

# KADIST

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Media Contact:

Julie Richter | [julie@julierichter.co](mailto:julie@julierichter.co) | 480.818.8022

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**KADIST San Francisco presents**  
***de montañas submarinas el fuego hace islas [from***  
***the underwater mountains fire makes islands]***  
**guest curated by Yina Jiménez Suriel**

**October 13, 2023 - February 17, 2024**

**Rotation 1: October 13-November 11, 2023**

Jonas Van & Juno B, Jes Fan, Duto Hardono, archivo mangue, Dalissa Montes de Oca, Angela Su, Maria Taniguchi

**Rotation 2: November 15-December 21, 2023**

Cross Lypka, Madeline Jiménez Santil, Cathy Lu, Dalissa Montes de Oca, Karthik Pandian, Moe Satt, Angela Su

**Rotation 3: January 10-February 17, 2024**

Cross Lypka, Jes Fan, Duto Hardono, Cathy Lu, Rodney McMillian, Phi Phi Oanh

SAN FRANCISCO (August 1, 2023) — KADIST San Francisco presents ***de montañas submarinas el fuego hace islas [from the underwater mountains fire makes islands]*** by guest curator **Yina Jiménez Suriel, October 13, 2023 – February 17, 2024**. The exhibition explores the concept of freedom through sensory experiences, alternate and altered realities, and interspecies relationships between human and non-human. Featuring 12 local and international artists and collectives, the exhibition unfolds over three rotations, each with overlapping and new artworks, asking the question: how does art affect our bodies and perception and contribute to

and alter our future? Through constellations of artworks installed in constant movement, Dominican Republic-based guest curator Yina Jiménez Suriel investigates the idea of freedom inspired by the tools and knowledge from communities that have desired liberation from the Western imagination.

*de montañas submarinas el fuego hace islas* brings together artworks as “aesthetic tools” that demonstrate the key concepts of transmutation and escape and how these processes can be achieved through repetition. Several works explore transmutation as a process and the human desire to establish interspecies relationships with other living beings. Hong Kong artist **Angela Su** illustrates this gradual alteration of living beings' morphology and perceptual capabilities through acts of kinship. In her drawings, *Chimeric Antibodies 1* and *Chimeric Antibodies 3* (both 2011), oceanic creatures, humans, and machines converge and provoke the appearance of different forms of life-transcending categories. Brazilian artist duo **Juno B & Jonas Van** explore the figure of the Boitatá serpent of the Guaraní communities living between the current nation-states of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay, as the ancestor of trans and gender-disobedient bodies in their video *Kebranto* (2021), which calls forth the possibility of bodily and temporal transmutation. The encounter with Boitatá also evokes the idea of escape, moving away from what is deemed stable and the binary, hallmarks of Western thought, towards what Brazilian psychoanalyst Suely Rolnik calls the vital force.

Transmutation and escape are activated through the strategy of repetition, as illustrated in the performance work, *Variation & Improvisation for 'In Harmonia Progressio'* (2017) by Indonesia-based artist **Duto Hardono**. Focusing on sound loops as a metaphor to examine the human condition, the performance uses the human voice to transform language with the sound of the improvised compositions filling the space as a raw process of action and reaction, requiring the performers to be physically and cerebrally attuned to each other, resembling and expanding the primordial forms of human communication. Oakland-based duo **Lypka Cross's** trio of sculptures, such as *tombs and ignition* (2022), consider repetition through ceramic forms that began as sketches of symbols or glyphs to create variations of three-dimensional objects in clay. The duo is part of a new generation of Bay Area artists leading a revival of contemporary ceramic arts, reconciling with the forces of digitization and alienation in a technology-driven landscape. KADIST San Francisco director, Jo-ey Tang reflects on the exhibition:

“Yina Jiménez Suriel is one of the most vital curatorial voices emerging out of the Caribbean today. She brings her cross-cultural and global sensibility to KADIST San Francisco and she has conceived an innovative exhibition that redefines and expands audience engagement, amplified through programming in the Bay Area and as far reaching as Manila, the Philippines. The exhibition is exemplary of KADIST's mission in supporting artists and curators through our

signature residency program, infusing the San Francisco Bay Area art scene with international artists making their U.S. or West Coast debut, and addressing pressing social and political issues and cultivating arts ecologies on a global scale.”

