

FRONTERIZX

ART BY M. JENEA SANCHEZ AND GABRIELA
MUNOZ WITH JENELLE ESPARZA

Jan 28 - Feb 28, 2026

Rec
ept
ion Jan 28
6-8pm

UTSA
Main Art
Gallery



Fronterizx: Art by M. Jenea Sanchez and Gabriela Muñoz with Jenelle Esparza

Curated by John-Michael Warner

About the works:

La Tapiz Fronteriza

Undertaken in 2009 in Agua Prieta, SON and Douglas, AZ, ***La Tapiz Fronteriza de la Virgen de Guadalupe*** is one of Fronterizx Collective's earliest collaborations. The piece is a public intervention and performance created with yucca plant fiber from the Agua Prieta/Douglas ecosystem and located on the US/MX borderline. It was installed directly in the U.S.-Mexico border fence as a gift to these two interconnected communities. The act of weaving the tapestry into the border fence that geographically and physically divided the body politic occurred on December 12, the annual day of observance of the Virgin of Guadalupe. The binational installation remained on the border fence for the days that followed where it biodegraded naturally.

Triptychs

The series ***Triptychs*** included in this installation began in 2014 as a series of individual large-format color photographs. Early in their work as visual artists, Sanchez and Muñoz photographed and rendered portraits of the DouglaPrieta Trabanan collaborators, including the women depicted here, from left to right: Trinidad Brasil Anguamea, Victoria Niebles, and Dulce Guadalupe Garcia (Lupita). Each of these three triptychs includes the portraits completed between 2014 and 2018, by Sanchez and Muñoz, and most significantly, the self-portraits created by each subject in 2021.

In their self-portraits, Trinidad, Victoria and Lupita, are in control of the viewer's gaze, powerfully owning their narrative with full agency over their depiction. These are women who manifest power through their ability to not only place themselves as central to discourse, but also as essential and non-exclusionary subjects. Exhibited here in groups of three, the works reflect on ideas of authorship, collaboration, the gaze, and artist/subject power dynamics. The pieces are grounded by relationship building and reciprocal learning developed in community over the course of seven years.

Caldo de Pollo

In ***Caldo de Pollo*** (2020), a twelve-minute video, the artists collaborate with the women of DouglaPrieta Trabanan to document the process of preparing chicken soup in a traditional, ancestral way. The work celebrates reacquired knowledge and draws on the idiom of chicken soup as medicine—food for both the body and the soul. In the video,

Sanchez and Muñoz are seen learning from Trinidad Brasil Anguamea and Higinia Arce, elders and members of DouglaPrieta Trabaja about raising animals, humanely butchering chickens, and carefully preparing a nourishing meal using vegetables and herbs. The collaboration foregrounds intergenerational teaching and learning, emphasizing ancestral recipes, responsible food practices, and the labor behind food sovereignty. Sanchez's and Muñoz's family, including their children, also participated in the process, helping reconnect a previously broken chain in the transmission of cultural and culinary knowledge, and reinforcing the importance of sustaining a healthy, informed relationship to food production.

Living Altar

Launched in 2023 with Ammi Robles, ***Living Altar*** is an ongoing series of collaborations where the brown body transforms into a site of embellished beauty and adornment. This work is a reclaiming of the femme body as a natural organism, part of the desert ecosystem. In the photographs installed in this gallery, brown flesh becomes a site of self-adoration, a realm of complete belonging, a haven of rest and protection, envisioning new forms of adaptation and thriving in the borderlands ecosystem.

