



*Nora Maite Nieves:  
Temples of the Sea*

May 19 – July 12, 2022

JASON HAAM

Jason Haam is pleased to present *Nora Maité Nieves: Temples of the Sea*, the artist's first solo exhibition with the gallery. Featuring richly textured paintings and totemic wall sculptures, the show explores themes of identity and belonging, as well as the histories of places that we knowingly or unknowingly carry with us throughout our lives. The title of the exhibition, *Temples of the Sea*, serves as a metaphorical thesis for this new body of work, which simultaneously references the artist's native homeland, the island of Puerto Rico, and the sacredness and safety of a single place within a complicated and evolving environment.

There is an inherent and immediate physicality to Nieves's work, evidenced by the richly textured and tactile surfaces and edges of her brightly colored canvases, which often include a variety of media, including acrylic, flashe, and modeling paste. Drawing inspiration from architecture encountered both in Puerto Rico and New York City, where the artist currently resides, Nieves acts as a connector between worlds, combining fragments of decorative elements from her Caribbean roots—a ubiquitous modernist concrete block design, tile floor patterning from a past residence—with those from the urban landscape she now encounters on a daily basis.

In a sense, Nieves is actively engaged in her own process of world-building, with her worked and contoured surfaces operating as topographical maps of new physical and psychological states. "La Bahía"—which depicts an undulating blue bubble separated from a raked field of green, flanked by emblems at cardinal points—visually references the scenic and bustling San Juan Bay that borders the artist's childhood home in downtown Old San Juan. "Touching the Moon" features a sweeping leaf-like tendril, this time stretching from one territory to another across a sea of blue frottaged canvas. Nieves creates the surface marks by layering treated segments of textured panels underneath the canvas and then rubbing pigment on the surface, leaving ghostly residues of pieces that previously haunted the artist's studio. Just as these works are formed from shadows of paintings, alluding to a reality that has been recreated, Nieves gestures toward our ability to build on past personal experience to forge new identities.

The piece that perhaps best represents this marriage of fundamental dualities—old and new, land and sea, self and other—is "Transitional Land". With its massive circular form and inverse coloration, the three-panel piece echoes the Chinese Yin Yang symbol, itself a sign of how seemingly oppositional elements can in fact be interdependent. Fittingly, in the center of these swirling forces, Nieves has placed a lone square, an island floating at its heart.



Nora Maité Nieves  
Deep Blue Sea, 2022  
Acrylic, resin, gold-leaf, pigments, coarse pumice modeling paste, fiber paste, cold wax, and Flashe on canvas  
148.6 x 123.2 x 7.6 cm (58 1/2 x 48 1/2 x 3 in)  
NN2022E06.04











Nora Maité Nieves  
Magnetic Field, 2022

Acrylic, pigments, coarse pumice modeling paste, fiber paste, and Flashe on canvas  
96.5 x 87.6 x 7.6 cm (38 x 34 1/2 x 3 in)  
NN2022E06.03











Nora Maité Nieves  
Génesis, 2022

Acrylic, resin, gold-leaf, pigments, coarse pumice modeling paste, fiber paste, and Flashe on canvas  
123.2 x 148 x 7.6 cm (48 1/2 x 58 1/4 x 3 in.)  
NN2022E06.02



