

Spike Island

PRESS RELEASE
Tohé Commaret
MIJITAS

Saturday 30 May to Sunday 6 September 2026



Spike Island presents *Mijitas*, the first exhibition in the UK by Franco-Chilean artist Tohé Commaret (b.1992, Vitry-sur-Seine). The exhibition features two new moving image commissions, *Rosa* and *Can you hear me?* (both 2026). The title of the exhibition derives from the Latin-American-Spanish expression *mi hijita*, which translates to 'my little girl'. Often used by an older generation as a term of endearment, the expression can also carry patronising undertones in shifting contexts. Playing on this ambiguity, the exhibition foregrounds tenderness and solidarity against underlying and gendered dynamics of power and control.

Commaret's enigmatic short films drift at the threshold between documentary and fiction, approaching social realities through magical realism. The two new film works presented in *Mijitas* echo themes and concerns related to gender, labour, power structures, inner images and parallel realities.

Set in the suburbs of Paris within a matriarchal community of Chilean women working in the cleaning industry, *Rosa* follows the discovery of a secret diary. It is both the day after and the morning before: the film occupies a strange space between events, a magical realm. Throughout the film, the protagonists' subjective perspectives structure the narrative, guiding us through a melancholic present, resolved when the strength of a group of women, like guardian angels, help free a younger character from her abusive boyfriend.



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Similarly, in *Can you hear me?*, women seem connected beyond language, united through an undefinable force. Occurring within an enclosed space and shot on DV (digital video) tape, it follows Louna and other female sex workers, who, despite speaking different languages, seem to communicate through telepathy. Without ever meeting, or even belonging to the same film, a connection forms between Louna and Rosa. Through their shared image, a common experience emerges that is felt but not explained.

In these new moving image works, Commaret casts light on feminized labour: cleaning work in *Rosa*, and sex work in *Can you hear me?* emerge as two different realities linked through forms of constraint and physicality.

A glowing colour emanates from a hole in the centre of the gallery, between the two films playing alternately. Like a fantastical well dug into the gallery's stone-hard floor, it is a portal, symbolising a point of transcendence where images circulate, and different femininities and realities coalesce.

The exhibition is generously supported by Fluxus Art Projects. *Rosa* (2026) is a co-commission by MUSEUM MMK FÜR MODERNE KUNST (Frankfurt) in collaboration with Spike Island and produced by Parcelles Films (Paris).

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Tohé Commaret (b. 1992, France) is a Franco-Chilean filmmaker, who studied at the Beaux-Arts de Paris and Le Fresnoy.

Commaret has exhibited in solo and duo exhibitions including Mala Onda, ZOLLAMT MMK, Frankfurt (2026); Dorothea von Stetten Art Award, Kunstmuseum Bonn (2026); Miss Recuerdo, Fondation Pernod Ricard, Paris (2025), and Otis, Otis, Otis, FORDE, Geneva (2024); and in group exhibitions at MAC VAL, Vitry-sur-Seine (2025); Galerie Édouard Manet, Paris (2023), among others. Her films have been part of screenings and festivals including the Berlinale Shorts, in competition (2025 and 2023); Centre d'art de Labège (2024); Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin (2024); La Biennale de Lyon (2024); LE BAL, Paris (2024); Louvre, Paris (2024); MAC VAL, Vitry-sur-Seine (2023); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2023); Maison Populaire, Montreuil (2022); Centre Pompidou, Paris (2022). She has received several awards such as the Dorothea von Stetten Art Award (2026); PONTOPREIS MMK (2026); Grand prix essais art vidéo at the Côté Court Festival, Cannes (2024 and 2022), Cinema Jove (2024) and FNC Montreal (2024); Silver Moon Award (2023); among others. Her work is represented in the collections of Musée d'art moderne, Paris and MAC VAL, Vitry-sur-Seine.

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ABOUT SPIKE ISLAND

- Spike Island supports, produces and presents contemporary art and culture across an 80,000 square foot former industrial building in Bristol. Its diverse artistic programme includes free major exhibitions, events and engagement activities taking place on-site and online. Championing outstanding work by emerging and underrepresented local, national and international artists, the programme enhances access to contemporary art for audiences from all backgrounds.
- Alongside its public offer, Spike Island directly supports artists through new commissions, over 70 subsidised studios, and sector leading artist development opportunities that widen access to its programme and facilities. Its Exhibition Services business supports the bespoke production and installation of artists' film and video throughout the UK and internationally. Spike Island is home to a dynamic community of hundreds of artists and creative businesses, working in flexible, affordable workspaces, alongside UWE Bristol's Fine Art department, Spike Print Studio, and café bar Emmeline. www.spikeisland.org.uk

IMAGE CAPTION

- Tohé Commaret, *Can you hear me?* film still (2026). Courtesy the artist