

ARTWORKS  
NATALIA VILLANUEVA LINARES

Natalia Villanueva Linares is developing a body of work based on protocol, often participative and for the most part conceived in series. Through installation and performance, Natalia assembles materials into monumental volumes that adapt to the architecture and context of the host structure. Her materials are everyday objects (paper bags, tissue paper, strands of hair, spools of colour), which have been transformed by gestures such as cutting, folding and sewing. Carried out on an individual scale by herself or by performers, these gestures are specified by a meticulous process defined upstream.

The result of her magnetic affection for large collections of objects steeped in history, and her animistic relationship with certain materials, is a collective metamorphosis. With the complicity of each individual who takes part in her protocol - which then becomes a ritual in the space-time of the performance - Natalia creates spaces where the transformation and gathering of objects become places of distribution. Rich in metaphor, her works are part of a process of *working together* as an act that fulfils a social function.

*Dual* is a family of pieces that explore the transformation of effort, its potential, its scope and its symbolism, in a questioning related to the immensity of existence. The central instrument of this ensemble is a material charged with considerable delicacy, destined to lose its colors, fade and then disappear, which reveals a power in a moment of exchange with the other. The wrapping paper requires a gesture to strengthen it, it is thought of as a life time, a mathematical unit calculable by multiple formulas, a quantity of time that is counted by color.

The pieces of *Dual* are composed of several states of matter, defined by different approaches related to gestures - creasing, folding, stacking, sewing - that affect it. They are designed as self-contained, independent pieces. Each stage of transformation reveals sculpturality and elevates the object's intention. Individual or participatory performative actions, with a nomadic spirit, link the audience to the set of works and their multiple becoming.

Natalia Villanueva Linares



By crumpling paper we add milligrams of time, a life time. Our sensitivity unites us with a gesture to the matter. These palettes of gestures are color ranges made of time + colored tissue paper mixed with water from different sources: ocean, lake, rain, snow. Water allows the paper to be shaped into coloured bricks and adds to the palette of uniqueness, a place of origin.

Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Nova dual** <sup>Lima.1</sup>

2021 - 2024

54 coloured wrapping tissue bricks, 27 x 14 x 5 cm

Unique piece

Photography of the performance *Nova Dual* <sup>Lima.1</sup>, 51,5 x 91,5 cm

Edition of 5 + 2 AP

Film by Alan Poma, colour, mute, 04'56"

Edition of 5 + 2 AP, 2024

Performance *Nova Dual*, Wu Gallery, Forecourt of Centre Pompidou, Paris, France, 4 persons, 2021

Performance *Nova Dual* <sup>Lima.1</sup> in Redondo beach in Lima, Peru, 2024









**Dual Ice** Storm.2.1

2022

Installation

15 glass jars filled with melted snowballs colored and melted during a performance, variable dimensions

Unique pieces

Performance in Chicago, Illinois, USA, 2025







*Dual*<sup>11</sup> is a large patchwork composed of 147 units of hand-sewn paper in 2023, presented in the School of Art Gallery, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada. The performance *Lands of Dual*<sup>11.1</sup>, that followed this artwork and whence comes the architectural landscape *Lands of Dual*<sup>11.1</sup> has been the topic of a film by Sean Guezen. Another performance *Lands of Dual*<sup>11.2</sup> in the Heaven Gallery, Chicago has been filmed by Phil Aronson in 2024.

*Dual* is the name of a series of huge patchworks made of wrapping tissues, carefully hand-sewn. These patchworks are a multipliant and expansive quantity of gestures spread over time, calculated by colors, as temporal units.

*Palettes of Dual* are these large patchworks transformed into a set of colored paper bricks, during performative experiences lived alone or with several participants.

Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Palette of Dual**<sup>11.2</sup>

2023 - 2025

675 coloured wrapping tissue bricks, 89 x 130 cm

Unique piece

Performance *Lands of Dual*<sup>11.1</sup> in the School of Art Gallery, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada, 2023

Performance *Lands of Dual*<sup>11.2</sup> in the Heaven Gallery, Chicago, Illinois, USA, 2024



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Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Lands of Dual**<sup>11.2</sup>

2024

Documentary video, colour, sound, 7'39"

Edition of 5 + 2 AP

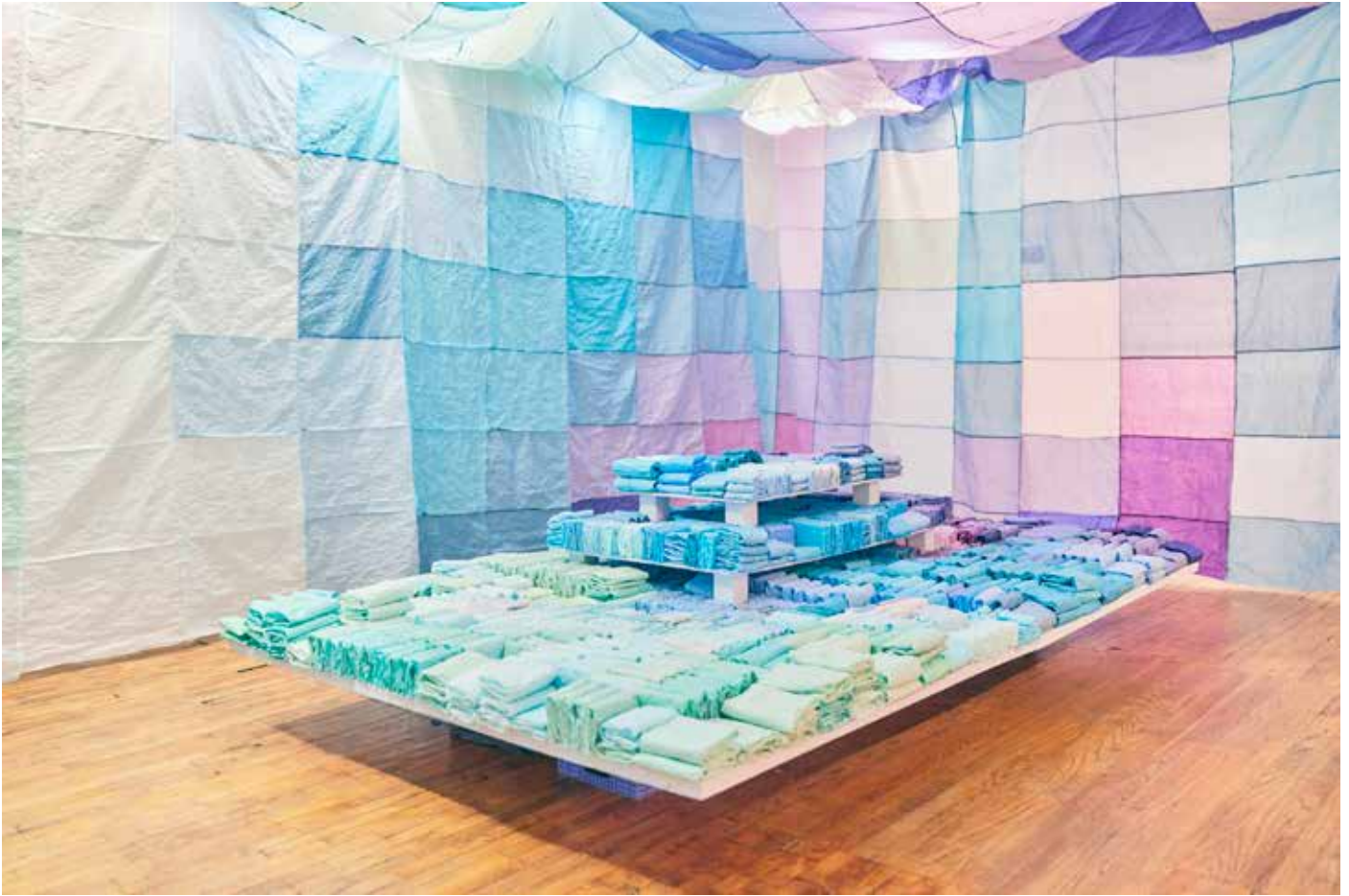
Film by Phil Aronson Edited by Derek Schleelein