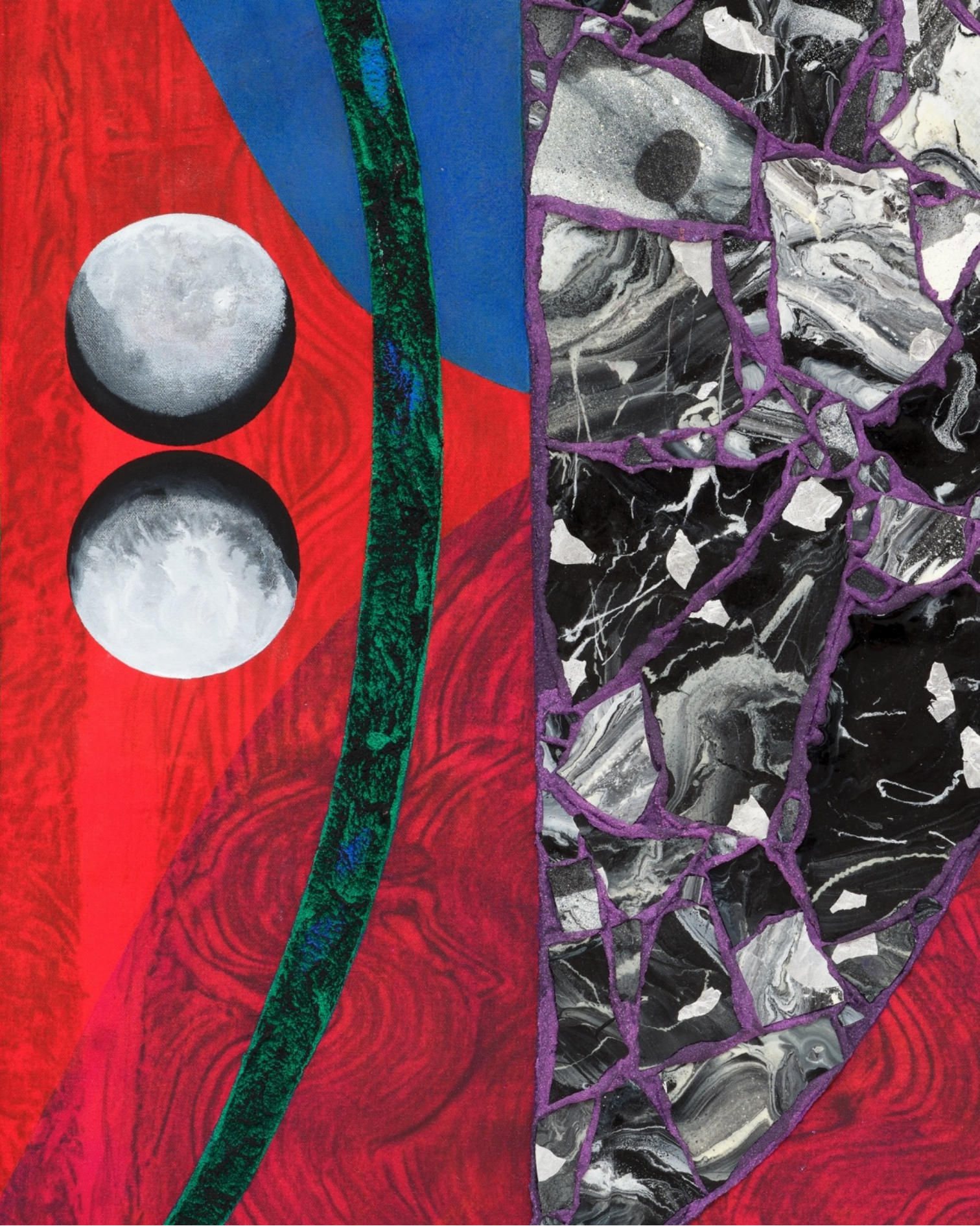






Nora Maité Nieves  
The Music of a constellation, 2021  
Acrylic, pigment, gold-leaf, coarse pumice modeling paste, fiber paste, silver metallic paint, and graphite on canvas.  
97.8 x 87.6 x 7.6 cm (38 1/2 x 34 1/2 x 3 in)  
NN2022E06.09









Nora Maité Nieves  
La Bahía, 2022

Acrylic, resin, gold-leaf, pigments, coarse pumice modeling paste, fiber paste, and Flashe on canvas  
5 canvas parts (1): 137.8 x 122.6 x 7.6 cm (54 1/4 x 48 1/4 x 3 in)  
(4): 31.8 x 31.8 cm (12 1/2 x 12 1/2 in)