Sinew

Created in collaboration with Jenelle Esparza in 2025-2026, ***Sinew*** is a collaborative piece, part of the *Living Altar* series, where Sanchez and Muñoz invite artists they deeply admire to collaborate and share authorship/artist copyright on new works exploring various forms of artmaking. The three artists first met virtually in July 2024 as recipients of the Latinx Fellowship. Having a shared affinity to explore human relationship to landscape, culture, bodily experiences and the borderlands ecosystem, the three collaborated long-distance, meeting virtually and mailing artistic materials between Arizona and Texas, culminating in the sculpture installed in this gallery. The piece is composed with found objects from San Antonio—rusted chain, machinery plate, workman protective eyeware, machine hook—and cast sculptural vestments, hand-stitched onto handmade paper formed with migrant's blue jeans, yucca and cholla plant fibers, taken from the Arizona/Sonora border.

Fronterizx: Art by M. Jenea Sanchez and Gabriela Muñoz with Jenelle Esparza

Curated by John-Michael Warner

Artist	Image	Artwork Title, Date, Medium, Dimensions, Credit Line
Gabriela Muñoz and M. Jenea Sanchez.		<p><i>La Tapiz Fronteriza de la Virgen de Guadalupe, 2009-2026</i> India ink and watercolor on handmade paper produced with migrant's blue jeans, yuca and cholla plant fibers taken from the lot adjacent to the border fence 8 feet x 7 feet Courtesy of the artists</p>
Gabriela Muñoz and M. Jenea Sanchez.		<p><i>La Tapiz Fronteriza de la Virgen de Guadalupe, 2009</i> video, 3:33 dimensions variable Courtesy of the artists</p>
Gabriela Muñoz and M. Jenea Sanchez.		<p><i>Caldo de Pollo, 2009</i> video, 12:23 dimensions variable Courtesy of the artists</p>
Triptych Works		

(installation image)



Trinidad Brasil Anguamea

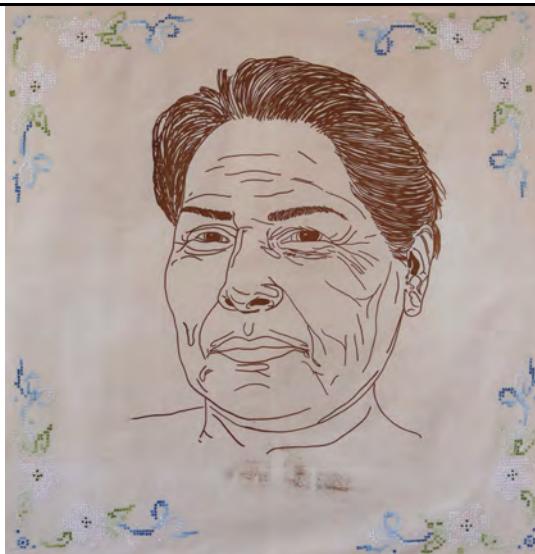


Triptych 1 - Doña Trini, 2016-2023
(M. Jenea Sanchez; Trinidad Brasil
Anguamea; Gabriela Muñoz)
45 x 30 inches; 45 x 30 inches; 35 x
33 1/2 inches
C-print on aluminum; c-print on
aluminum; breastmilk and earth on
cloth
Courtesy of the artists

M. Jenea Sanchez



Gabriela Muñoz



Victoria Niebles



M. Jenea Sanchez



Triptych 2 - Victoria, 2016-2026
(M. Jenea Sanchez; Victoria Niebles;
Gabriela Muñoz)
C-print on aluminum; c-print on
aluminum; breastmilk and earth on
cloth
30 x 45 inches, 45 x 30 inches, **35 x
33 1/2 inches**
Courtesy of the artists

Gabriela Muñoz



Dulce Guadalupe Garcia



M. Jenea Sanchez



Triptych 3 - Lupita, 2016-2026
(M. Jenea Sanchez; Dulce
Guadalupe Garcia; Gabriela Muñoz)
C-print on aluminum; c-print on
aluminum; ink on cloth
45 x 30 inches, 45 x 30 inches, 35 x
33 1/2 inches
Courtesy of the artists

