

## Press Release

# NULL

Curated by **William Contreras Alfonso & Linda Pongutá**

On view:

**October 5th - November 2nd, 2024**

**Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays 13:00 - 17:00**

Opening Reception:

**October 5, 11:00**

Location:

**Downtown Bogotá: Carrera 13a #22-54**

Featuring work by:

**Alejandro Salcedo - Ana María Montenegro - María Leguizamo - Matilde Guerrero - William Contreras Alfonso - Néstor Marcelo Gutiérrez - Juan Carlos Delgado - Luisa Roa - Maria Clara Figueroa - Pedro Aparicio - Linda Pongutá - Sebastián Mira - Wilmer Rodriguez**

In the center of the Colombian capital, a building that was previously a symbol of progress and prosperity is now abandoned. It was built to host the offices of the state telecommunications company, TELECOM, and its modern infrastructure was once admired as a promise of a brighter future for the country. Now the building is empty, its facilities are a shameful monument to the mismanagement of our nation's money. The company went bankrupt in 2003 due to government corruption. The TELECOM building is a symbol of Bogotá's downtown economic difficulties, usually masked by gentrification projects.

Our project summons 13 artists to take over three floors of the abandoned building. Working there, each artist will intervene the edifice with the elements that are already in place and formulate an artistic reflection. Working in various techniques, the collective is unified by their approaches to the same subject: modern human interconnectivity.

The title of the exhibition, "Null", comes from a term used in telecommunications meaning a misspoint, a false data input or a programming mistake. This project tries to reevaluate mistakes and system errors as a starting point for brand new ideas and possibilities for the future, believing in people's connection as its key.

NULL was selected through apexart's Open Call. For more information and images visit <https://apexart.org/alfonso-ponguta.php> or contact [ash.hagerstrand@apexart.org](mailto:ash.hagerstrand@apexart.org).

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**Linda Pongutá and William Contreras Alfonso** live in Bogotá, interested in collective work, urban spaces and industrial ruins as a workspace. Their reflection on tactile thinking, spirituality and work ethics in art are the conceptual basis for their recent projects.

apexart's program supporters past and present include the Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation, the Kettering Family Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Buhl Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Spencer Brownstone, the Kenneth A. Cowin Foundation, Epstein Teicher Philanthropies, The Greenwich Collection Ltd., William Talbott Hillman Foundation/Affirmation Arts Fund, the Fifth Floor Foundation, The Puffin Foundation, the Trust for Mutual Understanding, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, public funds from Creative Engagement, supported by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and administered by LMCC, funds from NYSCA Electronic Media/Film in Partnership with Wave Farm: Media Arts Assistance Fund, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, as well as the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the New York State Legislature.

## apexart - Bogotá, Colombia



Bird skeletons found at TELECOM - William Contreras Alfonso

#NULL

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