

Artist Statement — Rebecca Montalvo (RM-TNKRT)

I am a transdisciplinary artist and creative researcher whose practice blends experimental video, creative coding, data-driven systems, and physical fabrication to explore the poetics of rupture and transformation. Informed by posthuman thought and grounded in my Puerto Rican heritage, I investigate the entangled relationships between identity, environment, and technology. Raised alongside machines, I see the digital realm not merely as a tool, but as a mirror and co-conspirator—a site of memory, grief, and becoming.

I come from a studio-based background and was initially drawn to making still and moving images through hands-on processes. Over time, my curiosity led me deeper into the structures behind those images—into code, systems, and the algorithms that shape how images are generated, circulated, and understood. Today, I work fluidly between digital and physical spaces, allowing projects to develop through both material experimentation and computational processes. My identity as a Puerto Rican artist is central to this inquiry. Living in a state of dual nationalism, I move between the American Dream and the Puerto Rican one—how they conflict, how they overlap, and how they continually negotiate space with one another. These tensions surface in my work through fragmentation, repetition, and delay, reflecting the experience of existing between cultures, histories, and systems of power.

Many of my projects begin from poetic starting points—texts, memories, or images—that expand into datasets built from archival photographs, environmental recordings, internet media, and original material. Using open-source tools, generative systems, and intentional glitch, I activate these datasets to produce fractured still and moving images. Glitch, in my work, is not a mistake to be corrected but a method for revealing how systems operate. Influenced by glitch feminism, I intentionally disrupt platforms, algorithms, and codecs to expose how power, visibility, and value are structured within digital space. Through datamoshing, remixing, and broken systems, I question dominant narratives around capitalism and the American Dream, asking who benefits from these systems and who is rendered invisible by them. Across my practice, I treat technology as a collaborator rather than a tool—using failure, delay, and instability as sites of agency, reflection, and transformation.