NN2022E06.12









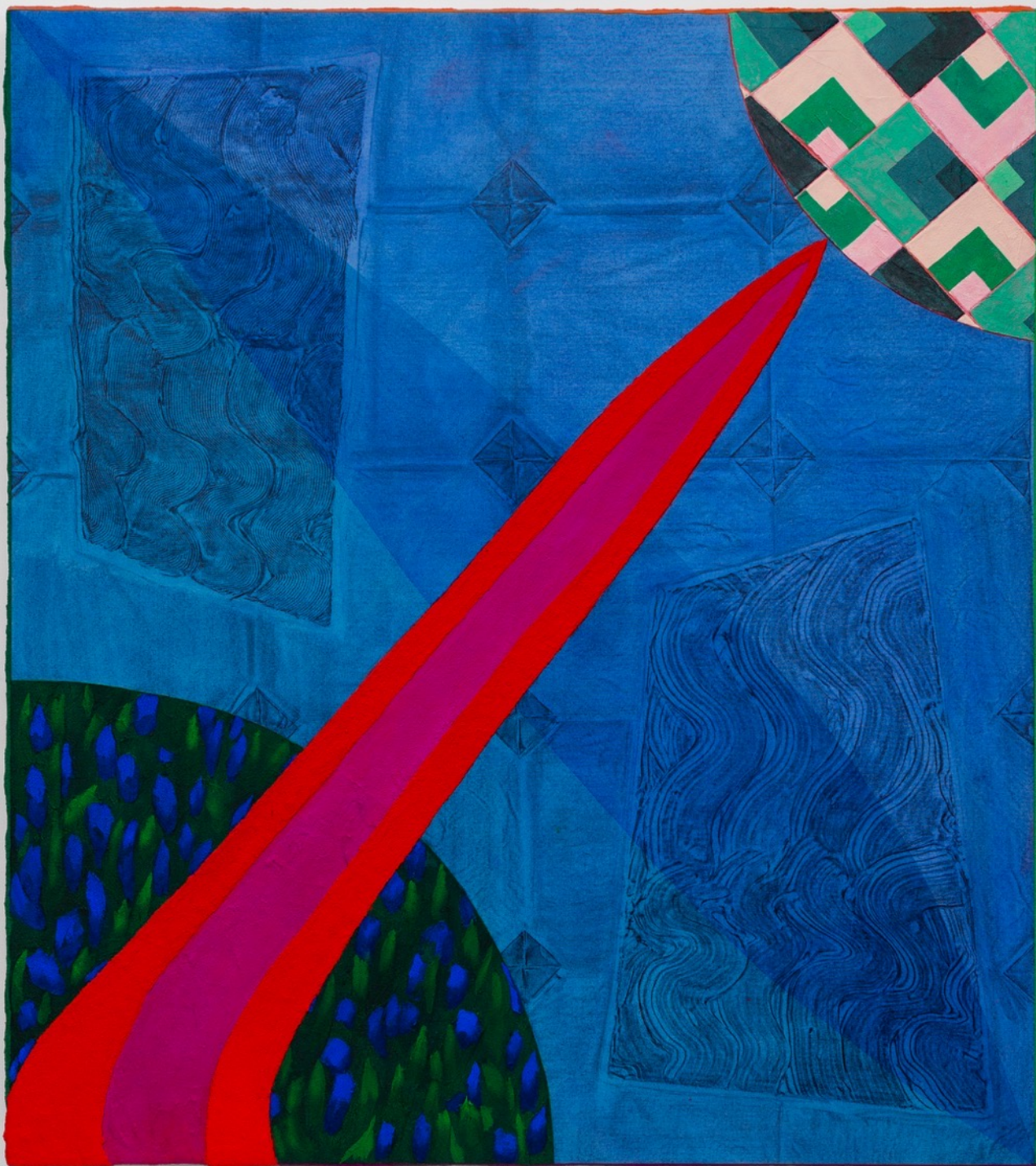


Nora Maité Nieves  
The Primordial Journey, 2022  
Acrylic, resin, gold-leaf, pigments, coarse pumice modeling paste, fiber paste, and Flashe on MDF  
243.2 x 55.9 x 2.5 cm (95 3/4 x 22 x 1 in)  
NN2022E06.15









Nora Maité Nieves  
Touching the moon, 2022  
Acrylic, resin, gold-leaf, pigments, coarse pumice modeling paste, fiber paste, and Flashe on canvas  
137.8 x 122.6 x 7.6 cm (54 1/4 x 48 1/4 x 3 in)  
NN2022E06.01









Nora Maité Nieves  
Amazonas: The Moon in My Womb, 2021-2022  
Acrylic, resin, gold-leaf, pigments, coarse pumice modeling paste, fiber paste, and Flashe on MDF  
268 x 36.8 x 2.5 cm (105 1/2 x 14 1/2 x 1 in)  
NN2022E06.13











