



Ningún lugar a donde ir (Nowhere to go): An artistic project on the 40th anniversary of the Armero tragedy

- *The Luis Caballero Award acknowledges outstanding careers in Colombian art and promotes the creation of large-format projects. In its thirteenth edition, Azul and Lindy Márquez present a proposal that combines research, community participation, and spatial sensitivity.*

Bogotá, November 3, 2025. From November 13, 2025, to January 11, 2026, the artistic project ***Ningún lugar a donde ir (Nowhere to go)*** by the artists Azul and Lindy Márquez, nominated for the XIII Luis Caballero Award —the most prestigious award for contemporary art in Colombia—, will be exhibited at Idartes's Santa Fe Gallery. On the basis of memory and sensitivity, this audiovisual and installation project revisits the Armero tragedy, which occurred 40 years ago.

The play, which will premiere on November 13 – the symbolic date of the catastrophe – proposes an intimate journey between memory and hope. Through images, sounds, and poetic gestures, the creators seek to pay tribute to over 500 children who are still remembered and have been searched by their families since 1985. In a metaphoric fashion, the project revives those who live in the collective memory, in order to transform pain into an act of faith and reunion.

“We look at the images from our family past, that little by little have mixed with news cutouts of images of Colombia, despite their blur, wrinkles and erasures, tellingly describe that there was *no place to go*. It is not possible to go backwards or to move forward, to hide or to escape; there is only the acknowledgment of a tragedy that erased part of Colombia and its inhabitants in 1985, due to the eruption of the Nevado del Ruiz volcano, and which now, forty years later, still hurts our gaze, our body, and existence itself. For us, it is not like everything has passed: instead, this tragedy is always present, it is part of the DNA of Colombia and of our own DNA. Therefore, we all are part of that history, which has been buried again, not by mud but by oblivion, as time has gone by” the artists explain.

No place to go is made up of three parts:

- **Niños (*Children*)**, a video essay that mixes family archives with news records to reflect on identity and memory.
- **Llamados de infinitud (*Calls of infinity*)**, a video installation with a water mirror and choral singing recalling the names of the missing children.
- **Fe (*Faith*)**, a large-format video creation that symbolizes the transformation of loss into a new beginning, represented by a horizon of cotton flowers.

More than a historical document, the project moves away from a testimony approach and, instead, focuses on the human and poetic dimensions of the tragedy.

“While we were born, many lost their lives; while we had a name, many bodies were left unidentified; While our parents held us in their arms, many had to let go of their loved ones because they were unable to either rescue or find them”.

This proposal includes talks and guided tours that will bring the audience closer to the creative and conceptual process of the work.

About the artists

Azul and Lindy Márquez are twin sisters. They have carried out exhibitions such as *Después del universo (After the universe)* (2021), at La Balsa Arte, Medellín; *Autobiografía del universo (Autobiography of the universe)*, U Room Contemporary Art, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Medellín Campus (Mid-career artist creation grant, Incentives for art and culture, Secretariat of City Culture, Municipality of Medellín, 2019); *Universo (Universe)* (2015), Timebag, The Blue House, Medellín; *Cubo X2 (Cube X2)* (2014), Casa Tres Patios, Medellín; *Reflejada (Reflected)* (2011), Cultural Center, School of Arts, Universidad de Antioquia, Medellín. They have also taken part in the following collective exhibitions: *Después. Nada volverá a ser como antes (Afterwards. Nothing will be like it was before)* (2022), Arte Cámara - ARTBO, Corferias, Bogotá; *Futuro Perfecto (Perfect Future)* (2021), Museo de Antioquia, Medellín; *El camino más largo (The longest path)* (2021), Museo de Arte Moderno de Medellín, Medellín; *Con esta boca en este mundo (With this mouth in this world)* (2020), LOKKUS Arte Contemporáneo, Medellín; *Proyecto Z (Project Z)* (2019), La Balsa Arte, Medellín; *PROYECTOR 2015 (PROJECTOR 2015)* (2015), Espacio Labruc, Madrid; *IVAHM Festival* (2015), Centro de Artes de Vanguardia La Neomudéjar, Madrid.

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