Performance *Lands of Dual*<sup>11.1</sup> in the School of Art Gallery, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada, 2023

Performance *Lands of Dual*<sup>11.2</sup> in the Heaven Gallery, Chicago, Illinois, USA, 2024







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Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Lands of Dual**<sup>11.2</sup>

2024 - 2025

Architectural landscape made with hand fold wrapping tissue on a wooden structure, 3,5 x 1,8 x 1 m  
Unique piece

Performance *Lands of Dual*<sup>11.1</sup> in the School of Art Gallery, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada, 2023  
Performance *Lands of Dual*<sup>11.2</sup> in the Heaven Gallery, Chicago, Illinois, USA, 2024



*Lands of Dual* <sup>11.2</sup>, Dohyang Lee Gallery, Paris, France, 2025





*Dual*<sup>10</sup> is a large patchwork composed of hand-sewn paper presented in the DePaul Art Museum, Chicago. *Lands of Dual*<sup>10</sup> is the extension of *Dual*<sup>10</sup> in an architectural way.

*Dual* is the name of a series of huge patchworks made of wrapping tissues, carefully hand-sewn. These patchworks are a multipliant and expansive quantity of gestures spread over time, calculated by colors, as temporal units.

Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Dual**<sup>10</sup>

2023 - 2024

Patchwork of coloured hand sewn wrapping tissue, 10 x 15 m

Unique piece

**Lands of Dual**<sup>10</sup>

2023 - 2024

Architectural landscape made with hand fold wrapping tissue, variable dimensions

Unique piece

Presentation in the DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, Illinois, USA, 2023



**Palette of Dual <sup>6</sup>**

2020 - 2023

90 coloured wrapping tissue bricks, 30 x 51 cm

Unique piece

Photography of the performance *Poemáticas de Dual <sup>6</sup>*, 15,2 x 9,7 cm

Edition of 5 + 2 AP

Presentation in the Thaddhaeus Ropac Gallery, Pantin, France, 2020

Performance *Poemáticas de Dual <sup>6</sup>*, Fortuna, Chicago, Illinois, USA, 2020

Participative performance *Poemáticas de Dual <sup>6</sup>* in the Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, France, 2021

Transformation in gesture pallets in Loghaven, Knoxville, Tennessee, USA, 2023



*Dual* <sup>6</sup> is a large patchwork composed of 90 units of hand-sewn paper presented at the Thaddaeus Ropac Gallery in 2020. Then, the 90 units were cut during a participatory performance with 4 persons at the Cité des Arts Internationale in 2021. They have been transformed into sets of small paper bricks in 2023 in a residency in Longhaven, Tennessee.

*Dual* is the name of a series of huge patchworks made of wrapping tissues, carefully hand-sewn. These patchworks are a multipliant and expansive quantity of gestures spread over time, calculated by colors, as temporal units.

*Palettes of Dual* are these large patchworks transformed into a set of colored paper bricks, during performative experiences lived alone or with several participants.

Natalia Villanueva Linares



*Dual*<sup>6</sup> is a large patchwork composed of 90 units of hand-sewn paper presented at the Thaddaeus Ropac Gallery in 2020.

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Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Dual**<sup>6</sup>

2020

90 units patchwork of coloured hand sewn wrapping tissue, 8 x 5 m

Unique piece

Presentation in the Thaddaeus Ropac Gallery, Pantin, France, 2020

Performance *Poemáticas de Dual*<sup>6</sup>, Fortuna, Chicago, Illinois, USA, 2020

Participative performance *Poemáticas de Dual*<sup>6</sup> in the Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, France, 2021





*Dual*<sup>8</sup> is a large patchwork composed of 100 units of hand-sewn paper in 2022, presented in Paris during the *pARTages* exhibition organized by Artaïs Art Contemporain under the curatorship of Maya Sachweh and Sylvie Fontaine. The units were divided into 2 parts: one with 5 people, and a second with 4 other people. During a final performance, one by one, the units were placed in water to create a row of gestures.

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Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Palette of Dual <sup>8</sup>**

2022

100 coloured wrapping tissue bricks, 33 x 51 cm

Unique piece

Photography of the performance *Poemáticas de Dual*<sup>8</sup>, 11 x 15,2 cm

Edition of 5 + 2 AP

Presentation and performance *Poemáticas de Dual*<sup>8</sup> in the exhibition *pARTages*  
organised by Artaïs Art Contemporain, Paris, France, 2022







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*Dual* is the name of a series of huge patchworks made of wrapping tissues, carefully hand-sewn. These patchworks are a multipliant and expansive quantity of gestures spread over time, calculated by colors, as temporal units.

