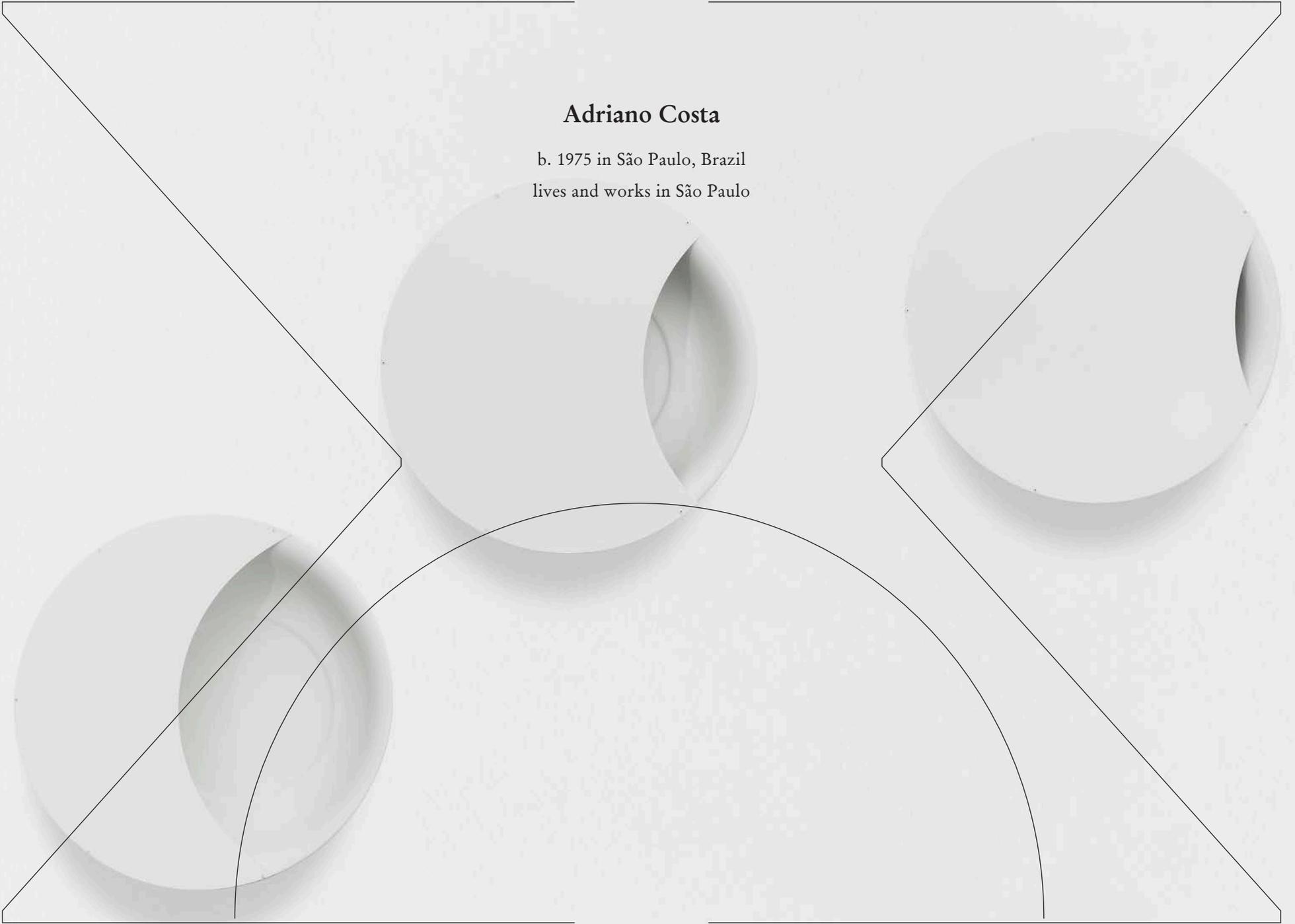


## Adriano Costa

b. 1975 in São Paulo, Brazil  
lives and works in São Paulo



Adriano Costa explores consumption, fashion, horror, and society's anxieties by juxtaposing a collection of objects with abstract yet often realistic sculptural forms. Working across a range of materials and media – including sculpture, assemblage, drawing, painting, and installation – Costa's work emerges as a sharp commentary on social class, popular culture, music, and youth.