Gabriela Muñoz



TRUE

Jenea's Self Portraits, *Nopal En La Sangre*

M. Jenea Sanchez



Self portrait 1, 2021
C-print
30 x 45
Courtesy of the artist



Self portrait 2, 2021
C-print
30 x 45 inches
Courtesy of the artist



Self portrait 5. 2021
C-print on aluminum
30 x 45 inches
Courtesy of the artist

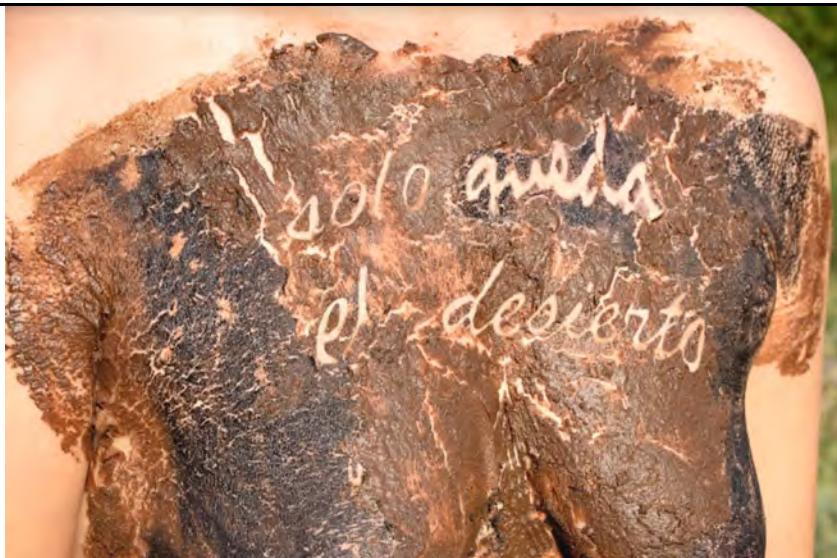


Self portrait 4. 2021
C-print
30 x 45 inches
Courtesy of the artist



Self Portrait 7 , 2021
C-print on aluminum
30 x 45 inches
Courtesy the artist

Gabriela Muñoz



Earth Tattoo 3, 2021
C-print on aluminum
30 x 45 inches
Courtesy the artist

Brownmilking a Future, 2021
C-print
30 x 45 inches
Courtesy of the artist



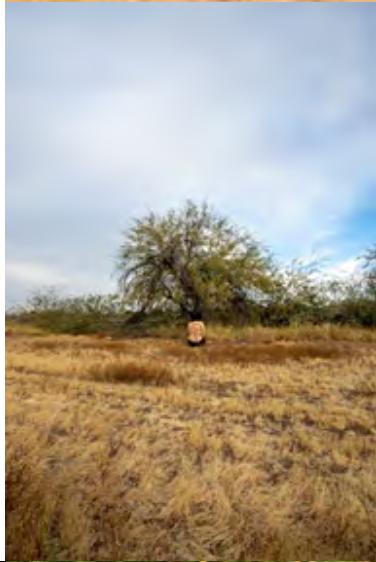
Brownmilking a Future - Self Portrait, 2023
C-print
45 x 30 inches
Courtesy of the artist