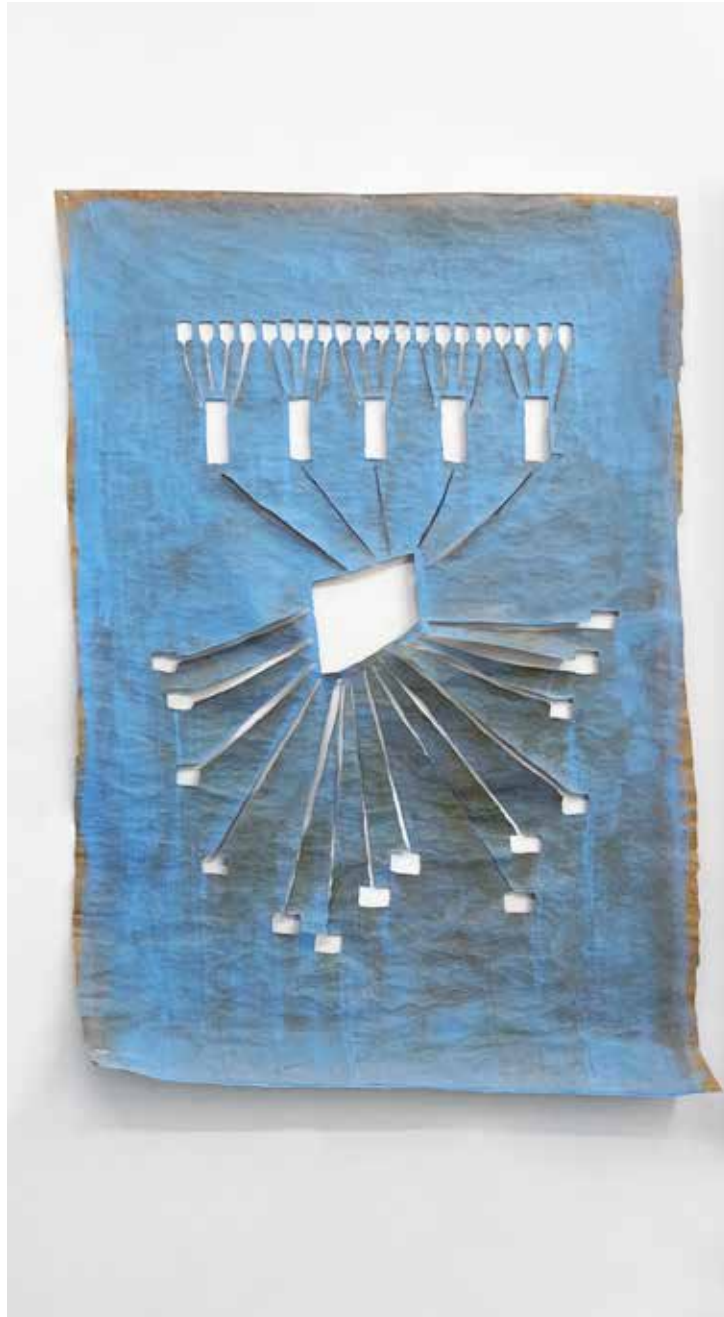
Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Dual<sup>8</sup>**

2022

100 units patchwork of coloured hand sewn wrapping tissue, 8 x 5 m  
Unique piece

Presentation and performance *Poemáticas de Dual<sup>8</sup>* in the exhibition *pARTages*  
organised by Artàis Art Contemporain, Paris, France, 2022



A system of symbols to compose performative gesture scores. These are illustrations that contain the power to be played as scores, individually or during participatory actions with many, to transform matter.

Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Poématique XL<sup>11</sup>**

2024

Kraft paper, acrylic paint, 122 x 82 cm

Unique piece





A system of symbols to compose performative gesture scores. These are illustrations that contain the power to be played as scores, individually or during participatory actions with many, to transform matter.

Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Poématique XL<sup>11.1</sup>**

2024

Kraft paper, acrylic paint, 122 x 66,5 cm  
Unique piece



A system of symbols to compose performative gesture scores. These are illustrations that contain the power to be played as scores, individually or during participatory actions with many, to transform matter.

Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Poématique XL<sup>8</sup>**

2024

Kraft paper, acrylic paint, 122 x 71,5 cm

Unique piece





A system of symbols to compose performative gesture scores. These are illustrations that contain the power to be played as scores, individually or during participatory actions with many, to transform matter.

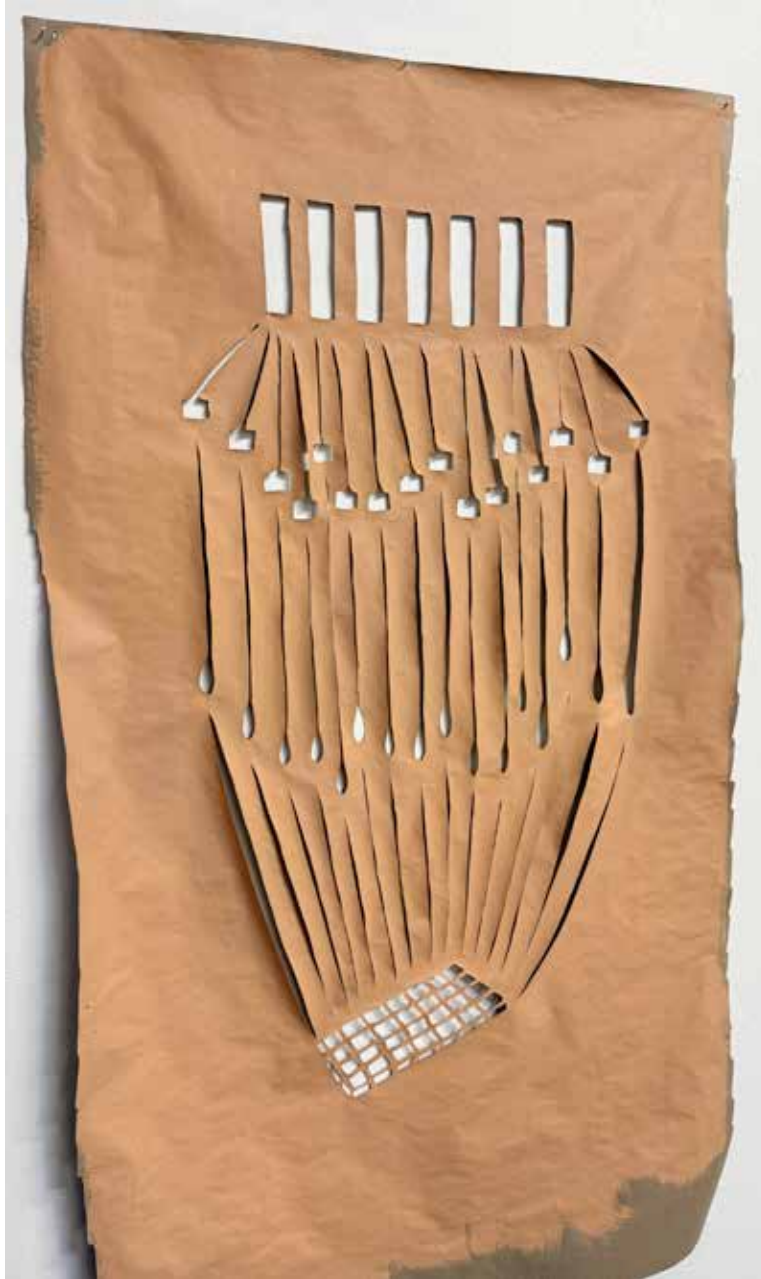
Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Poématique XL<sup>8.1</sup>**

2024

Kraft paper, acrylic paint, 122 x 66,5 cm

Unique piece



A system of symbols to compose performative gesture scores. These are illustrations that contain the power to be played as scores, individually or during participatory actions with many, to transform matter.

