

IN MEMORY OF A

TOTEM

AS
YOU ENTER THE
EXHIBITION, YOU ARE
ENGULFED BY COLOUR, SMELL,
AND SOUND. OVERLAPPING VOICES,
BODIES AT WORK, WOMEN HOLDING
SPACE TO MAKE THIS ONE MARKET. WHAT
UNFOLDS IS NOT A PERFORMANCE OF
ANDEAN MEMORY, BUT ITS LIVED PRESENCE.

In Memory of a Totem approaches memory as an active condition, sustained through repetition and care. Here, the totem is not treated as a monument or an artifact, but as a living marker of identity that gathers stories, ancestral knowledge, and responsibility as it moves across time.

Born in Germany to Peruvian and Chilean parents, Jumu's work emerges from a life lived between cultures, cities, and ancestral lineages. Her ongoing travels to Peru, Chile, and Mexico inform her research grounded in the heritage of the Abya Yala, while remaining situated within contemporary urban life. Moving fluidly across mediums of painting, muralism, embroidery, sculpture, performance and design, Jumu constructs an archive that resists fixation. It is carried through gesture, material, and the body, as an ongoing process of reconciliation with a multicultural identity that is continually reassembled.

This archive draws from the Andean cosmovision, where the past, present, and future coexist instead of unfolding sequentially. Time is held as cyclical and relational through the symbolism of the condor, puma, and snake as sacred beings. Ancestral motifs, colours, and patterns emerge from oral traditions and are woven into contemporary forms, dissolving boundaries between land and body, inheritance and the present. Jaguars, owls, and crocodiles recur across paintings, masks, and wooden sculptures to assert continuity rather than nostalgia.

Within this framework, the body becomes the primary site of transmission. Bodies appear in intimate portrayals of women at rest and at work. Their physicality resists idealisation, asserting presence through labor, intimacy, and care. Resistance here is quiet and carried through everyday gestures. Indigeneity is not symbolic, but is lived and negotiated daily within the city.

Across mediums, Jumu's practice chronicles lived experience not to stabilise it as memory, but to keep it in circulation. Works produced between 2021 and 2026 become mementos suspended in time, breaking open systems of belief rooted in community. The totem surfaces and exists as an ongoing practice of holding memory, carrying it forward and passing it on. In this exhibition, remembrance becomes a condition of survival.

Team XXL

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