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Featuring Article - "Ecos de Borikén"

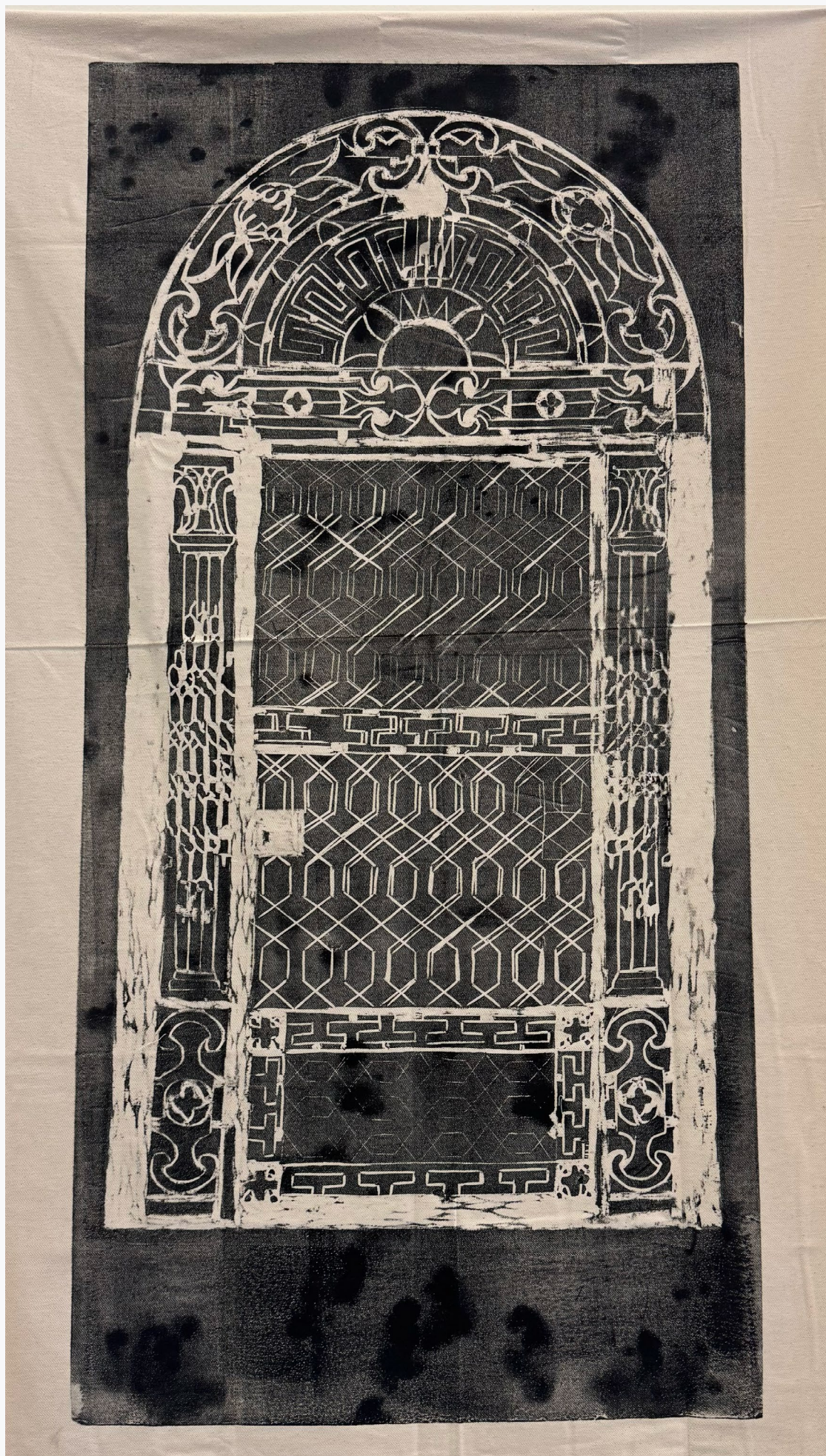
Semilla Magazine



"Ecos de Borikén"
The first Solo Exhibit by:
Andy Álvarez

Martínez & Aponte Publishing LLC

September 2025



Ecos de Borikén

Andy Álvarez



The echo of an island never disappears. Even when distance intervenes, Puerto Rico remains alive in the memory and heart of those who carry it within. On Saturday, September 6, 2025, that echo reached the Leeland Cultural Arts Center in North Carolina, where Puerto Rican artist Andy Álvarez inaugurated her first solo exhibition: Ecos de Borikén.