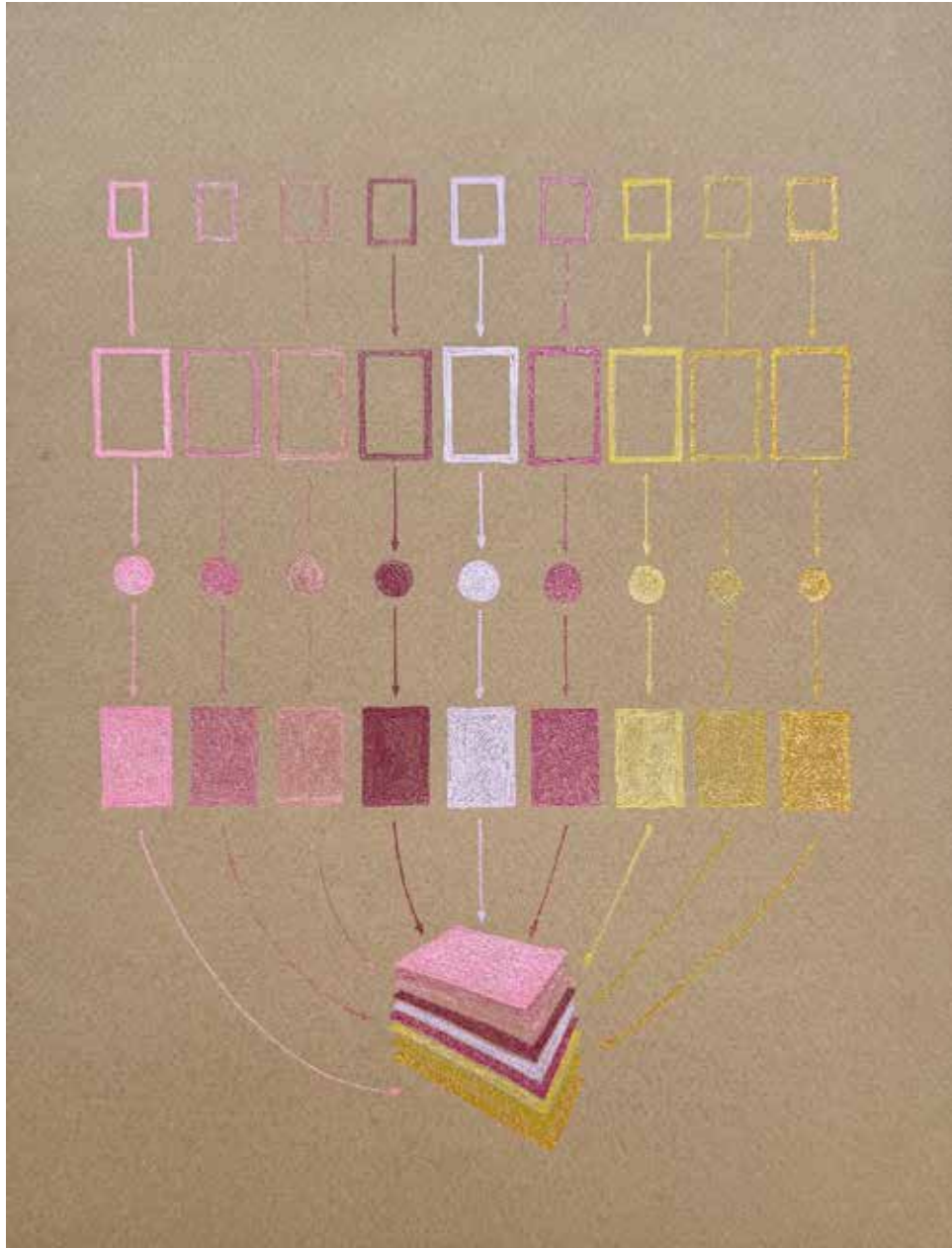
Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Poématique XL<sup>6</sup>**

2024

Kraft paper, acrylic paint, 109 x 67 cm

Unique piece



A system of symbols to compose performative gesture scores. These are illustrations that contain the power to be played as scores, individually or during participatory actions with many, to transform matter.

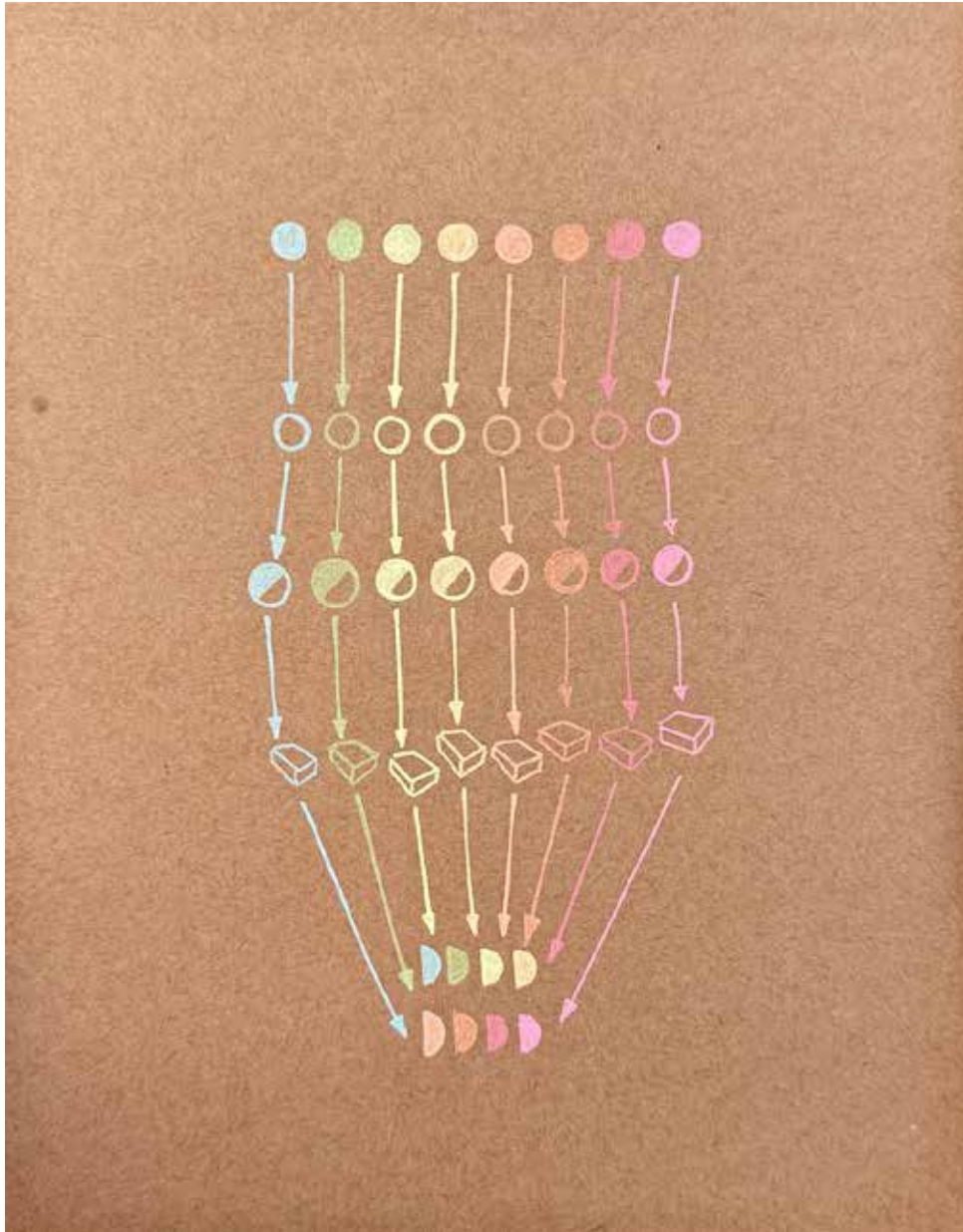
Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Poématique Nova Dual**

2021

Sand coloured paper, coloured metal ink, 28 x 21,5 cm

Unique piece



A system of symbols to compose performative gesture scores. These are illustrations that contain the power to be played as scores, individually or during participatory actions with many, to transform matter.

Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Poématique Dual ICE**

2021

Kraft paper, coloured metal ink, 26 x 20 cm

Unique piece





*Mina* is a material of silence, made from earth, rainwater and bells. The word means 'mine' in Spanish. This installation is in three parts, each revealing the ingredients for making small sacred bricks.

Part I: All the walls are covered with little bags containing a quantity of earth + a golden bell inside each one.

Part II: (coming soon) Small bags containing rainwater.

Part III: (coming soon) Small bricks made of earth with a bell hidden inside.

*Mina* is a transformation formula: 1 bag of earth + 2 bags of rain = 1 brick enveloping a small bell. The *Mina* bricks are protective envelopes of silence.

Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Mina (First part of a tri-party installation)**

2022, Chicago, Illinois, USA

Wooden table, 20 glass pots filled with earth, small bells, 480 earth bags, variable dimensions  
Unique pieces









This project is divided into three Acts of material distribution. Here's Act III: Hundreds of strands of hair delicately tied by hand with different coloured threads are placed on a golden silk cloth. Many cultures regard the gift of hair as a sign of love, while others believe that in the wrong hands, our locks of hair or other body parts can enable someone to do us harm. *Kill me honey* is a gesture of self-abandonment, by offering a lock of hair, a little piece of ourselves, we are offering the power over our own lives. This participatory play allows people who have already had their hearts broken to take part.

Natalia Villanueva Linares

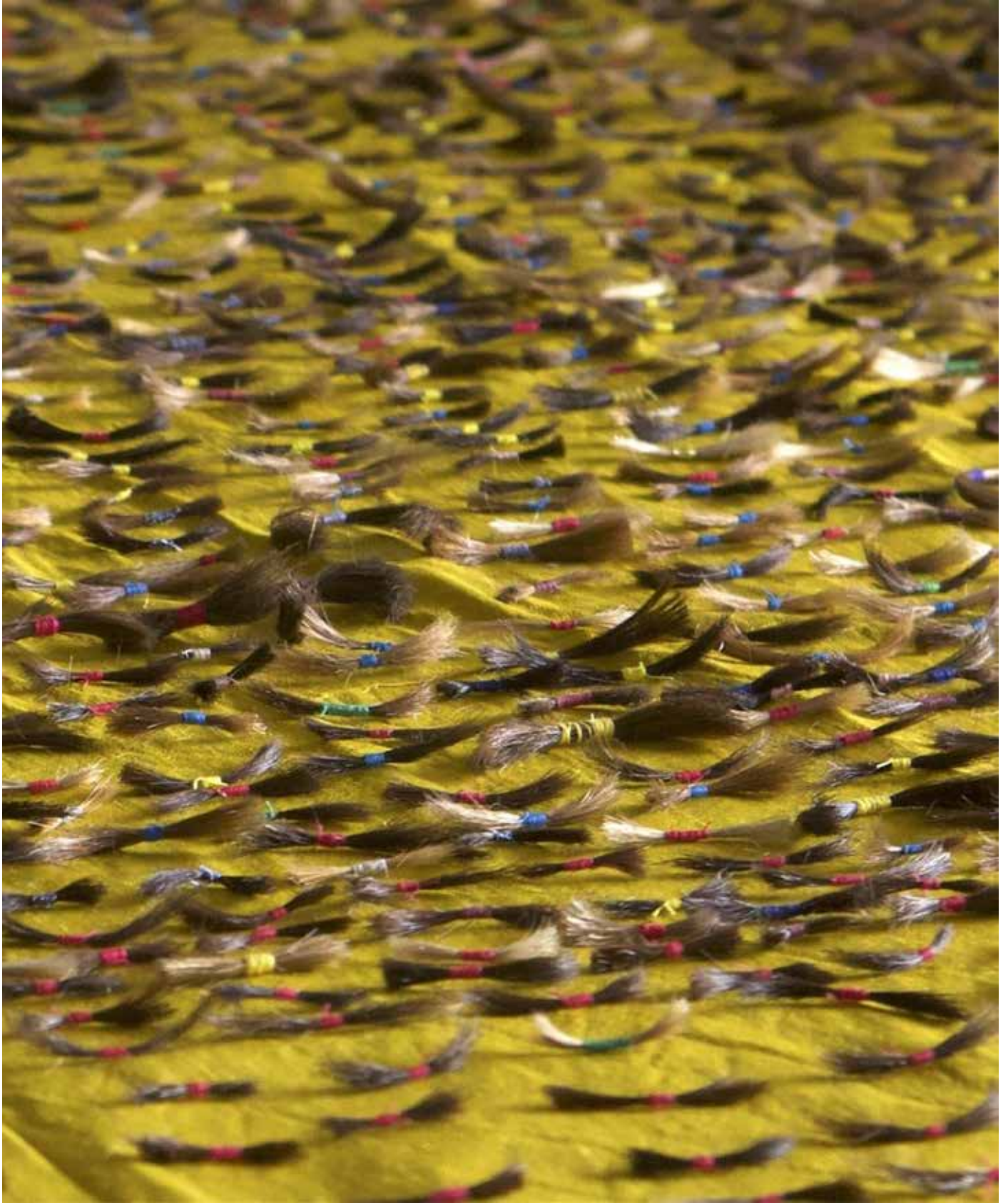
**Kill me honey, Act III - The composition**

2019, Lima, Peru

2000 hair strands (approximatively), golden silk fabric, 2,10 x 1,40 m

Unique piece









Newspapers and coloured threads 15 x 7 x 10 cm, each *Without you / Sans toi* is a system for counting the time we spend away from those we love.

Each brick is a day made from newspapers cut into the shape of a brick and then individually wrapped in coloured thread. Each brick is a day, a week is a collection of seven bricks tied together with gold thread. In the image, 77 days, wrapped in weeks, 11 weeks without you.

Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Without you**

2011 - Present, MdW Fair 2022, Chicago, Illinois, USA

Newspapers, coloured threads, variable dimensions

Unique pieces



*Desmedida* is made up of hundreds of second-hand clothing patterns collected over a two-year period in Illinois, USA. *Desmedida* grew day by day in the sacristy of the Collège des Bernardins during the month it took to make it. The whole piece was attached using only thousands of metal pins. The word *Desmedida* has two meanings in Spanish: excessive and immeasurable.

