



Lulu Varona: *LABOR-DADA*

Embajada 2nd Floor

LABOR-DADA, María Lulu Varona's first solo exhibition at Embajada, features new and recent textile embroideries that explore existential concerns through colorful poetic narratives. The works involve a cross-stitch technique made in an 8-bit style alluding to classic video games and comic strips. Made with cotton thread and Aida cloth, Varona's labor-intensive practice employs color as language to address the human condition.

For *LABOR-DADA* Varona presents film-like panels depicting characters and shapes engaged in contemplative plots. These are presented in conjunction with a group of new works that more directly reference Puerto Rico's current and recent socio-political events. In *Mapa*, 2021, stories of protests, hurricanes, politics, landscape and regeneration unfold in a masterful manner. In three other works, Varona de-constructs an emblematic sound and phrase from the puertorican trap singer Anuel, the onomatopoeia *Brrr*, an expression of cockiness in the contemporary puertorican slang.

Also on view are a series of drawings that reveal the process Varona employs to develop her compositions in advance of translating them into cross-stitch patterns. A table with an embroidery frame holder stands engaged in a work in progress, emphasizing craft and the hand-made.

María Lulu Varona (b. 1993, San Juan, Puerto Rico) lives and works in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Varona learned her embroidery techniques from her grandmother growing up applying it to make works addressing contemporary conditions. She has exhibited work at Bronx Art Space, New York (2017) Roberto Paradise, San Juan, Puerto Rico (2017), Fluxus Factory, Brooklyn, NY (2019), Embajada, San Juan Puerto Rico (2020), MACO Feria de arte, Mexico City amongst others spaces.