Nicole Cecilia Delgado

Adjacent Islands
Translated from the Spanish by Urayoán Noel

adjacent islands/islas adyacentes is a bilingual edition of Nicole Cecilia Delgado’s artist books amoná (2013) and subtropical dry (2016), both based on camping trips to islands in the Puerto Rican archipelago. Challenging the insularist logic that has historically defined Puerto Rican national imaginaries, on these adjacent islands, people and nature connect in unexpected ways, as Delgado documents the art of survival under military occupation, extractivism, and the surveillance state.

“[Nicole] writes from Puerto Rico, which suffers, acutely, the effects of colonization and the climate crisis. Hers is a poetry written — and lived — amidst Hurricane María, the Wall Street debt crisis, the PROMESA bill, and now a chain of earthquakes [...]

— Katie Marya

“Halfway between a life diary and a traveler’s notebook, Nicole Cecilia Delgado’s adjacent islands firmly establishes itself within the tradition of works that cannot be easily categorized. Using travel and exploration as methodology, the poet builds a personal and communal testimony of a territory marked by occupation, usurpation, and abandonment.

— Carlos Soto Romero

These adjacent islands open a space for thinking from an embodied practice whose material is time....This book is a machine of cosmic times.

— Beatriz Santiago Muñoz

Nicole Cecilia Delgado is a poet, translator, and book artist. Her work has been translated into English, Catalan, Polish, German, Galician, and Portuguese. With the poet Amanda Hernández, she currently directs and develops La Impresora, a poetry press and risograph print shop in Puerto Rico.

Urayoán Noel is the author of eight books of poetry. His translations include no budu please by Wingston González (Ugly Duckling Presse) and Architecture of Dispersed Life: Selected Poetry by Pablo de Rokha (Shearsman Books), which was a finalist for the National Translation Award. Noel is an associate professor at NYU.