Throughout Costa's practice, there is a deep engagement with reality that relies on tragic irony rather than originality within the creative process. He stretches a reflection on the true value of a work of art, probing the question of how common or even noble materials can be transmuted into an art object and vice versa.

**Adriano Costa** (b. 1975, São Paulo, Brazil) lives and works in São Paulo.

His solo exhibitions include *1 metro de cabelo*, **Mendes Wood DM**, São Paulo, Brazil (2025); *ax-d. us. t.*, **Emalin**, London (2024); *MILK OF SLUMS – RUA DOS CACIQUES*, **Mendes Wood DM**, New York (2023); *YOUR WORK AND ITS CONSEQUENCES*, **Emalin**, London (2022); *CEMITÉRIO*, **City SALTS**, Birsfelden (2022); *Philosophy of the World*, **Mendes Wood DM**, Brussels (2022); *ROCKWHORESHOW*, **Nuno Centeno**, Porto (2019); *wetANDsomeOLDstuffVANDALIZEDbyTHEartist*, **Kölnischer Kunstverein**, Cologne (2018); *B A I L E*, **Instituto Tomie Ohtake**, São Paulo (2018); *DearMeatCutsDevilMayCry*, **David Kordansky Gallery**, Los Angeles (2016); *Every Camel Tells a Story*, **Mendes Wood DM**, São Paulo (2015); *Touch me I am geometrically sensitive*, **Sadie Coles HQ**, London (2014).

Additionally, his work has been included in institutional group exhibitions such as *Lygia Clark: The I and the You and Sonia Boyce: An Awkward Relation, Limited Editions*, **Whitechapel Gallery**, London, (2024); *Cruella Devil*, **Galerie Sultana**, Paris (2024); *The Rough Grace Of A Bard*, **FLATS**, Brussels (2024); *118½*, **Emalin**, London, (2024); *Primary Forms: III edition*, **Museum of Modern Art**, Warsaw (2023); *HISTÓRIA(S) DA ARTE*, **Serralves**, Porto (2022); *Breaking The Waves*, **Chi K11 Art Museum**, Shanghai (2021); *Everyday Poetics*, **Seattle Art Museum**, Seattle (2017); *Frucht & Faulheit*, **Lothringer13 Halle**, Munich (2017); *IMAGINE BRAZIL*, **Astrup Fearnley Museet**, Oslo and **Musee d'Art Contemporain de Lyon**, Lyon (2014); *Under the Same Sun: Art from Latin America Today*, **Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum**, New York (2014).

The image features two detailed bronze rooster figurines. The rooster on the left is shown in profile, facing right, with its wings raised and its tail feathers fanned out. It stands on a circular, scalloped-edged base. The rooster on the right is partially visible, showing its head, neck, and tail feathers. The bronze has a dark, aged patina. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