Gabriela Muñoz





Earth Tattoo - Dalila, 2021
C-print
30 x 45 inches
Courtesy of the artist

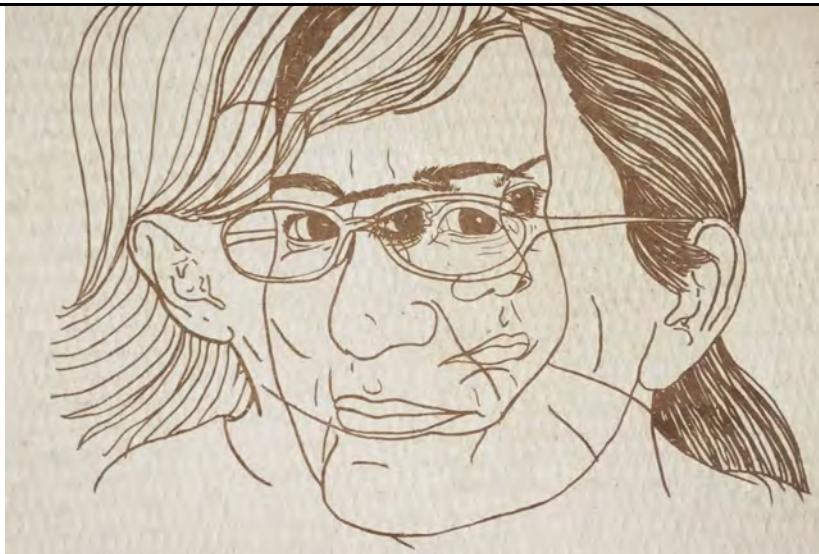


Earth Tattoo #2, 2021
C-print
45 x 30 inches
Courtesy of the artist



Earth Tattoo - Casandra, 2021
C-print on aluminum
30 x 45 inches
Courtesy the artist

Gabriela Muñoz



Earth Tattoo - Dalila & Uma, 2021
breastmilk and earth on handmade
paper produced with cholla and
saguaro plant fibers
20.5 inches x 28.5 inches (framed)
Courtesy of the artist

Ammi Robles' Self Portrait



Tierra para Flores Salvajes ,
2021
C-print on aluminum
45 x 30 inches
Courtesy the artist

Ammi Robles

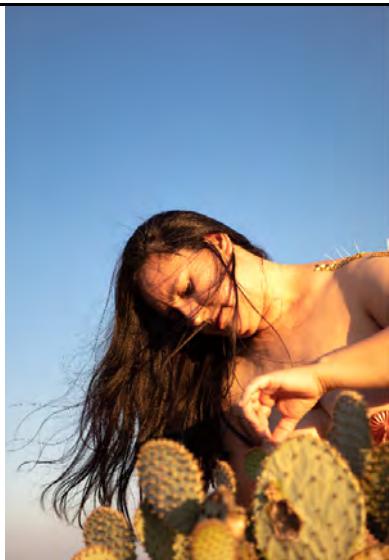
TRUE

Living Altar Photo Series



Ammi Robles, Gabriela
Muñoz and M. Jenea
Sanchez

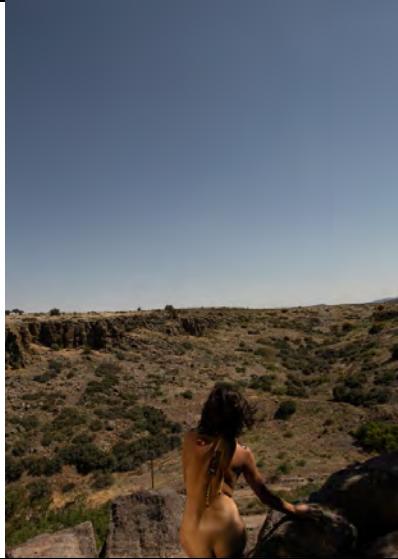
Living Altar 1 , 2023
Ammi Robles, Gabriela Muñoz and
M. Jenea Sanchez
C print
37 x 25 inches (framed)
Courtesy of the artists



Living Altar 2 , 2023
Ammi Robles, Gabriela Muñoz and
M. Jenea Sanchez
C print
37 x 25 inches (framed)
Courtesy of the artists



Living Altar 3 , 2023
Ammi Robles, Gabriela Muñoz and
M. Jenea Sanchez
C print
25 x 37 inches (framed)
Courtesy of the artists



Living Altar 4 , 2023
Ammi Robles, Gabriela Muñoz and
M. Jenea Sanchez
C print
28.5 x 20.5 inches (framed)
Courtesy of the artists



Living Altar 5 , 2023
Ammi Robles, Gabriela Muñoz and
M. Jenea Sanchez
C print
28.5 x 20.5 inches (framed)
Courtesy of the artists



