

¡Bienvenidas y bienvenidos to El CC, CCLATAM's newsletter!. Every other week you'll find the main events shaking up Latin America, from Ushuaia in the south to Los Algodones in the north. Sign up [here](#) to stay updated on the region. Get [in touch](#) with us, we may feature an excerpt of your response in the next newsletter.



Elections, elections, elections. **Argentina's midterm** confirmed trust in [President Milei's](#) socio-economic experiment. Change remains the only priority – no matter the cost. The same wind reached Bolivia, where voters turned the page on two decades of socialist rule, electing centrist [Rodrigo Paz](#). [Chile](#) watches closely ahead of its own test at the polls.

But the shot of the week came from Asia: President [Trump and President Lula](#) thawing relations on the margins of the [ASEAN Summit](#). With Bolsonaro's chapter closed, the two hemispheric heavyweights reopened dialogue – AI, digital policy, content moderation, data centers on the table. Realpolitik in motion. Could Lula emerge as the bridge to Venezuela?

Meanwhile, the region shakes beneath the weight of its contradictions. [In Rio de Janeiro, a police raid left over 130 dead](#) – the bloodiest in city history. Up north, Washington sent an aircraft carrier to the Caribbean, officially for counter-narcotics, unofficially as pressure on Maduro. And in Bogotá, record cocaine output feeds the spiral. To the east, [Hurricane Melissa](#) tore through Jamaica, Cuba and the Dominican Republic, testing the region’s resilience and budgets. From climate to crime, instability spreads faster than reform.

Latin America moves through transition – not left, not right, just restless. Elections shift hands, alliances reshape, storms and guns redraw priorities. The hemisphere stands at a crossroads where ideology gives way to survival, and realpolitik rules the day.

CCLATAM Editorial Board

La Charla



This week we talked to Almada Grace. Her paintings, installations, and mixed-media works pulse with the rhythms of cities and the silence of ancestral landscapes. Born in Buenos Aires and raised between Argentina and Bolivia, Grace has become known for her ability to merge abstraction with cultural storytelling – weaving together indigenous materials, urban symbols, and the emotion of lived experience. We sat down with her to talk about memory, identity, and the language of colors.

Almada, your art feels deeply rooted in both personal and collective history. How do you navigate those two worlds?

I think in Latin America those two worlds are never separate. Our private stories are political, our collective traumas are intimate. When I paint, I'm not only talking about my grandmother's village or my own memories; I'm also painting the migrations, disappearances, and celebrations that belong to an entire continent. Art, for me, is a bridge between what I've inherited and what I'm still learning to love.

Your recent exhibition, Ciudad Sagrada, seemed to explore that very idea – the sacred and the modern coexisting. What inspired it?

That show was born out of dissonance. I went back to my hometown after several years and saw how it had transformed – glass towers standing where we used to play near the hills. Yet, even among the concrete, people were still lighting candles in corners, still leaving flowers by the river. I realized that the sacred doesn't disappear; it just adapts. The golden lines and mineral pigments in those paintings represent the invisible altars that exist even in chaos.

You often work with natural pigments and ancestral techniques. What draws you to those materials?

I grew up watching my grandmother dye wool with plants and insects. She never called it "art," but it was. It was chemistry, patience, and reverence. When I began to experiment with those same materials – cochineal for red, indigo for blue, ash and clay for texture – I felt I was painting with history itself. It's a form of continuity, not nostalgia. Every tone carries a story that synthetic pigments can't tell.

There's also a strong political undertone in your work. Do you see art as activism?

I don't separate them. For many of us in Latin America, art is activism. To create beauty amid inequality is already an act of resistance. I'm not preaching politics, but I'm refusing erasure. Every time I show brown skin, indigenous patterning, or urban resilience on a gallery wall, I'm saying: "We exist, and we have our own aesthetics."

You've spoken about abstraction as a language of the body rather than the mind. Could you expand on that?

When I was younger, I wanted to explain everything. I thought art had to be legible, like a storybook. But the older I get, the more I trust what can't be explained. The body remembers things the intellect forgets – gestures, rhythms, griefs. When I paint abstractly, I'm letting my hands think for me. That's when the most honest work emerges.

Finally, what advice would you give to young Latin American artists finding their voice?

Don't rush to be understood. The art world moves fast, but identity takes time. Listen to your land, your language, your ghosts. The world doesn't need perfect art – it needs honest art. And honesty, in our region, is already revolutionary.

