

Iki Yos Piña Narváez Funes and Jota Mombaça
The Earthquake Is Intact

Opening Thursday 20 July at 7 pm

Fixations per Minute

Exhibition series at Espai 13 of the Fundació Joan Miró

From 9 February 2023 to 21 January 2024

Curated by Yaby (Beatriz Ortega Botas and Alberto Vallejo)

With the collaboration of Banco Sabadell Foundation

Press Release

With the exhibition *The Earthquake Is Intact* Iki Yos Piña Narváez Funes and Jota Mombaça propose a critical rereading of Western colonial narratives

- **Espai 13 of the Fundació Joan Miró presents the exhibition *The Earthquake Is Intact*, from 21 July to 22 October 2023. As the continuation of *Black El Dorado*, in this long-term project the artists question Western narratives on ecology and delve into a rereading of the colonial archive.**
- **Using ceramics and *bahareque*, a clay-based ancestral construction system, the exhibition is grounded in concepts like *recipient* and *refuge* to explore non-alphabetic writing and other processes of material, semantic and symbolic accumulation, displacing the book as a Western colonial construct.**
- **This is the third of four exhibitions in *Fixations per Minute*, the exhibition series taking place in 2023 at Espai 13 of the Fundació Joan Miró, organised in collaboration with Banco Sabadell Foundation. Curated by Yaby, the series examine the concept of reading and its relationship to present-day artistic practices, through the works of a selection of local and international artists.**

Barcelona, 18 July 2023. Espai 13 of the Fundació Joan Miró presents the exhibition *The Earthquake Is Intact*, from 21 July to 22 October 2023, featuring the artists **Iki Yos Piña Narváez Funes and Jota Mombaça**. The exhibition project, which focuses on Western narratives related to ecology and the rereading of the colonial archive, takes as its starting point ancestral techniques related to territory, such as ceramics and *bahareque*, examining nonalphabetic processes of signification that displace the modern concept of the book. The **exhibition** will be open from 21 July to 22 October 2023.

Conceived as part of the ongoing joint project ***Black El Dorado (We are the earthquake)***, this show is the third installment in the exhibition series ***Fixations per Minute***, a Espai 13 programme at the Fundació Joan Miró, with the collaboration of Fundació Banco Sabadell. Through a long-term research process, the two artists have explored Western narratives on geology, extractivism and healing. The project was awarded the Pernod Ricard grant in 2020. The newest iteration of this research project revolves around the poetic and political agency of mineral features, while exploring the temporal and philosophical relationship between the materials making up the earth and the embodied experience of the indigenous and black bodies of Abya Yala and the Caribbean.

To explore this more deeply, Iki Yos Piña Narváez Funes and Jota Mombaça draw from two ancestral technologies using clay, **ceramics and the Venezuelan *bahareque***. The latter is a housing construction system employed by indigenous communities from time immemorial. They are both ways of interpreting and explaining the world that contrast with the book as a Western colonial device, questioning the modern idea of the text as a journey or window. These techniques are here used in connection to concepts such as *recipient* or *refuge*, which connect the body to the place and resist the impulse towards extraction and delocalisation. The exhibition draws from these forms of construction and knowledge to encourage visitors to undertake a critical approach to the colonial model, through its fissures and blind spots. The titles of **the ceramic pieces in the exhibition** refer to the idea of the enduring bond between what is corporeal and what is mineral: *Unreadable Tears*, *Vulnerable Bone*, and *Bioespeleotema*.

The project is materialised with the construction of elements using the traditional ***bahareque*** technique in the gallery space, suggesting the idea of refuge while inviting the public visiting Espai 13 to breathe beneath the ground. There are also two **audiovisual works** on view. The first one explores the anticolonial dimension of matter and minerals, bestowing life upon geological elements and upon memory fragments of the land as an ancestral healing force. The second video, by Jota Mombaça, poetically links human body parts (such as the artist's mouth) with extractivist geological features (like mining sites) and concepts like *wound*, *memory* and *respiration*.