Living Altar 6 , 2023
Ammi Robles, Gabriela Muñoz and
M. Jenea Sanchez
C print
20.5 inches x 28.5 inches (framed)
Courtesy of the artists



Living Altar 7 , 2023
Ammi Robles, Gabriela Muñoz and
M. Jenea Sanchez
C print
20.5 inches x 28.5 inches (framed)
Courtesy of the artists



Living Altar 8, 2023
Ammi Robles, Gabriela Muñoz and
M. Jenea Sanchez
C print
28.5 x 20.5 inches (framed)
Courtesy of the artists

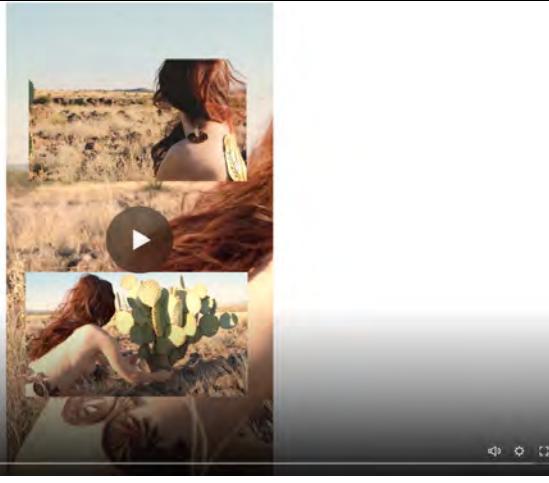


Living Altar 9, 2023
Ammi Robles, Gabriela Muñoz and
M. Jenea Sanchez
C print
28.5 x 20.5 inches (framed)
Courtesy of the artists



Living Altar 10, 2023
Ammi Robles, Gabriela Muñoz and
M. Jenea Sanchez
C prints
16 x 36 inches
Courtesy of the artists

Ammi Robles, Gabriela
Muñoz and M. Jenea
Sanchez



Living Altar 11, 2023
Ammi Robles, Gabriela Muñoz and
M. Jenea Sanchez
video, 3:50
Courtesy of the artists

Desert Vestments

Ammi Robles, Gabriela
Muñoz and M. Jenea
Sanchez



Desert Vestment 1, 2023
Nopal needles, breastmilk, acrylic
10.5 inches in diameter
Courtesy of the artists



Desert Vestment 2, 2023
Nopal needles, breastmilk, acrylic
7 x 9 inches
Courtesy of the artists



Desert Vestment 3, 2023
Nopal needles, breastmilk, earth,
acrylic
8 x 3.5 inches
Courtesy of the artists



Desert Vestment 4, 2023
Breastmilk, earth, acrylic
20 x 3 inches
Courtesy of the artists



Desert Vestment 5, 2023
Nopal needles, breastmilk, acrylic
6.5 x 4.5 inches
Courtesy of the artists



Desert Vestment 6 - 17, 2023
Nopal needles, breastmilk, earth,
acrylic
Dimensions variable
Courtesy of the artists



(4 glass domes packed for exhibition)

TRUE

Collaboration with Jenelle Esparza (collaboration in progress)

Jenelle Esparza, Gabriela
Muñoz and M. Jenea
Sanchez



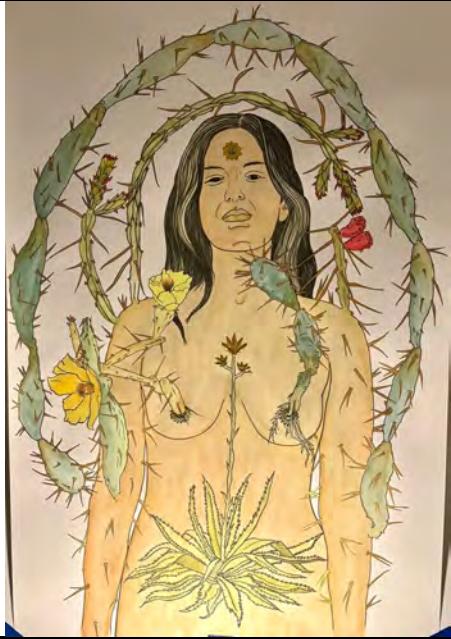
TBD, 2026
Jenelle Esparza, Gabriela Muñoz
and M. Jenea Sanchez
TBD

