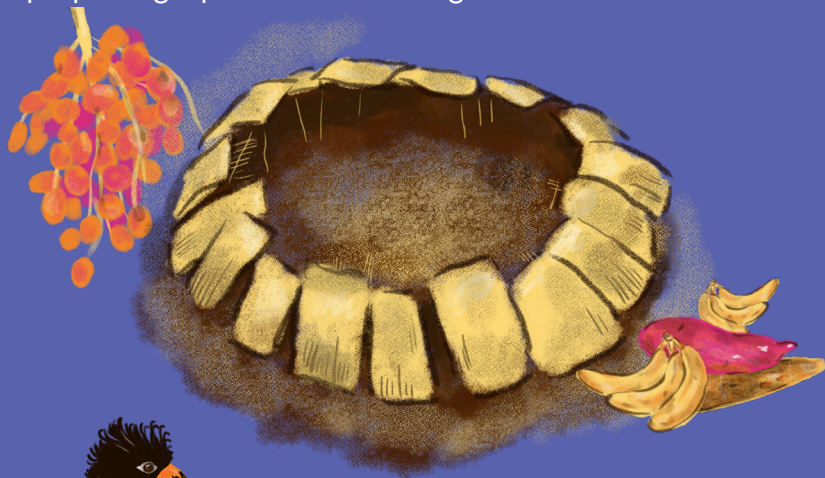
Take a look at the photos you can see in this part of the exhibition. Do you have a favourite? Write why below.



the Catrimani River runs through the land of Yanomami in Brazil...

## 2 IN THE INTIMACY OF THE HOUSEHOLD

The Yanomami live in a multi-family, big house called a 'yano' and Andujar photographed families living in their homes.



What is important to you in your home?  
Draw some of these things in the box below.



## 3 RITE AND INVENTION

An important event in the Yanomami social calendar is the 'reahu'. This is a remembrance for those who have died and an opportunity for communities to come together to exchange news, food and gifts. At this event, there is dancing, chanting and feasting – and they can last several days!



Do you and your family celebrate special occasions?  
What sort of occasions are special in your family?  
What things do you do at your celebrations?  
What food do you eat? What is your favourite celebration?  
Use the box below to answer.



My name is Davi Kopenawa  
and I am a Yanomami Shaman.  
As a Shaman I interact with  
the spirit world.



## 4 IN SEARCH OF AN IDENTITY

Identity and human rights are very important to Andujar and she used her photography to tell a story about the people around her.

She used the technique of **chiaroscuro** (use of light and dark to create strong contrasts) to create intimacy and drama in her photographs.

## Listening and drawing:

Ask your friend or family to describe you – this could be what you look like but also your personality. Try to draw their descriptions in the box below using the chiaroscuro technique.



## 5 THE DRAWING PROJECT ✨

This series of drawings by the Yanomami are inspired by nature, the world around them and the universe. They document daily life, stories and myths.

Imagine you could write a letter to the Yanomami.  
Use the postcard template below to design an image and  
write a letter to the Yanomami, what will you say and draw?  
How could you depict your daily life or a story to them?



# 6 FROM ART TO ACTIVISM

An activist is a person who believes strongly in political or social change and takes part in activities such as public protests to try to make an impact.



Andujar decided to use her photography as a tool for political action on behalf of the Yanomami. Through the 1970s, the Brazilian government initiated several programmes aimed at colonising the Amazon for capitalist gain. This brought huge migration and unrestricted development which resulted in disease, conflict, and social disruption. The Yanomami still fight to this day to protect their community, land and traditions.



What would you do to protect the people you care about? Tell us below.

A large yellow rectangular area intended for a response to the question above.

Working in the service of the Yanomami, Andujar's large collection of photographs continues to provide them with a voice on the international stage, making people who are coming to see this exhibition aware of their struggles. So that we too can understand the Yanomami people and support their livelihood and survival.

## Try this at home:

Take a photograph of someone you care about. Think about the location you will use, the light and the composition. Remember to be patient, good photography takes time! Share your photographs using #ClaudiaAndujar and @BarbicanCentre

"She is not Yanomami,  
but she is a true friend."  
- Shaman Davi Kopenawa



Copy editing: Instituto Socioambiental

Illustrations and Design: Javie Huxley

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Supported using public funding by  
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