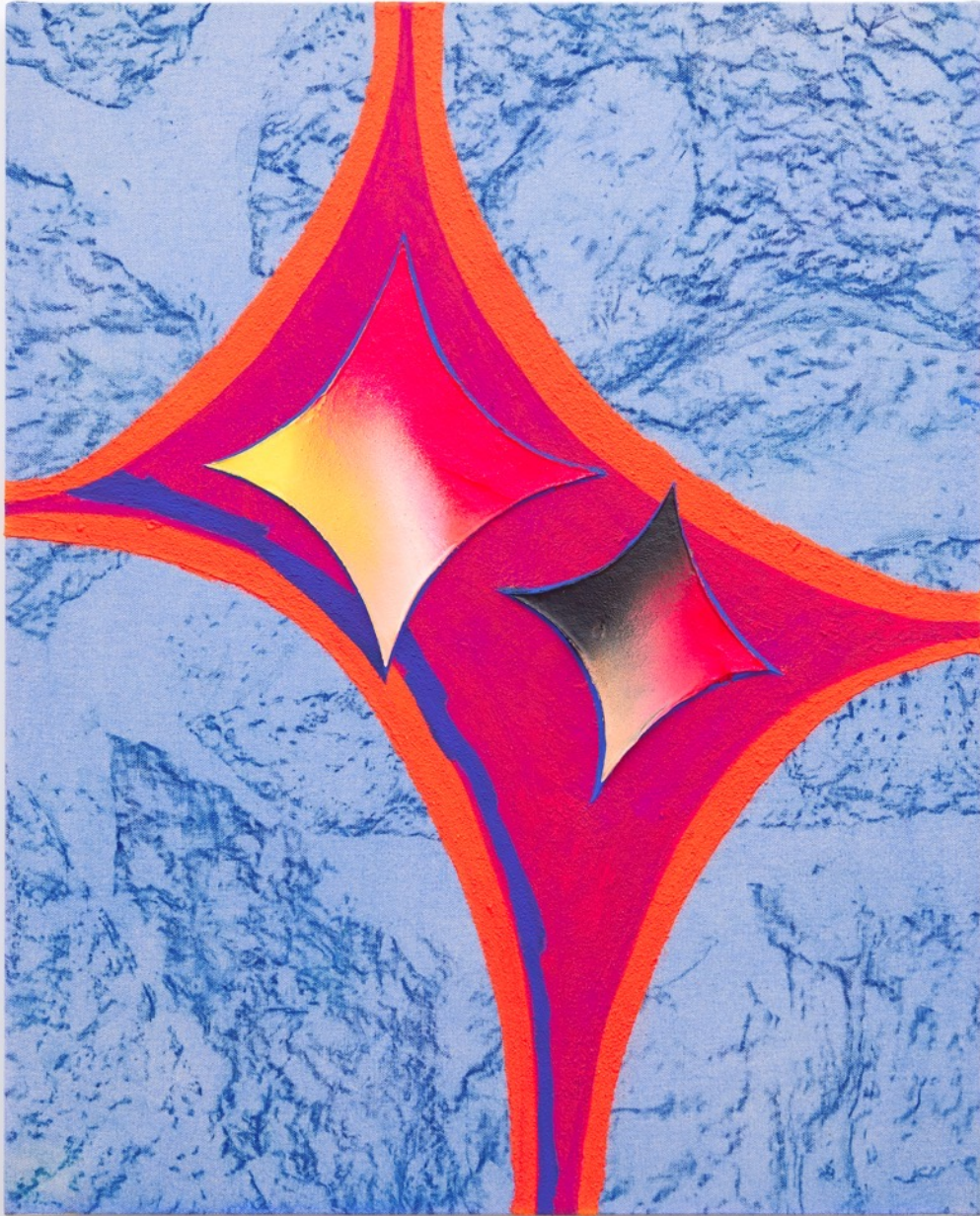
Nora Maité Nieves  
Indigo Aura, 2022

Acrylic, pigments, modeling paste, and silver metallic paint on canvas  
154.9 x 118.1 x 3.8 cm (61 x 46 1/2 x 1 1/2 in)  
NN2022E06.11