*de montañas submarinas el fuego hace islas* considers the relationships between the process of emancipation, the perceptual system of the human species, the expansion of human subjectivities, and the creation of new imaginaries. To deepen the scholarly research, the exhibition is accompanied by a bilingual Spanish and English reader (published by Sming Sming Books with the support of The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of California, Berkeley). Released as three digital volumes which will launch alongside each artwork rotation, the reader will be available to download from [kadist.org](http://kadist.org) and will culminate in a printed reader which will launch at the final rotation. The reader features commission writing by neurobiologist **Andrea Gomez** (Assistant Professor, Department of Molecular & Cell Biology, Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute, University of California, Berkeley) and Brazilian artist, curator, and scholar **Ariana Nuala** (organizer at CARNI – Coletivo de Arte Negra e Indígena [Black and Indigenous Art Collective]) and translation of essays by Brazilian writer, journalist, philosopher, and Indigenous movement leader, **Ailton Krenak**; Brazilian psychoanalyst, arts and culture critic, and curator, **Suely Rolnik**; and a musical score by the late Filipino ethnomusicologist and composer **José Maceda**, and more.

The exhibition in San Francisco is the outcome of an ongoing research project *la historia de las montañas (the history of the mountains)* that Jiménez Suriel began in 2019 and follows its first iteration in partnership with Pivô, São Paulo, in 2021 and was supported by residencies at Pivô and KADIST San Francisco. An extension of *de montañas submarinas el fuego hace islas* will take place at Delfina Foundation, London in January 2024.

KADIST San Francisco (3295 20th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110) is open to the public Wednesday–Saturday, 12-5 pm, and is free to visit.

## **Public Programs**

Thursday, October 12, 2023, 6–8 pm

Opening reception with a performance by Duto Hardono, *Variation & Improvisation for 'In Harmonia Progressio'* (2017)

Thursday, October 19, 2023, 5 pm (this program takes place off-site)

Yina Jiménez Suriel in conversation with Natalia Brizuela, Professor of Film & Media and Spanish & Portuguese and Faculty Director and Chair, The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. Presented at and in collaboration with the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of California, Berkeley

Friday, February 2, 2024, 6–9 pm

Launch of the *de montañas submarinas el fuego hace islas* reader with sound performances  
In collaboration with Cone Shape Top and Sming Sming Books

Thursday, February 8, 2024 (this program takes place off-site, time to be announced)

Yina Jiménez Suriel in conversation with Andrea Gomez, Assistant Professor, Dept of Molecular & Cell Biology, Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute, University of California, Berkeley  
Presented at and in collaboration with the University of California, Berkeley's Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies

Wednesday, February 10, 2024, and available to view on KADIST.tv from February 19, 2024 (this program takes place off-site and online)

*de montañas submarinas el fuego hace islas*, screening program co-curated by Yina Jiménez Suriel and Arianna Mercado at MCAD Manila - Museum of Contemporary Art and Design, Manila

A bi-lingual reader, co-published with Sming Sming Books, with the support of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, University of California, Berkeley will be available in February 2024. It will also be released digitally in three parts alongside each exhibition rotation and available for download. With contributions by Dénètem Touam Bona, Félix Servio Ducoudray, Andrea Gomez, Yina Jiménez Suriel, Ailton Krenak, Marilia Lourerio, José Maceda, Ariana Nuala, Suely Rolnik, and Jo-ey Tang.

For updated programming and more information about the reader, please visit [kadist.org](http://kadist.org).

### About the curator

Yina Jiménez Suriel (b. 1994, La Vega, Dominican Republic. Lives and works in Santiago) is a curator and researcher and the TBA21–Academy The Current IV Curatorial Fellow, a three-year research project entitled *otras montañas, las que andan sueltas bajo el agua*. She is Adjunct Curator of the 14th Mercosul Biennial (2024), Associate Editor of the magazine Contemporary And (C&) for Latin America and the Caribbean. Her curatorial projects include *Vehículos. Una revisión* (2018) at Casa Quien (Dominican Republic); *one month after being known in that island* (2020) at the Kulturstiftung Basel H. Geiger (Switzerland) curated with the artist Pablo Guardiola and co-produced by Caribbean Art Initiative; and the first chapter of the research project *de montañas submarinas el fuego hace islas* (2022) at Pivô (Brazil) co-produced with KADIST. She was in residence at the Delfina Foundation, London (Summer 2022). She is part of the curatorial team for Opening at ArcoMadrid (2023-2024). She has contributed to various international art publications and artist catalogs.

### About the artists

#### **KADIST San Francisco**

3295 20th Street  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
+1 415 738 8668

#### **Gallery Hours**

Wednesday–Saturday, 12–5 pm

#### **Press Preview at KADIST San Francisco**

Wednesday, October 11, 2023, 10 am  
RSVP to: [julie@julierichter.co](mailto:julie@julierichter.co)

#### **Opening Reception**

Thursday, October 12, 2023, 6-8 pm  
[www.kadist.org](http://www.kadist.org)