

**Las Nietas de Nono**

ARCOmadrid

Profiles/ Latin America

curated by José Esparza Chong Cuy

IFEMA, Madrid

March 4–8, 2026



Las Nietas de Nono, *commotion on the shore* (still), 2025, Digital video, 7:58 minutes

For ARCO 2026, **EMBAJADA** presents a selection of new and recent works by **Las Nietas de Nono**, articulated around the video *Barullo a la orilla*, alongside photographic stills, sculptural objects, and paintings. The presentation unfolds as an interconnected environment in which moving image, static image, and material form operate as extensions of a shared investigation. Visitors will encounter a sensory and spatial reflection on the Puerto Rican coastline, where sound, gesture, and performative actions foreground the shoreline as a site of memory, labor, and collective experience.

Filmed in **La Reserva Natural de Humacao, Puerto Rico**, the video approaches the coastal landscape as a territory shaped by layered histories, ecological fragility, and community resistance. Oscillating between observational and staged moments, the work traces the rhythms and tensions that arise where bodies meet land and water. Through choreography, weaving practices, and subtle spatial interventions, the artists reclaim cartography as an embodied and relational practice, proposing movement, ritual, and interaction as ways of mapping lived experience and environmental transformation.

Painting and sculpture emerge as a continuous practice that reverberates from the logic of the video. Across the works, textured surfaces, layered pigments, and undulating lines evoke traces of action, topographies, and energies rather than fixed representations. Gestures initiated in the filmed performances reappear as material residues, with sculptural objects functioning as physical echoes of

the body's engagement with palm, string, and landscape. Together, these elements form a sensitive archive of movement, resonance, and spatial memory.

Viewed as a whole, the installation proposes a dialogue between visible and invisible forces, between the instability of the coast and the latent dynamics that shape the island. The works invite viewers to navigate an environment where image and object are inseparable, and where territory is understood not as a static backdrop but as a living field of relations, tensions, and continuous transformation.

## **Bio**



The artists and siblings, mulowayi iyaye nonó and mapenzi chibale nonó form the duo Las Nietas de Nonó. Working across performance, installation, video, and biomaterial sculpture, their practice engages with Caribbean collective memories, interrogating issues such as dispossession, environmental and climate injustice, and the prison and medical-industrial complexes.

In 2022, their solo exhibition *Posibles Escenarios, Vol. 1 LNN* was presented at Artists Space, New York, and curated by Danielle A. Jackson. The exhibition featured three immersive mixed-media installations that also functioned as performance stages, evoking neo-colonial exploitation and the silenced histories of Afro-Caribbean communities, and the development of microhistories in relation to geopolitics.

They created *Ilustraciones de la Mecánica* in 2016 - a multimedia installation that was later commissioned by the 10th Berlin Biennale (2018) and the 79th Whitney Biennial (2019). Their practice has been acknowledged through awards such as the Artist Choice Grant from the Ruth Foundation for the Arts (2024), the Catalyst for Change, NALAC (2023), the Latinx Artist Fellowship from the US Latinx Art Forum (2022), the Rome Prize in Visual Art from the American Academy in Rome (2022), the Just Futures Initiative from University of Pennsylvania & Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (2021), a United States Artist Award (2018), the Art of Change from Ford Foundation (2017), and the Global Arts Fund from Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice (2017 & 2020). Their work has been exhibited internationally, in cities such as Venice, Rome, Berlin, London, New York, Honolulu, and Canada, among others. It is also part of the permanent collections of The Museum of Modern Art, New York, and the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Puerto Rico.

In 2019, they co-founded *Parceleras Afrocaribeñas*, a community-based arts organization and cultural space in their hometown of San Antón, Puerto Rico.