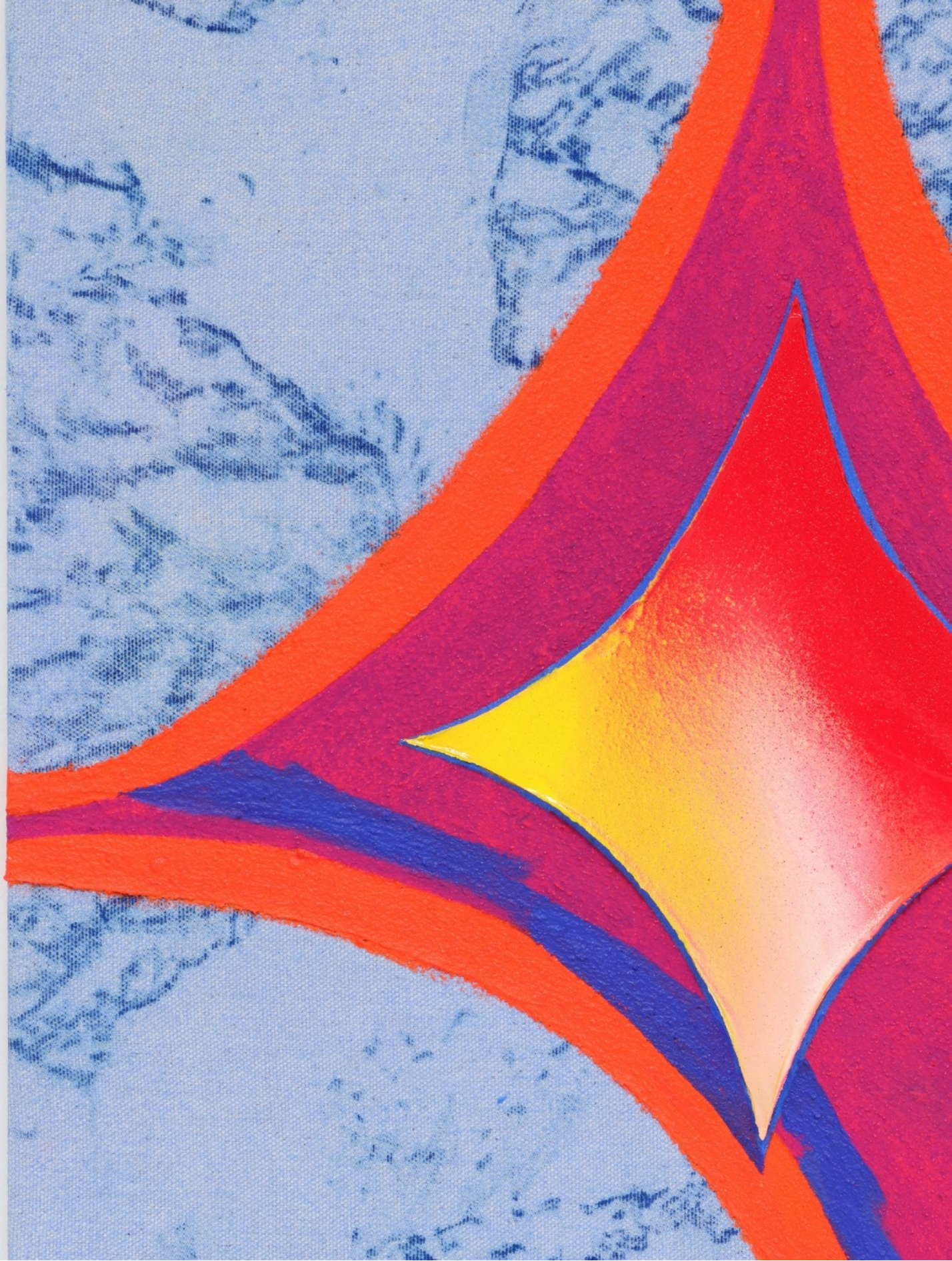




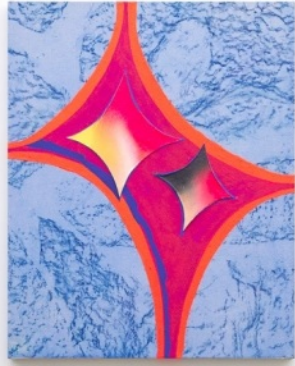




Nora Maité Nieves  
The Cathedral, 2021  
Acrylic, resin, pigment, coarse pumice modeling, fiber paste, and Flashe on wood panel  
59.1 x 48.3 x 3.8 cm (23 1/4 x 19 1/8 x 1 1/2 in)  
NN2022E06.16