The Artist and her Practice

Andy Álvarez is a young multidisciplinary artist whose work focuses primarily on printmaking, lithography, screen printing, and relief printing techniques with wood and linoleum, while also venturing into photography, welding, sculpture, drawing, and pastel painting. A graduate of the University of North Carolina Wilmington with a Bachelor's degree in Studio Art, Álvarez has built a body of work deeply rooted in her Puerto Rican identity and heritage.

Her work moves between the natural beauty of the island and the urban chaos, exploring nostalgia, politics, collective memory, identity, and culture. Through images rich in symbolism, she invites the viewer into an intimate dialogue about memory and insularity.

The opening of Ecos de Borikén was a true success. From the very beginning, the Leeland Cultural Arts Center was filled with people of all ages—from babies in arms to older adults who paused to admire each piece.

The artist arrived dressed in the colors of the Puerto Rican flag: a white skirt, sky-blue blouse, and red boots, a visual declaration of pride and identity, crowned with a flower in her hair that evoked the strength, flora, and fauna of the Caribbean. The atmosphere was imbued with joy and a strong sense of community, accompanied by the hospitality of her family, who offered the traditional sandwichitos de mezcla on colorful bread, handmade merenguitos, typical sweets, sangria, and Puerto Rican coffee. As attendees sampled these flavors of Puerto Rico, they immersed themselves in a visual and aesthetic art that evoked the memories of the Island of Enchantment.

Opening Reception

Amid conversations, laughter, and expressions of awe, the audience enjoyed the exhibition with Puerto Rican music playing in the background, adding warmth to the evening. What most captured the audience's attention, however, was the wide range of media Álvarez commands: woodcuts, screen prints, lithographs, sculptures, textiles, and reliefs all shared space in a single journey, revealing the artist's creative restlessness, talent, and experimental versatility.

Visitors paused with curiosity—some pointing out the textures in the prints, others commenting with surprise on the incorporation of textiles and sculptural pieces alongside the works on paper. This technical diversity was perceived as a sign of maturity and courage in a young creator unafraid to explore different artistic languages.

More than one spectator remarked that each room seemed to hold a surprise: "This is not an exhibition that remains in a single style, but rather opens doors to different worlds." Others described the show as "a breath of fresh air in the artistic community." They highlighted that Álvarez's versatility does not fragment the exhibition but instead enriches it, since all her works are bound together by the same guiding thread: the cultural and emotional echo of Puerto Rico.

Ecos de Borikén

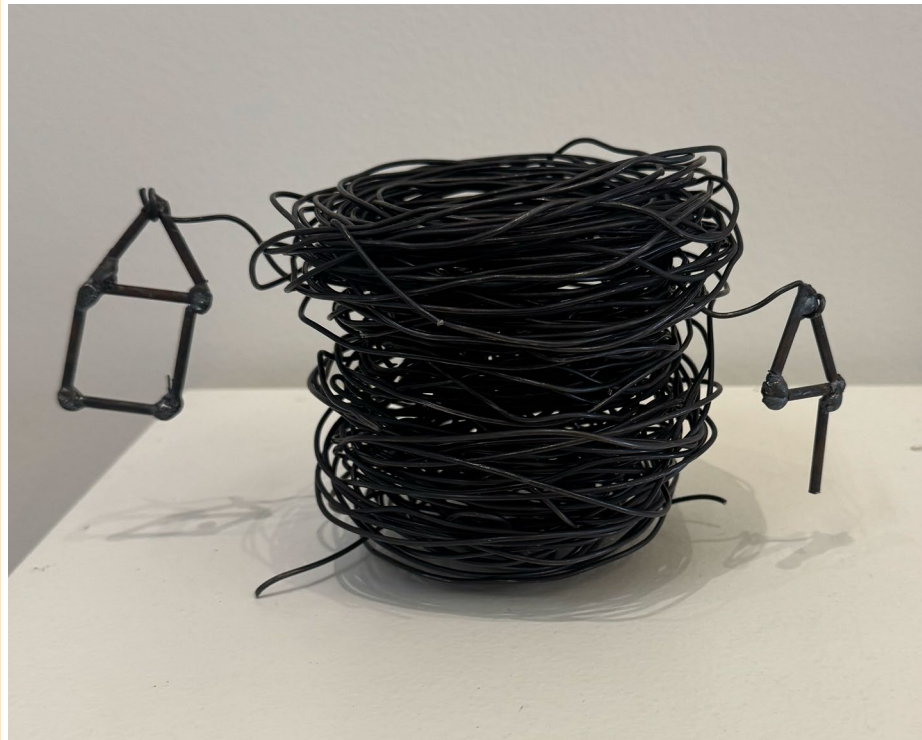
Photographers, watercolorists, gallery owners, and other local artists all agreed that Ecos de Borikén marked an important moment: not only because of the uniqueness of the proposal, but also because in every medium explored, Andy Álvarez projected the same force of identity that connects the personal with the collective.