This exhibition is the third of four proposals in the series **Fixations per Minute**, held at Espai 13 of the Fundació Joan Miró in 2023, with the collaboration of **Banco Sabadell Foundation**. Curated by Yaby (Beatriz Ortega Botas and Alberto Vallejo), the project examines the concept of reading and its relationship with present-day artistic practices through the works of a selection of local and international artists. The series opened on 10 February 2023 with the exhibition *Banditry*, by Claudia Pagès, followed by Impact Play, an exhibition by P. Staff. After *The Earthquake is Intact*, the programme will close with an exhibition by Kandis Williams, entitled *Death of A*, which will be shown at Espai 13 starting 2 November.



The Earthquake is Intact by Jota Mombaça and Iki Yos Piña Narváz Funes, 2023. Project images. Left Image by Fátima Guariota. Right image courtesy of the artists.

About the Artists

Jota Mombaça

(Natal, Brazil, 1991)

Lives and works in Amsterdam and Lisbon. They are an interdisciplinary artist and writer. The sound and visual substance of words play an important role in their practice, which is related to anticolonial critique and gender disobedience. Currently, their research addresses fundamental ways of feeling, the anticolonial imagination, and the connection between opacity and self-preservation in the experience of racialised trans artists in the global art world. Their work has been presented at the São Paulo Biennial (2016 and 2020/2021), the Berlin Biennale (2018), the Colombian Artists National Salon (2019), the Biennale of Sydney (2020), the KADIST in San Francisco (2022), the Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo in Venice (2022), the International Artist Studio Program in Stockholm (2022), and De Appel in Amsterdam (2022).

Iki Yos Piña Narváez Funes

(Caracas, Venezuela, 1984)

Lives and works in Barcelona. Cimarrona-fugitive. Caribbean, writer, performer, and cartoonist. They research anticolonial archives and sexual dissidences, spiritualities, and Black memories of the Caribbean. They are part of the Ayllu group, the Periferia Cimarronas cooperative (Barcelona), and the «In the wake» experimental group of radical Black thinking at Espacio Afro (Madrid). They have contributed to the publications *No existe sexo sin racialización* (2017), *Devuélvannos el oro* (2018), *(h)amor trans* (2021) and *Futuro ancestral* (2022), among others. Their work has been shown at the Biennale of Sydney (2020), the Art Triennial in Brazil (2021) and the Kochi Biennale in India (2022). Their works are in the collection of the Museo Reina Sofía.

Upcoming exhibition in the series *Fixations per Minute*

Fixations per Minute is the exhibition series presented in 2023 at Espai 13 of the Fundació Joan Miró, with the collaboration of Banco Sabadell Foundation. The title of the project is a reference to the formula used to calculate reading speed. Each fixation is the moment the eyes fixate on a word: the lower the number of fixations per minute, the higher the speed at which you process text. These fixations are the intimate, physiological contact points where the text enters the body. The term also points to other attributes of language that are relevant in this series, such as the capacity to fix meanings and impose itself, just as an obsession does. Upcoming exhibitions are as follows:

Kandis Williams, *Death of A*

From 3 November 2023 to 21 January 2024

Death of A retakes the theatrical text of *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller to consider the black body as a focus of experience, as well as a political symbol. The piece explores certain topics laid out in the play by Miller, such as failure, fatigue and disillusionment with the American dream. Williams adds extracts from cultural theory and archival images to the script of the play, which are related to the history of the Second World War and the entertainment industry, police and media violence, extractivism and commercialism.



Images and press material

Images and material for the press are available at <https://www.fmirobcn.org/premsa> and through the link bit.ly/E13Fixacions. Please follow the activities of Espai 13 with the hashtag: [#FixacionsEspai13](https://twitter.com/FixacionsEspai13).

With the collaboration of:

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