



ISABEL CROXATTO
GALERÍA

PRESS RELEASE

Love Declaration

A textile meditation on queer intimacy, memory, and the right to be loved

Opening during Pride Month, Love Declaration, Nia de Indias' new solo exhibition at Isabel Croxatto Galería, unfolds as an affective archive of tenderness, desire, and self-fashioning. Through textile works assembled from childhood fabrics, discarded drag costumes, domestic materials, and makeup-stained cloth, the artist transforms intimate remnants into portraits that consider how love is remembered, embodied, and imagined.

At the center of the exhibition lies a childhood photograph: a young child, dressed and painted as a clown, held protectively by a mother beneath a blanket. That image becomes both an emotional and a formal point of departure. In Love Declaration, the softness of childhood memory converges with the exaggerated theatricality of drag, producing figures suspended between vulnerability and excess, intimacy and performance.

Working through what the artist describes as a form of "personal archaeology," Nia de Indias constructs textile surfaces from fragments of past lives: garments worn in performance, fabrics tied to domestic memory, and—most intimately—the makeup remover cloths used over years to wipe away drag after nightly appearances. Here, residue becomes testimony. The material traces of performance speak not to spectacle, but to exhaustion, care, fragility, and transformation.

Rather than approaching drag solely as representation, Love Declaration frames it as an embodied methodology through which affection, identity, and longing may be reconsidered. The exhibition also enters into dialogue with the visual language of mid-century portrait photography and conventions of masculine elegance, subtly unsettling inherited structures of pose, desirability, and self-presentation. Through sewing, layering, and softness, authority gives way to tenderness; rigidity dissolves into emotional proximity.

At its core, Love Declaration asks a deceptively simple but deeply political question: how does one learn to love—and to be loved—when the body has historically been asked to negotiate its own legitimacy? Without spectacle or didacticism, Nia de Indias proposes affection as both an intimate territory and a form of resistance.



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Presented in June, the exhibition resonates quietly with broader conversations around queer visibility and memory, while resisting simplification as an identity statement alone. Instead, *Love Declaration* insists on intimacy itself: fragile, unresolved, materially grounded, and profoundly human.

The exhibition follows the artist's recent participation in *Liminal Bodies: Transvestite Bodies and White Colonial Institutions* at the University of Bern, Switzerland, where *Nia de Indias* presented research on dissident bodies, institutional visibility, and the politics of representation, reinforcing a practice situated at the intersection of performance, Latin American popular culture, material memory, and queer embodiment.

Exhibition Information

Love Declaration

Nia de Indias

June 11th – July 15th, 2026

Isabel Croxatto Galería

Napoleón 3242, Apartment 1, Las Condes, Santiago, Chile

Opening Hours

Tuesday–Friday, 3:00–7:00 PM

Saturday, 12:00–2:00 PM

Free admission

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About Nia de Indias

Nia de Indias is a Colombian visual artist and performer based in Santiago, Chile, since 2011. Working across performance, photography, installation, and textile practices, the artist examines the intersections of body, memory, popular culture, desire, and dissident identity through a deeply autobiographical lens. Since 2015, Nia de Indias has developed an artistic alter ego through which drag, material recycling, and performative strategies become tools for rethinking visual histories, masculinity, intimacy, and queer embodiment. The artist's work has been presented in exhibitions, performances, and academic contexts in Chile and internationally.

About Isabel Croxatto Galería

Isabel Croxatto Galería is an international contemporary art platform founded in 2012 by Chilean choreographer and performing arts researcher Isabel Croxatto. With a curatorial focus on new figuration, the gallery represents artists whose practices examine and challenge the relationships between body, memory, and archive, proposing visual languages that engage with the cultural, political, and perceptual questions of our time.

We're committed to advancing contemporary art from the Global South. We've built a strong track record in discovering and supporting emerging and mid-career artists, helping their practices develop sustainably across local and international contexts. Through an annual exhibitions program, participation in leading international art fairs, the La Embajada residency program, and strategic institutional collaborations, Isabel Croxatto Galería helps its artists gain visibility and connect across diverse cultural networks.

In 2022, the gallery launched LOCAL 2, a dedicated space for experimental projects and emerging artists, expanding its curatorial program and reinforcing its commitment to new generations of contemporary practice.

Isabel Croxatto Galería is a member of Arte y Punto, the Chilean Contemporary Art Galleries Association.