

Press Release

Paula Anta
AKOUEDO**Within Apertura Madrid Gallery Weekend – From 11th to 14th September**From 11th September to 8th November 2025Opening: 11th September from 13.30 to 22.

We're starting the new season, as part of **Apertura Gallery Weekend 2025**, presenting the second exhibition at the gallery by Paula Anta (Madrid, 1977), with her latest project **AKOUEDO**. In this work, she once again shows her sensitivity by photographing a landscape where the connection between the natural and the artificial, and in this specific case, the alteration of the landscape, remains her main subject of reflection and protest. As she explains, her creative process offers many keys to understanding her work: "I've realized that I need to connect with the landscape to create, even if each project has a different origin. In nature, one connects with the source; we can observe with calm. It's the place we belong to and it's essential for us. In the landscape, there are no distractions. This essential place interests and attracts me, but so does its link with the fictitious, with the artificial, with the artificial creation that human beings are capable of. I believe that the human capacity to artificially reproduce the natural is a skill, and this skill is also linked to imagination."

AKOUEDO is the result of work begun in 2023, thanks to the Spanish Embassy in Ivory Coast, the Donwahi Foundation, and the Cómo ser Fotógrafa Platform. In this project, Paula addresses the transformation of a desolate space contaminated by a serious ecological disaster in 2006 in a neighborhood of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, which left significant consequences for both the local people and the environment. To reverse this situation, a massive redevelopment of the entire area has been carried out, transforming it into a huge public park of over 100 hectares that aims to become a global reference for environmental respect.

In this project of environmental recovery and transformation, Anta found a perfect place to once again explore and reflect on the relationship between nature and humanity. She shows how humans, through their actions, are capable of harming nature, but also how, through environmental awareness, they can reverse this situation. As she says, "In **AKOUEDO**, a new geology is being born: a metamorphosis of plastic that is transfigured into a landscape." With an almost scientific approach, she presents the area through ten geological features. The photographs on fabric and mirror reflect an abstract, mapped landscape, as a geologist would, charting rivers, lakes, glaciers, seas, etc. The abstraction, more present than ever in Anta's photographs, helps us imagine what this new ecosystem was like and what it will become, changing the space and the lives of the people who live there in a very positive way.

Paula Anta (Madrid, 1977) received the Culture Award from the Community of Madrid in the Photography category (2023). Nationally, she has held solo and group exhibitions at centers such as Tabacalera, CA2M, Royal Botanical Garden, Centro de Arte de Alcobendas, Círculo de Bellas Artes in Madrid, Casa Vicens, CCCB (Barcelona), Bolit (Girona), Sa Nostra Cultural Center (Palma de Mallorca), Naves de Gamazo (Santander), La Laboral (Gijón), Centro Niemeyer (Avilés), DA2 (Salamanca), and Palacio Quintanar (Segovia). Among other honors, she has received significant awards including the XI Pilar Citoler International Biennial of Contemporary Photography Award (2021), the Consell de Mallorca Contemporary Photography Award (2020), the Unesco Center of Extremadura International Award (2020), the Kells Collection Award (2019), the Estampa Award from the Community of Madrid (2016), and the ENAIRE Foundation Award (2010).