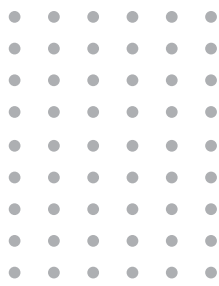
Andy Álvarez

Multidisciplinary Artist

Álvarez has already had the opportunity to exhibit in cultural institutions such as the Cameron Art Museum, Fried Fruit Gallery, ACME Art Studios, and the Greenville Museum of Art. However, this opening marked both a personal and collective milestone: her first solo exhibition, filling the space with pieces that resonate with identity.



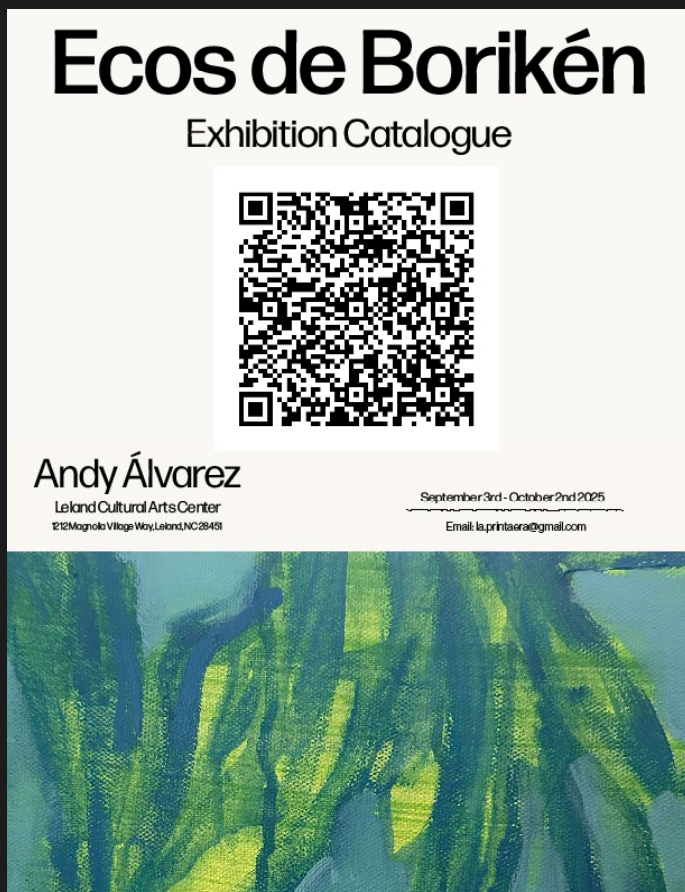
With Ecos de Borikén, Andy Álvarez not only affirms her place in the artistic landscape but also creates a bridge between Puerto Rico and North Carolina. Her work demonstrates that diaspora does not mean loss, but transformation, and that identity is an echo that travels with us, adapting, growing, and resonating.





Artist, Andy Álvarez

Exhibition Catalogue



Explore Andy Álvarez's work in greater depth through the digital catalogue of Ecos de Borikén. There you will find each piece accompanied by its techniques, descriptions, and reflections that enrich the experience of this first solo exhibition.

Access the catalogue here:

Catálogo Ecos de Borikén

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Ecos de Borikén 360°

An immersive experience of the Opening Reception

Click on the following YouTube link: [Ecos de Borikén](#)



This immersive experience has been designed in 360° format, accessible from any device through the YouTube application.

On a phone or tablet: move the device or swipe with your finger to explore the space. On a computer: use the mouse to navigate the exhibition.

If you have a VR headset, you can dive in completely, but it's not required.

Remember to set the YouTube quality to 2160s (4K) to enjoy the best visual experience.

Ecos de Borikén 360°

Artist: Andy Álvarez

Exhibition: Ecos de Borikén

Venue: Leeland Cultural Arts Center

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F e a t u r i n g A r t i c l e - E c o s d e B o r i k é n

¡Thank you for reading!

Guest Artist:
Andy Álvarez – First Solo
Exhibition

Exhibition:
Ecos de Borikén
Leeland Cultural Arts
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September 3 – October 2,
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