Elsewhere in LATAM

 **Latin American markets** are enjoying a strong boost as global commodity prices climb and trade tensions ease. Economies that rely heavily on exports—such as Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Colombia and Peru—are reaping the benefits, with both equities and currencies hitting multi-year highs. The [MSCI Latin America index](#) recently touched its best level since April 2024, underscoring the rally.

 Mid-term legislative elections in Javier Milei's Argentina, his libertarian party La Libertad Avanza (LLA) secured around **41% of the vote**, well ahead of the opposition Fuerza Patria/Peronist bloc at 31%. This victory signals a renewed mandate for his deep spending-cuts and free-market agenda, and comes just as Argentina secured an up to [US\\$ 40 billion bailout from the Donald Trump administration](#) – both validating his policies and tying the country more closely to external economic conditions. Despite the win, Milei still must negotiate with smaller parties to convert this position into a working legislative majority for the more sweeping reforms ahead.

 To address [accommodation shortages](#) ahead of the [COP30 climate summit](#) in Belém, Brazil will provide free cruise-ship cabins for delegations from low-income nations. A gesture of climate solidarity, but also a test of Brazil's event-logistics capacity.

 ILO released a [report](#), in observance of the International Day of Care and Support. The organization urges Latin American governments and businesses to expand care systems, as unpaid care work accounts for up to 26.8% of regional GDP and falls mostly on women, affecting workforce participation and retention.

 New data show the Mexico [economy shrank](#) in the third quarter – its first quarterly dip since the pandemic recovery began. Weak household spending and an industrial slowdown drove the contraction, sparking concern about consumer confidence.

 Brazil's economy continues to show mixed but resilient signals. Petrobras reported a 7.6% jump in oil production last quarter, reinforcing the country's role as a regional energy powerhouse, while Brazil also became Latin America's top [LNG importer](#) as lower global prices reshaped its energy mix. Argentina's [deregulated import regime has triggered an e-commerce boom](#), with online purchases from global platforms tripling year-on-year – a sign of renewed consumer appetite despite domestic industry concerns. Meanwhile, regional markets are stabilizing, with Argentine assets among those benefiting from higher commodity prices and easing global trade tensions. Together, the two largest Southern Cone economies reveal a pattern of pragmatic adaptation: energy and digital consumption are surging even as structural challenges persist.

 [Norton Maza will represent Chile at Venice Biennale](#) with “Inter-Reality.” The project explores virtual coexistence and migration, reflecting Chile's rising prominence in global contemporary art.

 Telecom group [Millicom \(Tigo\)](#) finalized its **US \$380 million purchase of Telefónica Ecuador**, expanding its footprint in Latin America's telecom and data-infrastructure markets. A signal of **investor confidence** in Ecuador's connectivity growth. **Congratulations to CCLATAM co-founder Karim Lesina.**

La Cita

“The times of change are knocking on our doors. The old political formulas were exhausted”

Javier Milei, President of Argentina

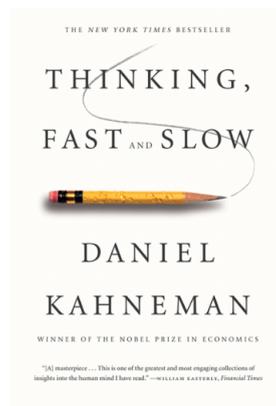
El Evento



After the incredible success of the 2025 edition, we are thrilled to announce that the 2nd edition of the **#Digital Summit LATAM** will take place once again in **Madrid** – at the iconic **Casa de América** – on **26 and 27 February 2026**. This new edition will be even bigger and bolder counting on world-class speakers from Latin America, Europe, the Middle East, and the United States; new strategic partnerships and sponsor; cutting-edge discussions on AI, connectivity, regulation, inclusion, and digital transformation. Together with our partners DPL News, we will continue building the platform where Latin America meets the world – including Europe, the Middle East, and beyond – to shape the future of our digital society.

Stay tuned – announcements of speakers, sponsors, and special sessions are coming soon!

La Lectura



Thinking, Fast and Slow by [Daniel Kahneman](#). Reading this book is like getting a user manual for your own mind. It changes how you understand people — and how you understand *yourself*. You'll start to catch your brain in the act of tricking you.



Enjoyed this read? Spread the inspiration by sharing our newsletter with your peers and join us in fostering a vibrant community passionate about the wonders of Latin America.

You can also find us on [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Or maybe you want to donate to our cause and help promote the region, you can do that [here](#). Want to stop receiving this newsletter? You can unsubscribe [here](#).

Thank you for reading, nos vemos en la próxima.