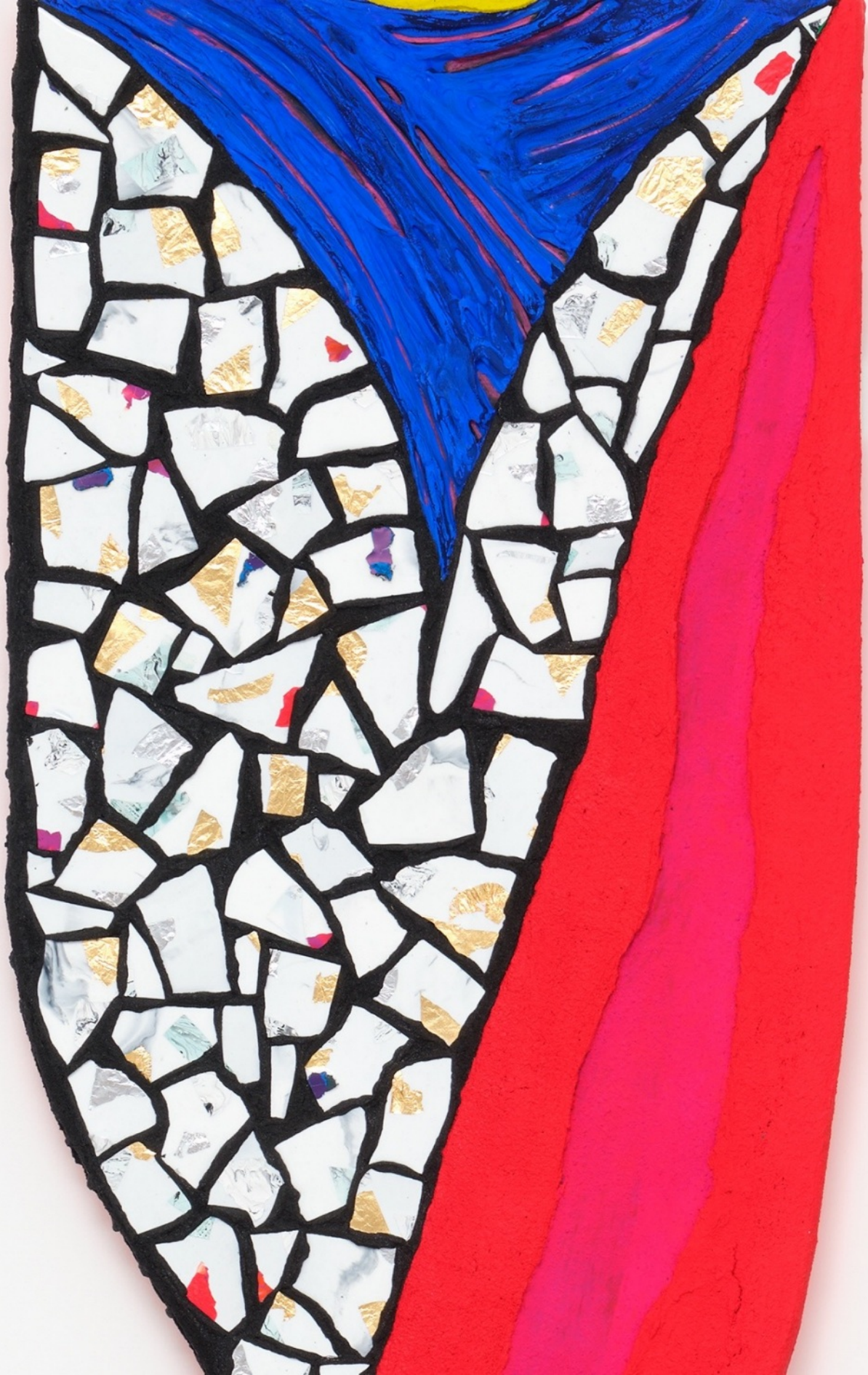
Nora Maité Nieves

The Guardians: El Sol y La Luna, 2022

Acrylic, resin, gold-leaf, pigments, coarse pumice modeling paste, fiber paste, and Flashe on MDF  
Diptych: 204.47 x 48.26 x 2.54 cm (80 1/2 x 19 x 1 in)