Courtesy of the artists

TRUE

new work in progress

Gabriela Muñoz



Untitled , 2025
Gabriela Muñoz
india ink, acrylic ink, water paints on
paper
39 x 26 inches
Courtesy of the artist

Living Altar Photo Series #2

Gabriela Muñoz and M.
Jenea Sanchez



Living Altar 2.1 , 2025
Gabriela Muñoz and M. Jenea
Sanchez
Archival inkjet
34 x 24 inches
Courtesy of the artists

Gabriela Muñoz and M.
Jenea Sanchez



Living Altar 2.2 , 2025
Gabriela Muñoz and M. Jenea
Sanchez
Archival inkjet
34 x 24 inches
Courtesy of the artists

Gabriela Muñoz and M.
Jenea Sanchez



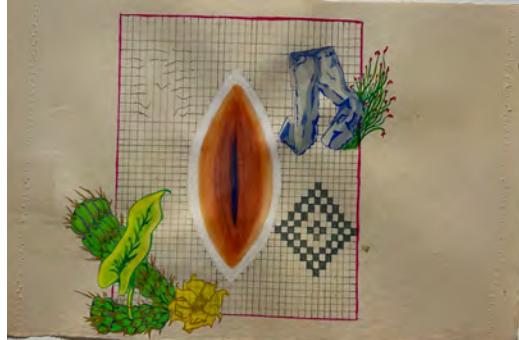
Desert Vestment 2.1 , 2025
Gabriela Muñoz and M. Jenea
Sanchez
Breastmilk, earth, acrylic
20 x 16 inches (framed)
Courtesy of the artists

Gabriela Muñoz and M.
Jenea Sanchez



Desert Vestment 2.2, 2025
Gabriela Muñoz and M. Jenea
Sanchez
Breastmink, earth, acrylic
20 x 16 inches (framed)
Courtesy of the artists

Jenelle Esparza, Gabriela
Muñoz, and M. Jenea
Sanchez



Untitled (painting 1), 2025-26,
gouache on handmade paper
produced with migrant's blue jeans,
yuca and cholla, plant fibers taken
from the lot adjacent to the border
fence.
11 x 17 inches (framed)
Courtesy of the artists

Jenelle Esparza, Gabriela
Muñoz, and M. Jenea
Sanchez



Untitled (painting 2), 2025-26,
gouache on handmade paper
produced with migrant's blue jeans,
yuca and cholla, plant fibers taken
from the lot adjacent to the border
fence.
11 x 17 inches (framed)
Courtesy of the artists

Jenelle Esparza, Gabriela
Muñoz, and M. Jenea
Sanchez



Untitled (painting 3), 2025-26,
gouache on handmade paper
produced with migrant's blue jeans,
yuca and cholla, plant fibers taken
from the lot adjacent to the border
fence.
11 x 17 inches (framed)
Courtesy of the artists

Jenelle Esparza, Gabriela Muñoz, and M. Jenea Sanchez



Untitled (painting 4), 2025-26, gouache on handmade paper produced with migrant's blue jeans, yuca and cholla, plant fibers taken from the lot adjacent to the border fence.
11 x 17 inches (framed)
Courtesy of the artists

Jenelle Esparza, Gabriela Muñoz, and M. Jenea Sanchez



Untitled (Sinew), 2026, handmade paper produced with migrant's blue jeans, yuca and cholla, plant fibers taken from the lot adjacent to the border fence, sewing thread, cotton rope, cotton yarn, rusted chain, machinery plate, workman protective eyewear, machine hook.
20 x 89 inches
Courtesy of the artist