

Las Nietas de Nonó

Johanna Fateman

on "Las Nietas de Nonó: Posibles Escenarios, Vol. 1 LNN"

The siblings behind this intriguing Puerto Rico-based duo, *mulwayi* and *mapenzi nonóare*, are best known as performers and community activists, and the sculptural vignettes, multimedia installations, and new film in their first solo exhibition, titled "Posibles Escenarios, Vol. 1 LNN," collectively suggest an imaginative site for improvisation. An oracular "emotional tools station" near the show's entrance invites visitors to take a seat, draw from decks of flash cards, and record their thoughts in a communal journal. A phalanx of worn steel desks, each displaying a vintage security monitor and a careful arrangement of clay rocks, is a poetic indictment of bureaucratic dead ends, a response to Puerto Rico's ongoing housing and climate crises. The enigmatic, immersive "Sala Portal Omi" is a darkened room filled with ambient sound and illuminated by video landscapes and glowing collages sewn from SCOBY leather, a material grown from a symbiotic culture of bacteria and yeast—a restorative distillation of social commentary and healing sanctuary.



Las Nietas de Nonó: Posibles Escenarios, Vol. 1 LNN. Installation view, Artists Space, New York, 2022. Photo: Filip Wolak