



Dibujando Sueños

Exhibition Booklet & Art Guide

Art as a universal tool for social change.

Discover a collection of 20 unique murals, designed to make an impact deep in the community El Astillero, Nicaragua.



Construyendo Sueños

Nicaragua's first bamboo social housing program.

Nicaragua has the highest housing deficit in Latin America, with over 78% of the population living in inadequate housing conditions.

During 2021 - 2023, Casa Congo partnered with international and local sponsors to build 20 bamboo homes for homeless families in El Astillero, Tola.

An important achievement of the program was creating a workshop and training over 50 community members in bamboo agriculture and construction.

El Astillero still has a deficit of 180 homes. Our vision is to keep building dreams in the community by improving infrastructure and attracting more tourism to El Astillero.





Dibujando Sueños

Art as a universal tool for social change.

In every bamboo home we commissioned a unique mural by the local street artist Huston Ramos. The atmosphere created by the artwork combined with the bio-based architecture makes each home a unique destination on the map.

The design of the murals is inspired by elements of nature that the children dream about. Each wall tells a different story for each family and is a visual manifestation of the community traditions and aspirations.

Through a 90 day collaborative process with the families and the artist, 20 murals were painted in different parts of each home - from the bedroom to the kitchen or outdoor porch. Some of these murals can be visited today in El Astillero through a community art tour.

Community Art Tour

Each of the 21 KuNa bamboo homes has a unique mural on the exterior walls or in the interiors.

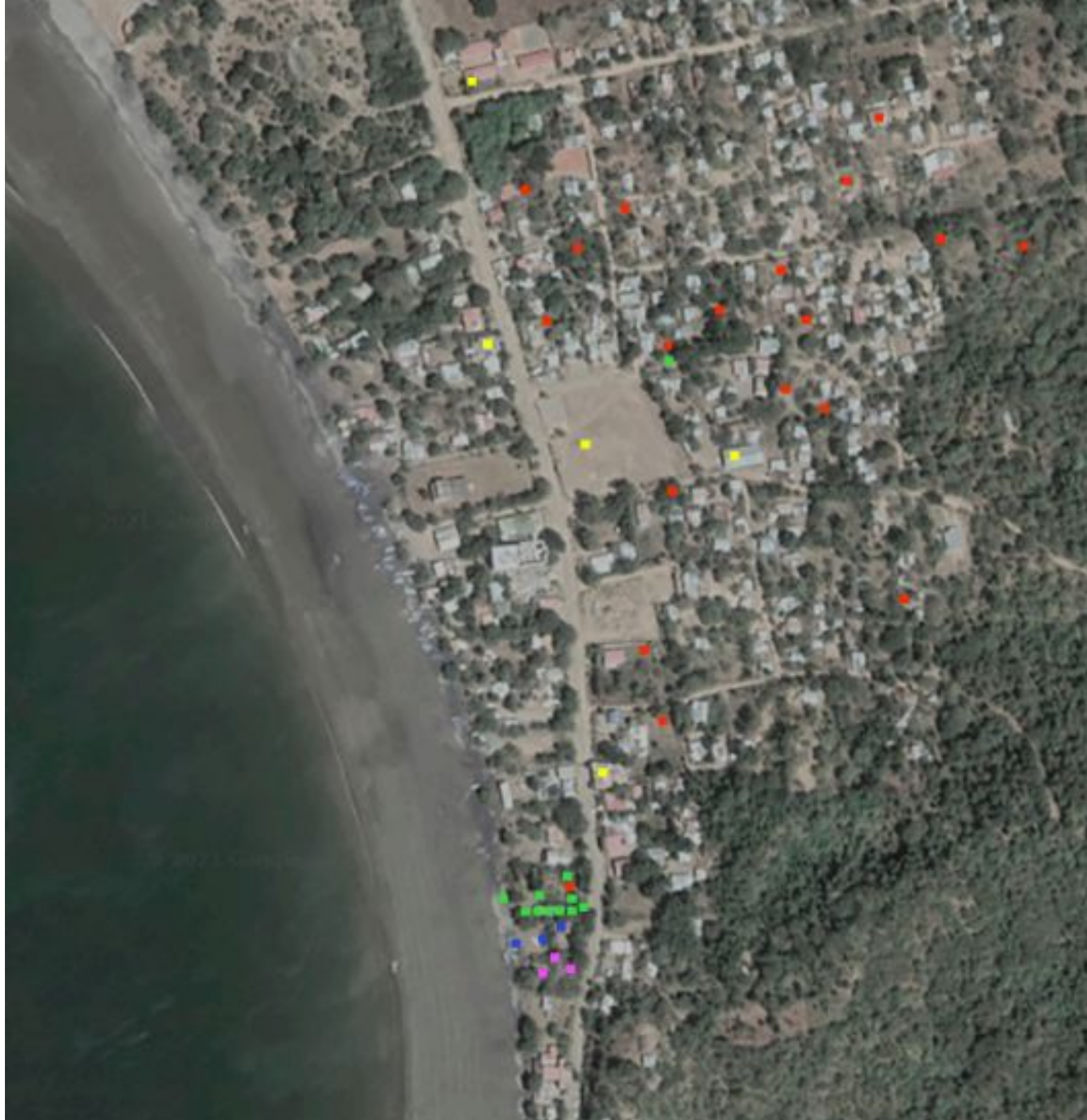
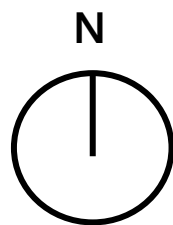
Not all the homes are open for public visits, but some of the families also have authentic local products and experiences to enjoy - from a fresh lobster meal to hand made recycled plastic fashion accessories!