NN2022E06.10

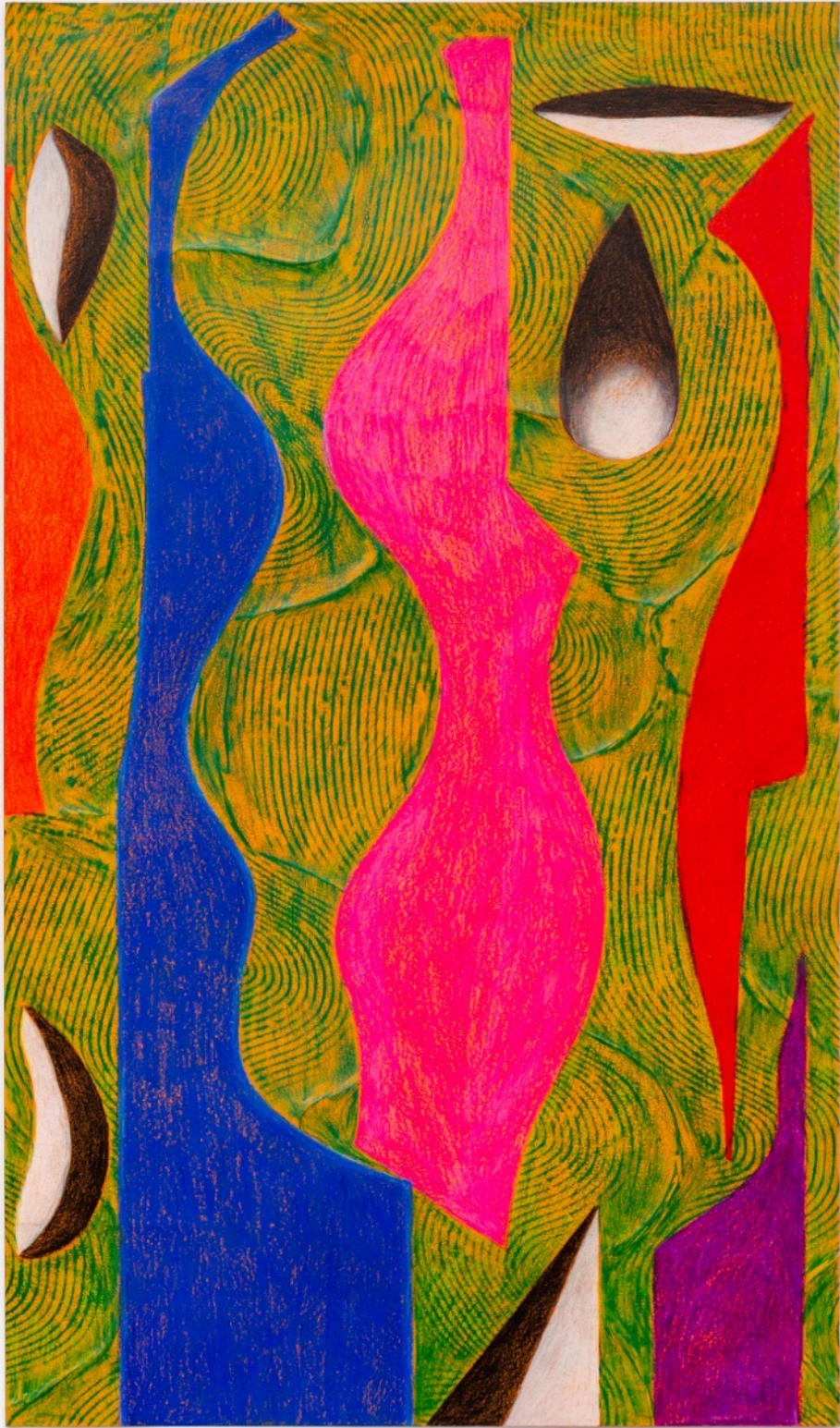






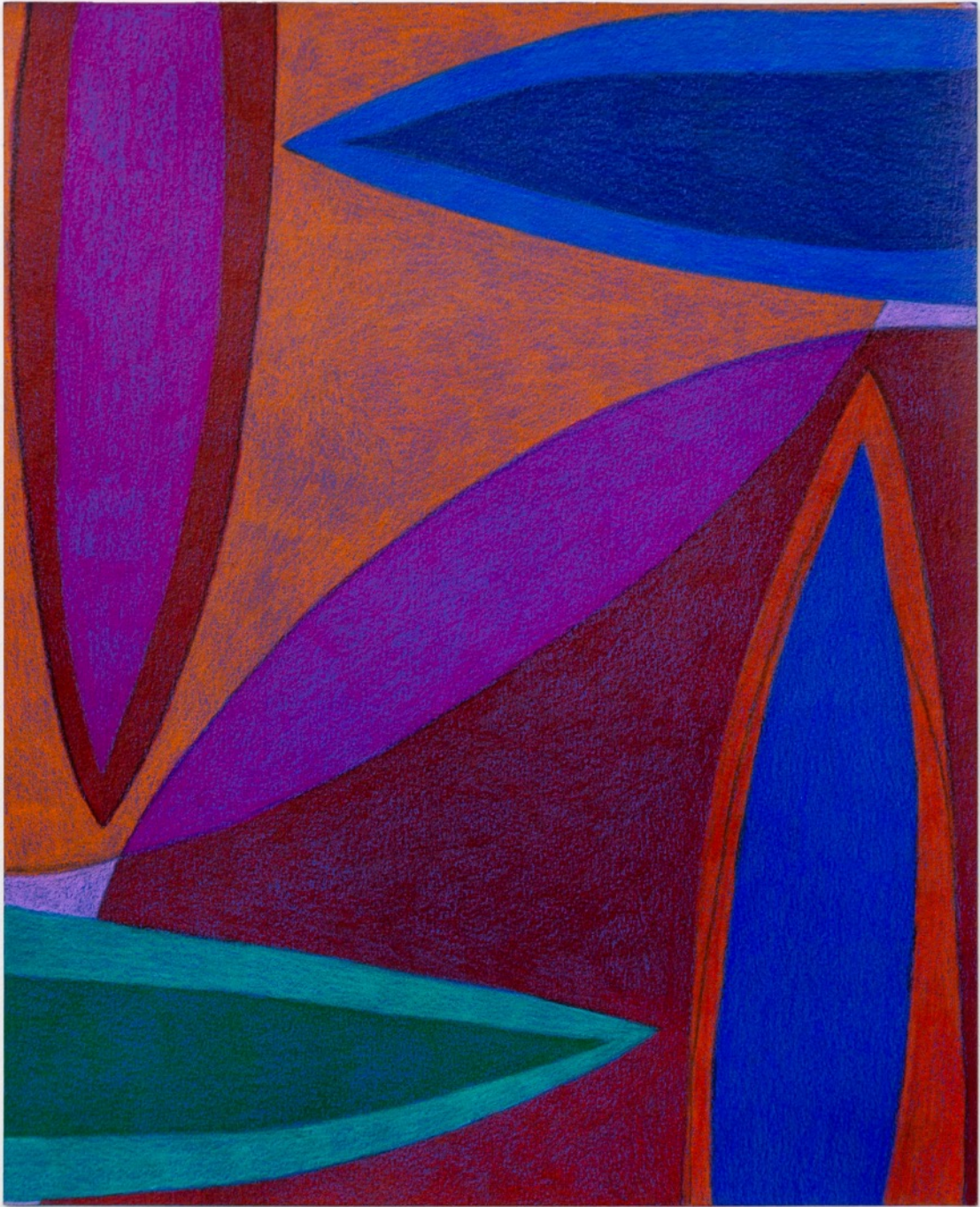






Nora Maité Nieves  
The Lake, 2021-2022  
Color pencil on paper  
48.3 x 35.6 cm (19 x 14 in)  
NN2022E06.05





Nora Maité Nieves  
Gravity, 2022  
Color pencil on paper  
24.1 x 22.9 cm (9 1/2 x 9 in)  
NN2022E06.07



Nora Maité Nieves  
Génesis, 2022  
Color pencil on paper  
30.5 x 22.9 cm (12 x 9 in)  
NN2022E06.08























Nora Maité Nieves (b. 1980, Puerto Rico) is an interdisciplinary artist, whose works are abstracted visual motifs of architectural details. Exploring themes of identity and belonging—as well as the histories of places that we knowingly or unknowingly carry with us throughout our lives—Nieves comments on the sacredness and safety of a single place within a complicated and evolving environment.

Nora Maité Nieves (b. 1980 San Juan, Puerto Rico) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She received her MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2010, and her BFA from La Escuela de Artes Plásticas, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 2004. Recent solo exhibitions include: *Deep Blue Day, Pink Bright Night, Embajada Foyer*, Brooklyn, NY (2021); *Full