Natalia Villanueva Linares

**La Desmedida**

2018, Collège des Bernardins, Paris, France  
Worn clothes patterns, 7000 pins, 17 x 5 m  
Unique pieces











**Devota**

2015

Installation

12000 brown paper bags, variable dimensions

Unique pieces

Photo © Skyler Edwards

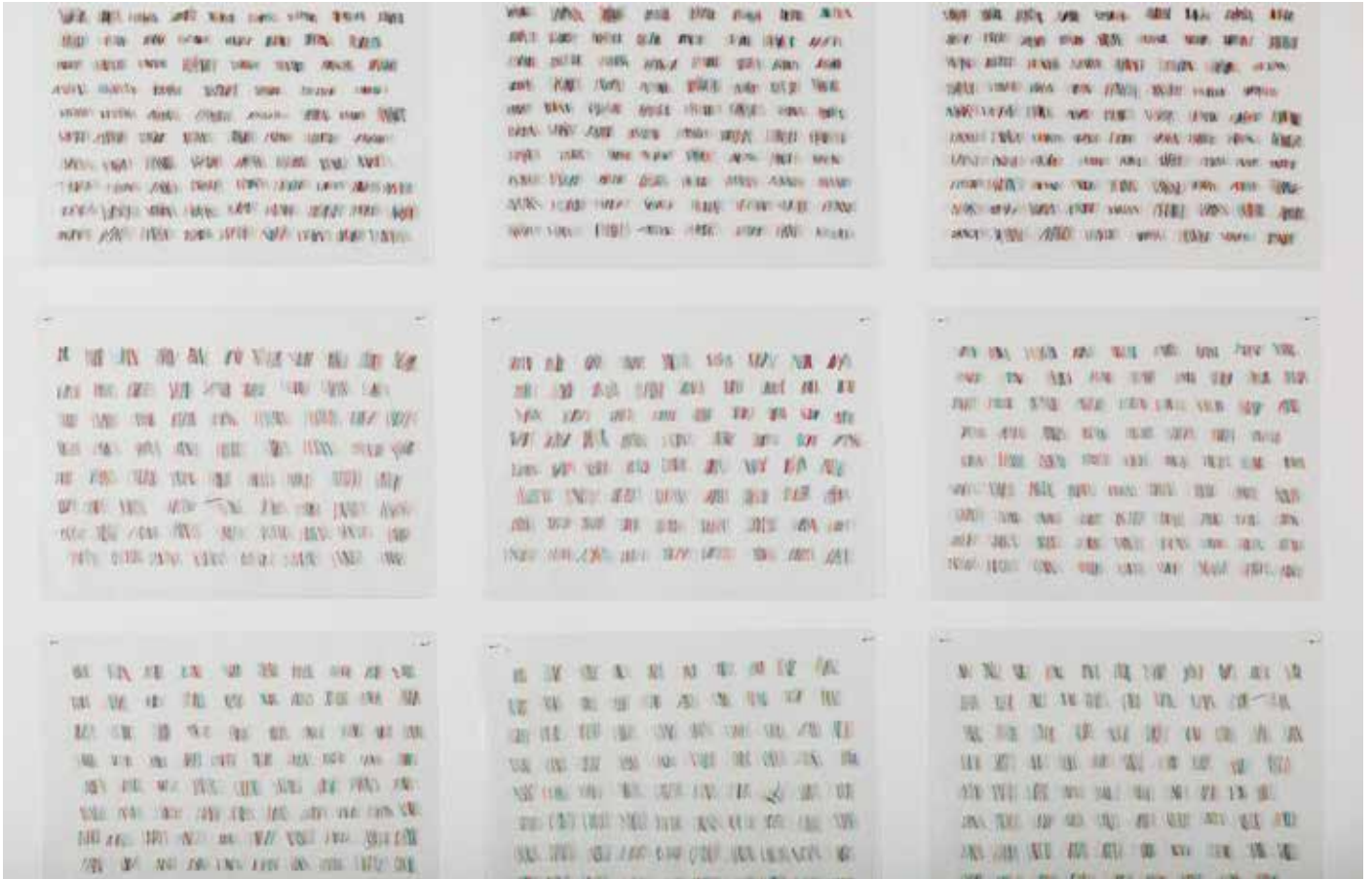


*Devota* is an installation with a feel for volume, a monumental artwork made with paper bags. The bags carry a giant structure that elevates their force, giving to their purpose a transcendental and almost mystical beauty. Its form depends on the place, it is presented to nourish the space with abundance. *Devota* means devoted in Spanish, the devotion is in the human effort required to build this structure, and the materials offering their strength to become a metaphor.

Natalia Villanueva Linares







The threads of 34 spools of different colors were together cut lock by lock until they are completely empty. 120 pages where objects offer themselves little by little, are transformed into pure writing so that we can read all their stories. The pinched ones are no more than 1 cm long as they were flattened under plastic and put vertically on the pages. The transparency of sheets allows to appreciate the manual cut of the threads. Front pages are enough loaded, then slowly thread after thread finish to occupy less space by page. The last thread is gilded. The lines written with the latter intensify again the room. *Sister n°0* is connected with *Colorial* by its material, the gesture of repetitive work and the cycle, because it begins and finishes with the same intensity. The zero comes from 34 spools which remain empty and put on a small shelf, their presence deciphers the code which lives between these lines.

Natalia Villanueva Linares

# **Soeur n°0**

2014

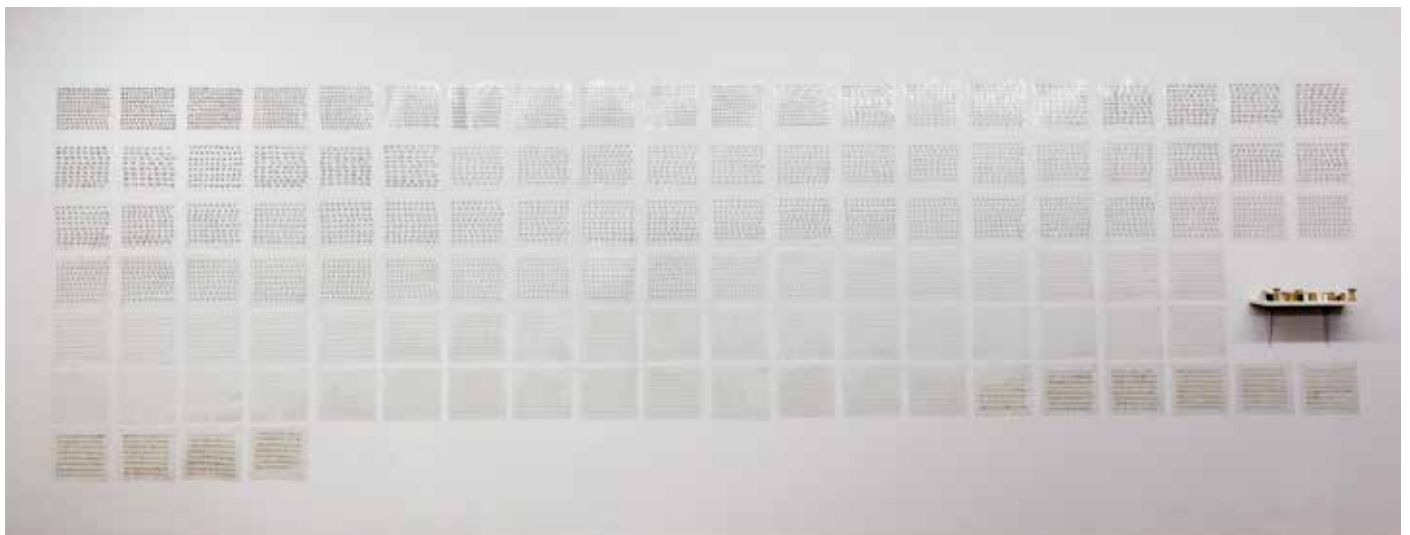
Installation

120 plastic sheets, threads from 34 spools, 200 x 700 cm

Unique pieces

Photo © Skyler Edwards







In a simple gesture, the spools of the great Colorial become the space and time of a sensitive mathematical formula. It is a color empire populated by hundreds of spools of colored threads made up of individually laden with history materials and their structure invades the surface where they are laid. The generosity and overall strength of the material is showened by the threads tension gesture.

Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Colorial**

2014

Installation

300 coloured thread spools, variable dimensions

Unique pieces

Photo © Skyler Edwards





The wall is covered by the meeting point of all the threads, which is plasticized in several copies. All the threads from the great *Colorial* shape a rope, cut into thin slices. The great number of copies refers to the massive production of unique gestures who results from an imperfect hand-mand cutting. The slices are individually plasticized and they have a circle or point 0 shape, symbol of begining. Every circle is called *Origin* and changes this installation into an endless cycle.

Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Origine**

2014

Installation

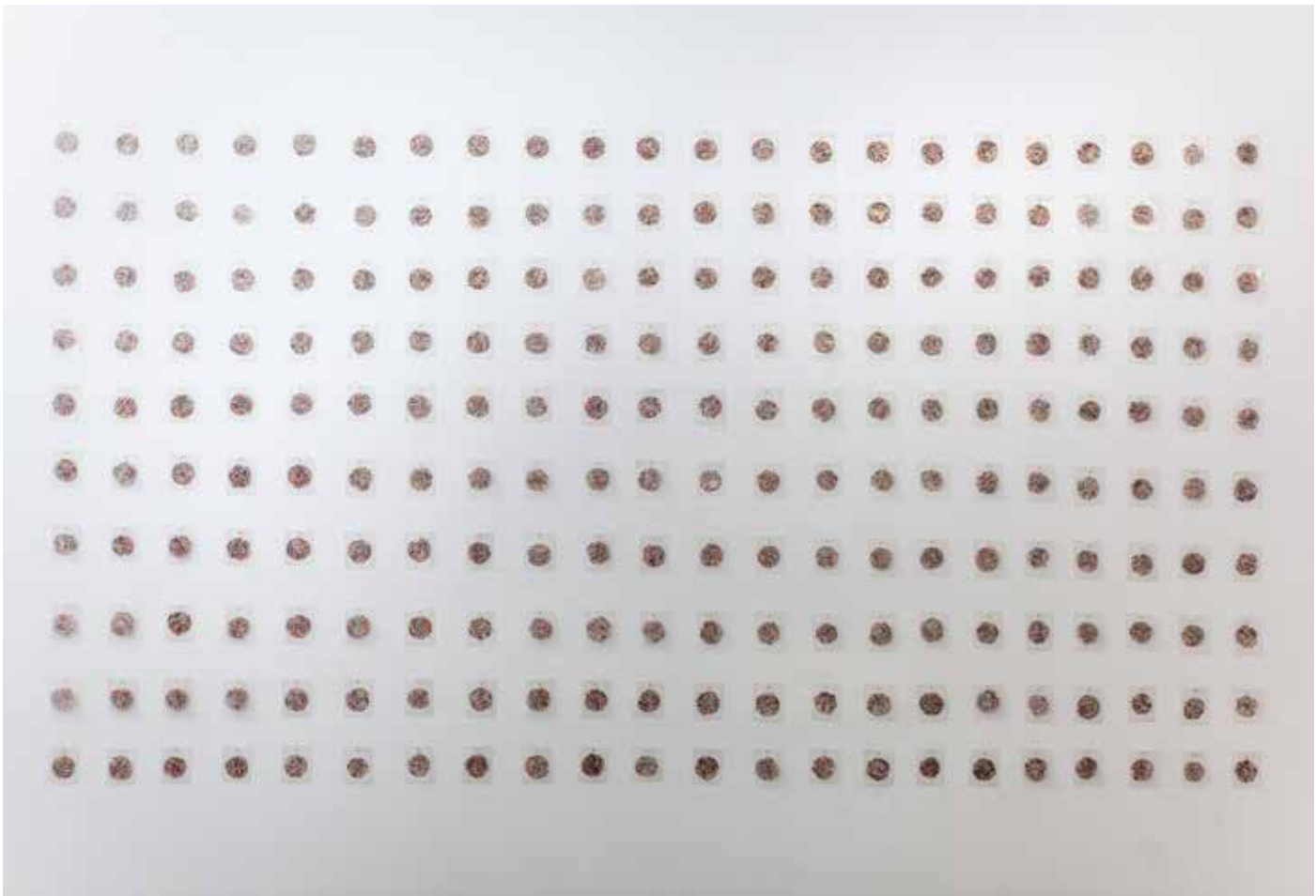
thread spools, plastified sheets, 106 x 200 cm ( 220 *Origine*, 5 x 4 cm each )

Unique pieces

Photo © Skyler Edwards









Each sister is a metal box of a different color and size. They are typical recipe boxes used in the Midwest of the United States and popular in the 1950s. The opened boxes are on an eye level shelf, each contains a quantity of used wooden thread spools. The threads of each come out from the box to meet at a singular point nailed to the wall thirty centimeters high from each box. This gesture allows to show the content of each, the most thin and colorful they have.

Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Soeurs 1- 10**

2014

Installation

Metal boxes, thread spools, variable dimensions

Unique pieces

Photo © Skyler J. Edwards









Views of the exhibition  
*Se multiplican llamativas, las hermanas agudas*,  
Museo de Artes San Marcos, Lima, Pérou, 2022





*Write spirit* is an installation issued from an performative action of healing. Thousands of sealeds envelopes are cut in half by hand, and filled with confetti. Forever apart from each other, they cover all the walls of the room. Alone, when approaching, we can discover they are filled with colours.

Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Write Spirit**

2013, Lima, Peru

13000 paper envelopes (16 x 8 cm each), confetti, 40 x 4 m

Unique pieces









34 spools of sewing thread in a metal box are united by an action that takes place outside the frame. An abundance of repetitive gestures pulls on the threads of colors to multiply them; followed by a sound that evokes a meticulous transformation of the whole. The film *Breathing* captures, wick by wick, the creation of the piece *Sister n°0*. It is a meeting between the generosity of the object, its history and the gaze of the passer-by. The action is vital to the future of the piece and reveals the symbolic nature of the materials that are offered little by little, transform into writing, hidden from view but with a strong sensitive evidence.

Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Breathing**

2013

16 : 9 HD video, colour, sound, 10'09"

Edition of 5 + 2 AP



**Oro puro**  
2012, Paris  
Door handle, 9 cm diameter  
Unique piece



A large number of small plastic bags on 16 glass shelves occupy the entire length of a 3 metre high wall. They are arranged in order according to the materials they contain. Nailed to the opposite wall is a photo of a bedroom (mine) that I've cut up into small pieces.

Natalia Villanueva Linares

**2D 1/2**

2010, Paris, France

16 shelves, 4200 plastic bags, lamp, chair, table, frame, book, 2 pillows, mattress, mirror, carpet, 400 x 300 x 10 cm

Photography, 13 x 11 cm

Unique pieces

Photo © Aurélien Mole







# SOULUTIONS



For several years now, I've been creating a library of gestures called *Soulutions*, a collection of objects/remains transformed during multiple nomadic performances. This process is developed through a series of presentations that bring together participants from different countries and cities. The library develops session by session, bringing a sense of transmission and uniqueness.

Each gesture shared has been extracted from my personal practice or performances, in which I prepare multiple solutions/potions to cure what is incurable to me, such as distance or time. The library is inspired by the beauty of these actions, with the intention of creating a mass production of unique gestures.

Over the last 10 years, this project has been developed in collaboration with photographic filmmakers (in Peru, France, the United States and Germany) to create an encyclopaedic collection of books, accompanied by films and other archives, which tell the story of performances and their remains.

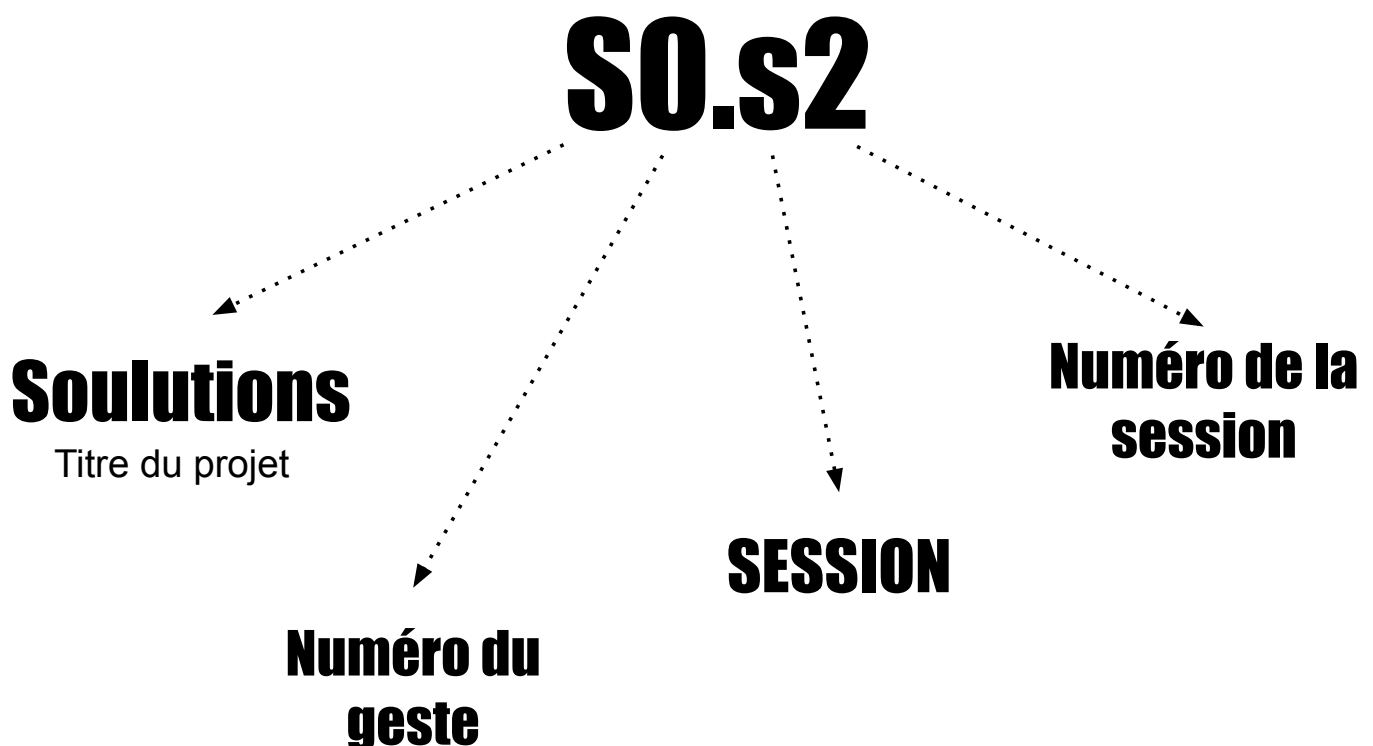
The performances bear witness to the generosity of the participants. They offer their time, a part of their lives, to share a moment with others. It's an experience that lifts our sense of humility and is a tribute to humanity.

*Soulutions, The library of gestures* is a means of creating and accumulating new knowledge through experience, an encounter between a person and an object, a sharing in communion with others.

This project leads me to examine, with the support of former participants and scientists observing the archives of this library, the notion of «made of many»/»faite par plusieurs» - experimenting with gestures as a common language - uniqueness, its origins and how it can leave an imprint on the history of art.

I'm not describing the *Soulutions* gestures, as it's important that participants and potential participants know as little as possible about these participatory actions.

Natalia Villanueva Linares





**Soulution V, session 5**

2023, DePaul Art Museum, Chicago, Illinois, USA  
Performance with coloured wrapping papers, 31 performers

Film Luz Moreno

Photo © Brittany Sowacke



**Soulution V, session 2**

2018, Collège des Bernardins, Paris, France  
Performance with coloured wrapping paper, 40 performers  
Film Coralie Maurin  
Photo © Laure Dany





**Soulution IV, session 3**

2017, SNAX00, Peoria, Illinois, USA

Performance, 9 performers

Film Steven Hinrichsen, Thomas Thomas

Photo © Skyler J. Edwards







**Soulution IV, session 2**

2016, SNAX00, Peoria, Illinois, USA

Performance, 8 performers

Film Tory Dahlhoff, Steven Hinrichsen

Photo © Skyler J. Edwards, Brett Rhoades



In the United States, paperback books are sold outside of traditional distribution channels; for example, a gas station or a pharmacy.

After being read, they are often offered or sold in thrift stores for pennies. Most are stories of sleazy content — they were forgotten or lost for decades. Pages yellowed by time give books an almost historical value.

Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Soulution II, session 3**

2015, Prairie Center of The Arts, Peoria, Illinois, USA

Performance, 30 performers

Film Tory Dahlhoff

Photo © Skyler J. Edwards







In the United States, paperback books are sold outside of traditional distribution channels; for example, a gas station or a pharmacy.

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Natalia Villanueva Linares

**Soulution II, session 2**

2014, Prairie Center of The Arts, Peoria, Illinois, USA

Performance, 40 performers

Film Tory Dahlhoff

Photo © Skyler J. Edwards