Get in touch to book your tour:

hola@casacongo.org

El Astillero Legend

- Kuna houses
- Bamboo workshop
- Fishing cooperative
- Casa Congo places
- Places of interest



#0 La Historia de Casa Congo

Casa Modelo
Open for visits: Always

The Casa Modelo is the first bamboo prefabricated home to ever be built in Nicaragua. It served as a prototype for the KuNa social housing program and today it's used as a 60sqm volunteering lodge that sleeps 5 people on Casa Congo's site.

The mural on the Northern wall tells the story of how Casa Congo started... from the 6 founders to sustainable development programs run in cooperation with the women collectives of El Astillero.

Location: Casa Congo site.



#1 Despedida del Colibrí

Casa Peña

Open for visits: Probably

Meylin and Iker's journey began in Managua, but the path of their lives led them to change their residence multiple times. After a prolonged period of not having a stable place to call home, they decided to return to their roots in El Astillero, their hometown. This choice echoed the timeless wisdom of a turtle that, after years of wandering, instinctively returns to its birthplace to build a nest and raise its young.

The kolibri, a symbol of their personal journey filled with farewells and hope, served as a testament to the deep familial connection and love they held for their closest ties.



Location: [Moto Repuestos Peña - Google Maps](#)

#2 Calma Después de la Tormenta

Casa Chavez (Hermen)

Open for visits: check first

Hermen, a fisherman from El Astillero, used to live in a nearby village with his wife, Hanni, and their children. Their family's history took a tragic turn when a massive flood hit their coastal town, destroying their home and everything they owned. Fortunately, they had evacuated just in time, leaving them with only memories of their old life.

Thanks to the KUNA project, they were able to start a new life after the disaster. Their strong connection to the sea and the hope for a better life, especially for their three children Gerson, Daniel and Lukas after the flood are symbolized by this mural.

Location: east, up the hill



#3 Colores de la Madrugada

Casa Narvaez

Open for visits: check first

Stop by for delicious ceviche and lobster!

Allan and his family used to live in a shelter constructed from wooden poles and covered with plastic, a home that presented immense challenges in every aspect of their lives.

Allan is a diver and fisherman.

Within the children's room, the mural serves as a constant source of inspiration, reminding them of the sea's enduring beauty. Moreover, it stands as a tribute to God, the creator of this magnificent sea.

Location: southern end, next to main road



#4 Madre Naturaleza

Casa Aguirre

Open for visits: yes

Stop by to purchase recycled plastic art!

Anielka Aguirre has been a part of Casa Congo from the very beginning, contributing to its growth in countless ways. She's a single mom with four children and is actively involved in the local artisan community, crafting with the "Tejedoras" recycled plastic into beautiful art pieces.

The mural tells her own story - a story of a strong and kind woman who deeply cares about animals, nature, and the sea, as represented by the turtle in the mural.

Location: centre of El Astillero



#5 Memoria del Océano

Casa Palacio

Open for visits: check first

Maryuris has been living in Astillero with her mother and children for a long time. They share a deep love for the sea and everything it holds beneath the surface.

The family has faced their fair share of hardships, including the loss of Maryuris's husband, who tragically disappeared while working as a diver in the sea. The mural on their wall serves as a tribute to him and a reminder of the enduring connection they have. Even though he's gone, his presence is still felt, much like the ever-present sea.

Location: northeast



#6 Flor de Mar

Casa Dalila

Open for visits: Check first

The design of this mural is inspired by a dream of 11 year old Grace who aspires to be an entrepreneur in the field of marine biology and agroforestry.

She helps the women collective Las Flores with permaculture activities in Casa Congo as well as the Brigada Ecologica in ocean conservation projects, so the mural represents her passion and commitment to the local ecosystem.

Location: centre of El Astillero



#7 Galopando en el Mar

Casa Yahoska

Open for visits: Check first

As a single mother of 2 children, Yahoska is a very busy person in El Astillero, constantly hustling to make ends meet.

This mural is inspired by a combination of a seahorse and a unicorn, representing the drive, resilience and beauty of this family.

Location: Centre, towards the hill



#8 El Dorado

Casa Nelson

Open for visits: Yes

Stop by to purchase fresh fish!

Nelson and his family are very proud of their history as fishermen. They fish the largest Mahi Mahis in Tola and have a reputation for being responsible fishermen with regards to ocean conservation.



Location: Centre of El Astillero

#9 Primero Dios

Casa de Maria Magdalena
Open for visits: Check first



With the younger child often at the hospital for thrombosis and other health issues, this family decided to paint a mural to give their son blessings and hope.



