



# ALPACA CULTURE

September 2016



## Breed Standard

What is an ideal alpaca?

## Gender Balance

Can weather affect a cria's sex?

+ Inoue Brothers  
and Pacomarca

+ Alpaca vs. Llama





## ALPACAS AT MARQUAM HILL RANCH

# Plan to attend next year.

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to learn ...*

*... Highest compliments, and I look forward  
to next year's conference."*

**~ Dr. Neil Padgett  
A Paca Fun Farm**

*"... a run-a-way success in my view - interesting  
speakers, relevant topics, great questions and  
answers, excellent venue, great food and wine  
and lots of camaraderie and fun were enjoyed  
by all - Thank You Jennifer & Bill Cameron!*

**~ Ian Watt,  
Alpaca Consulting Services USA**

### ON THE COVER:

An artistic representation of Suri alpacas,  
created by Ryan Price and Jared Johnston.

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# ALPACA CULTURE



Alpaca Comfort duvet manufacture.

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# Local Culture Reflected in Stained Glass

By Meyla Bianco Johnston



Day to day realities are so different between countries! What is constant in every culture is art – as humans we can't help but to create reflections of our worlds. Sometimes the world we show is abstract, as in depictions that evoke our interior emotional lives. Other pieces are more straightforward; a recognizable landscape from a unique place.

In *The Last Supper (La Última Cena)* by Marcos Zapata in the Catedral Basílica de la Virgen de la Asunción at Cusco (pictured above), a guinea pig (cuy) is prominently depicted on the table. Just like in many Peruvian households, cuy is what's for dinner.

Providing deep meaning to the worshippers at Casa Chapi, the new stained glass has special relevance to the local people. While the windows at Casa Chapi show familiar Christian religious stories, the local twist makes them uniquely beautiful.

Mike Safley, founder of Quechua Benefit, explains how the now iconic windows evolved. "Once the Casa Chapi Chapel was under construction, we sent an email asking if anyone would be interested in sponsoring a stained glass window for the Chapel. Nancy Masak responded immediately that she would like to donate the three front windows in memory of her mother."

"Quechua Benefit engaged a designer and we came up with very traditional Anglo-style church designs. Everyone here liked the designs but we thought it would be best if Padre Marcos, the local Parish Priest, looked them over before we engaged a glass artist."

"Padre Marcos took one look and asked, 'do you think we could do the Virgin Mary in traditional Colca dress?' A light went on and we all decided to design all of the windows to include Colca Valley cultural icons . . ."

The idea grew even further when Safley and his team then found "a local Quechua glass artist who was born and raised in Yanque, just down the road from the Chapel, who does church stained glass window commissions all over Peru."

Gualberto Mamani Casaperalta specializes in stained glass and taught courses on the topic for eight years. Casaperalta has worked all over Peru developing artwork for important buildings like Hotel Marriot and Lima Chamber of Commerce. He also has experience in religious art and has made stained glass for the Cathedral of Piura and Church of Resurrection in San Bartolo, among many other places in Peru.

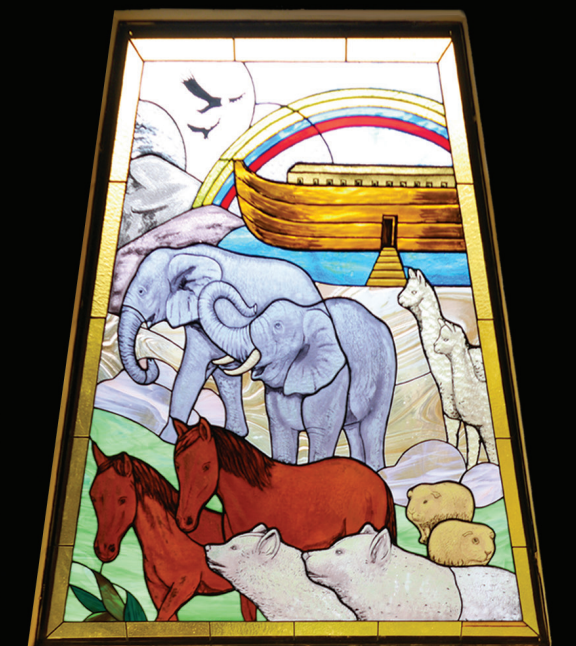
Safley says, "Our little glass window committee asked him to interpret all of the Bible scenes using the Colca people and their familiar fauna and wildlife as subject matter for the windows."

So, Noah's Ark hosts not just the first guinea pigs but a pair of white alpacas. Instead of Christ holding a lamb, here he holds a cinnamon colored cria. A hummingbird is included in the panel depicting the Garden of Eden, along with local trumpet flowers.

In other panels, (not pictured) a curious cria peeks from the corner, shyly looking at baby Jesus. Mary is resplendent in an ornate dress and a distinctive hat, in the local fashion. She holds baby Jesus who is wearing his first chullo, as crias relax at her feet. Joseph, depicted in

#### Top to bottom:


Jesus depicted with a cria instead of a lamb. Adam and Eve with trumpet flowers and hummingbirds. Noah's Ark with pairs of animals including alpacas and guinea pigs, or as they are called in the area of Casa Chapi, cuy. Photos courtesy Casa Chapi.





blue jeans and a fedora, cradles a young cria.

The Ascension scene panel depicts the Andean condor flying above the Son of God instead of the more familiar dove. Safley says the Quechua people believe the condor “flies their soul to heaven when they die.”

The church was recently dedicated during a valley-wide ceremony celebrating the Virgin of Chapi. “The Chapel is rapidly becoming quite famous and is attracting visitors from all over the valley and the world. We are all very thankful for the result which is in harmony with the people of the valley,” Safley says. 

**Right:** During the Casa Chapi dedication ceremony. According to Mike Safley of Casa Chapi, “We recently dedicated the church as part of a valley-wide ceremony celebrating the ‘Virgin of Chapi’ and more than 300 locals went through the Church during a midnight vigil.”



The painting donated by Ruth Mogrovejo.



### Family Heirloom Funds Casa Chapi

Ruth Mogrovejo, owner of Latin Collection explains, “We had an old oil painting of a Madonna with a child, which was in our family for more than 70 years. It was given to me when I got married. It was done by an anonymous Peruvian painter from the famous Cusco School of Arts. This painting was a replica of one of the Colony paintings brought from Spain.”

“When I moved to the USA about 35 years ago, I brought the painting with me. It was displayed in my house at the entrance on a big wall. Everybody who entered the house could see the nice painting.

“Eight years ago, I moved to a small house in Charleston. Over there, I did not have a big wall where I could display it. I thought that other people would like to have it.

“I have been supporting Quechua Benefit for more than 20

years and I thought that donating the painting for one of the fundraisers could raise some money to benefit the children of Casa Chapi, and at the same time, the painting could have a nice home.

“It was the best decision I made, because the Madonna found her new home: The Grace Memorial Episcopal Church in Portland, Oregon. The members of the congregation raised \$7,500 to get the painting. When the check was given to Mike Safley, he told me: “tears came to my eyes and I said, ‘This is the right amount of money we need to finish the Small Chapel in Casa Chapi.’

“I thought this was my best Christmas gift: The Madonna had found a new home and it made the members of the Church happy, too, and at the same time, the children and people that live close to Casa Chapi have a new beautiful Chapel.”



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