Room in the Sun Room*, Fresh Window Gallery, Brooklyn, NY (2019); *Paisaje Lunar*, Flyweight Projects, Brooklyn, NY (2019); and *Tangible* at Hidrante, San Juan, PR (2018). Recent Two Person exhibitions: *Cuerpo, Espacio y Todo lo que Rodea*, Nora Maité Nieves and Yoan Sorin, Embajada, San Juan, PR (2021); *Electric Hue*, Proxycy Gallery, New York, NY (2021). Recent group exhibitions include: *Surfacing* at Ruiz-Healy Art, New York, NY curated by Carlos Rosales-Silva (2021); *Contact Light* at Survey Survey, New York, NY (2021); [...] *JENTREFORMAS*, at El Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR, curated by Abdiel Segarra (2021); *Rubus Armeniacus (Himalayan Blackberry)* at Jessica's Apartment Gallery, New York, NY, curated by Jessica Kwok (2019); *Nada Tropical*, Miscelanea Gallery, Barcelona, Spain, curated by Ricardo Cabret and Maximilian Juliá (2019); *Small Objects* at La Salita, New York, NY, curated by Paz Monge (2019); *Repatriation* at El Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico, San Juan, PR, curated by Bianca Ortiz (2019); and *EDDYS Room* at Galleri Thomassen, Gothenburg, Sweden, curated by Austin Eddy (2018).

# J A S O N H A A M

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