

EAST BAY EXPRESS

Bilongo Esmeralda (Let The Devil Take Style)

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In the dystopian future depicted by artist Sofía Córdova, the world is submerged in water and all its residents are displaced, lost and looking for some sense of home to grasp on to. In Córdova's newest work, an immersive installation at Pro Arts Gallery (150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland) entitled *Bilongo Esmeralda (Let the Devil Take Style)*, the local artist literally makes the viewer feel as if he or she is on a sci-fi boat, using massive sails that double as projector screens for Córdova's video work. Córdova is Puerto Rican and has been working on an ongoing series of videos that aims to reimagine the Caribbean diaspora and, more broadly, the immigrant experience in general. She also performs as one half of Xuxa Santamaria, making experimental, psychedelic dance music rife with intellectual undertones and very much in line with her fine art practice. Many of the works in *Bilongo Esmeralda* employ the same campy, colorful aesthetic as the visuals for her music. The entirety of her video series, entitled *Echoes of a Tumbling Throne (Odas Al Fin De Los Tiempos)*, will be screened on September 18 at 6:30 p.m. with a live score by Xuxa Santamaria in Frank Ogawa Plaza.