Location: Centre of El Astillero

#10 Atardecer

Casa Petrona

Open for visits: Check first

Stop by for a natural cocktail!



This mural depicts Petrona and her daughter watching the sunset in El Astillero. Both are deeply involved in Casa Congo's environmental conservation programs and Petrona's daughter is now learning how to become a bartender using delicious local natural ingredients.



Location: Up the hill, North-East

#11 Bajo el Mar

Casa de Adela Chavez

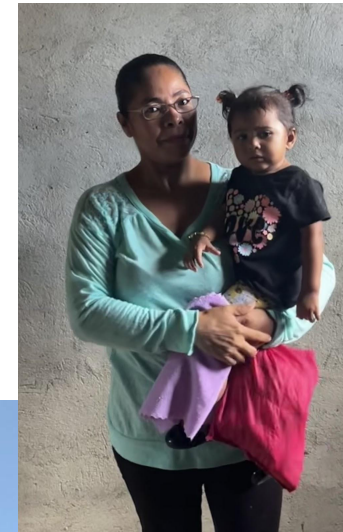
Open for visits: Check first

Stop by to purchase recycled plastic art!

Adela Chavez is a tejedora and is also known to make the best bread in El Astillero. She's very proud of her home and invests the earnings from her bakery and craft in the improvement of her home.

The fish mural is inspired by her daughter, who loves the ocean and always asks her mom to go out fishing.

Location: North-East of Cancha



#12 Tres Almas

Casa de Chelsia

Open for visits: Check first

Chelsia is a single mother with 2 children who love nature and dream about living under the sea.



Location: Centre of El Astillero

#13 Monta la Ola

Casa de Mayoli

Open for visits: Check first

Mayomi has 1 son, who is only 9 years old but can surf like a true professional. This mural depicts Danel shredding a wave on the Penon.

Location: Centre of El Astillero



#14 La Finca de Amor

Casa de Cindy

Open for visits: Check first

Cindy lives alone with her kids. Their father lives far for work but supports financially.

This is a family with lots of music, singing and dancing. The mural is inspired by a dream of the children to have their own family farm full of animals and fun activities.



Location: Centre of El Astillero

#15 Fuerza y Esperanza

Casa Berroteran

Open for visits: Yes

Stop by to purchase recycled plastic art!

Yumar and Yerling live together with their son Gamaliel. This family feels a strong connection with God and chose the eagle as a mythological symbol for their home.



Location: Centre of El Astillero

#16 Guacamayo

Casa de Alba

Open for visits: Yes

This colourful parrot represents a vision Alba's daughter, Gabriela, had when she was starting to learn English. She dreamt that a parrot came to her home and taught her how to speak English so she could then become an international business woman.

Location: South of El Astillero



#17 La Revelacion

Casa de Ninette

Open for visits: No

The eagle is the symbol used to depict John the Apostle, whose writing is said to most clearly witness the light and divinity of Christ. In art, John, as the presumed author of the Gospel of John, is often depicted with an eagle, which symbolises the height to which he rose in the first chapter of his gospel.



Location: Centre of El Astillero

#18 Vuelan Mariposas

Casa de Yerlin Yineska
Open for visits: Yes



Yerlin Yineska has 3 daughters who are full of joy and energy. They love performing and dressing up with colours, so this mural was painted to represent their personalities.



Location: Centre of El Astillero

#19 Algas Ancestrales

Casa de Bianca Carolina
Open for visits: Check first

With a tradition of fishermen and ocean lovers that goes back to the 1950s, this family wanted to represent their family history through a marine version of an ancestral tree.



Location: Centre of El Astillero

#20 Las Flores

Aula Verde, Casa Congo
Open for visits: Always

This mural was commissioned in 2021 as part of Casa Congo's agroecology program and was codesigned with Las Flores, a collective of 10 women who manage the program.

Las Flores activities include reforestation, management of a seed bank, educational workshops, maintenance of Casa Congo's agroecology centre, installation of WASH systems and deploying various permaculture techniques around the community.

The mural represents the terrestrial ecosystems coming together with a young girl who is the personification of nature herself. All she needs to grow is water, sunshine and love - just like Casa Congo's centre of agroecology.

Location: Casa Congo, South-East Corner



About the Artist

Huston Ramos is a Nicaraguan artist based in Jinotepe. He started his career painting murals and doing tattoos for surfers. In 2020 he opened a professional tattoo studio where many locals and international tourists come to get unique elements tattooed on their skin. His inspiration comes from nature and the Nicaraguan context.

Huston Ramos started collaborating with Casa Congo in 2021 to teach visual arts to local children. His first artwork was the "Las Flores" mural in the bamboo ecology classroom.

Thanks to the partnership with the Madrid based artist Mutuku, who donates part of his gallery's profits to support Casa Congo's art program, Huston Ramos has the opportunity to work in El Astillero and bring his creative energy to the community on an ongoing basis.

You can find out more about the artist on his instagram page: [@hustonramos](https://www.instagram.com/hustonramos)



“life imitates art far more than art imitates life”