SELECTED  
EXHIBITIONS



2025

Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo

*1 metro de cabelo*

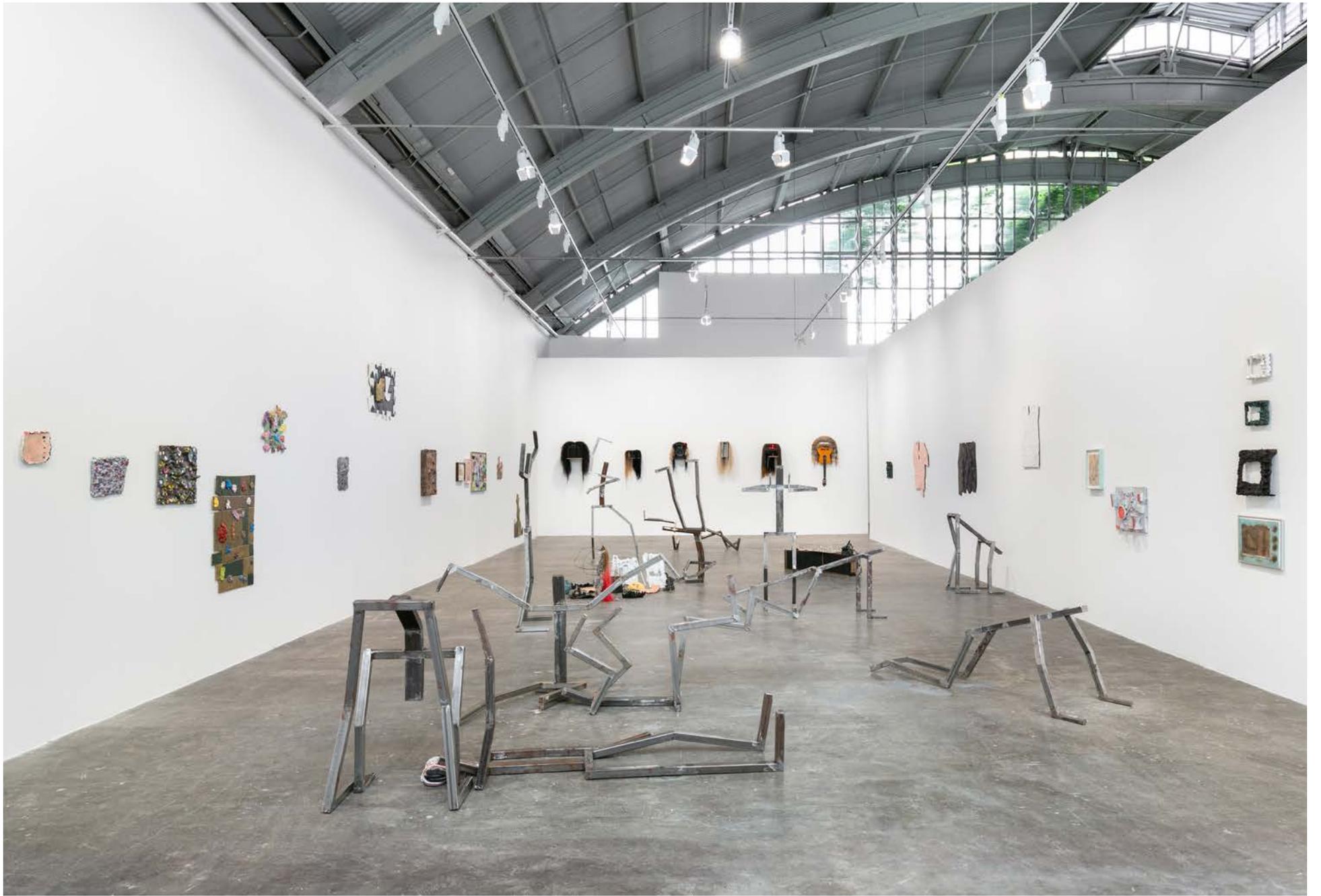
On *1 metro de cabelo*, his exhibition of new works at the gallery, he once again emphasizes his desire to place each work in relation, creating a space-time structure that can only be experienced in the context created within the exhibition environment. In addition, there is a direct reference to the expression “bater cabelo,” a type of headbanging present in LGBTQIA+ culture. In social environments for people who are still marginalized, there is indeed a corporal gesture that in many cases can be a hair battle between people in the same social circle, demonstrating empowerment and presence. It is certainly an index of body language that lives up to the expression itself.



*1 metro de cabelo*, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, 2025



*1 metro de cabelo*, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, 2025



*1 metro de cabelo*, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, 2025



*1 metro de cabelo*, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, 2025



*1 metro de cabelo*, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, 2025



*1 metro de cabelo*, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, 2025



*1 metro de cabelo*, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, 2025





*Milk of Slums – Rua dos Cacique*, Mendes Wood DM, New York, 2023



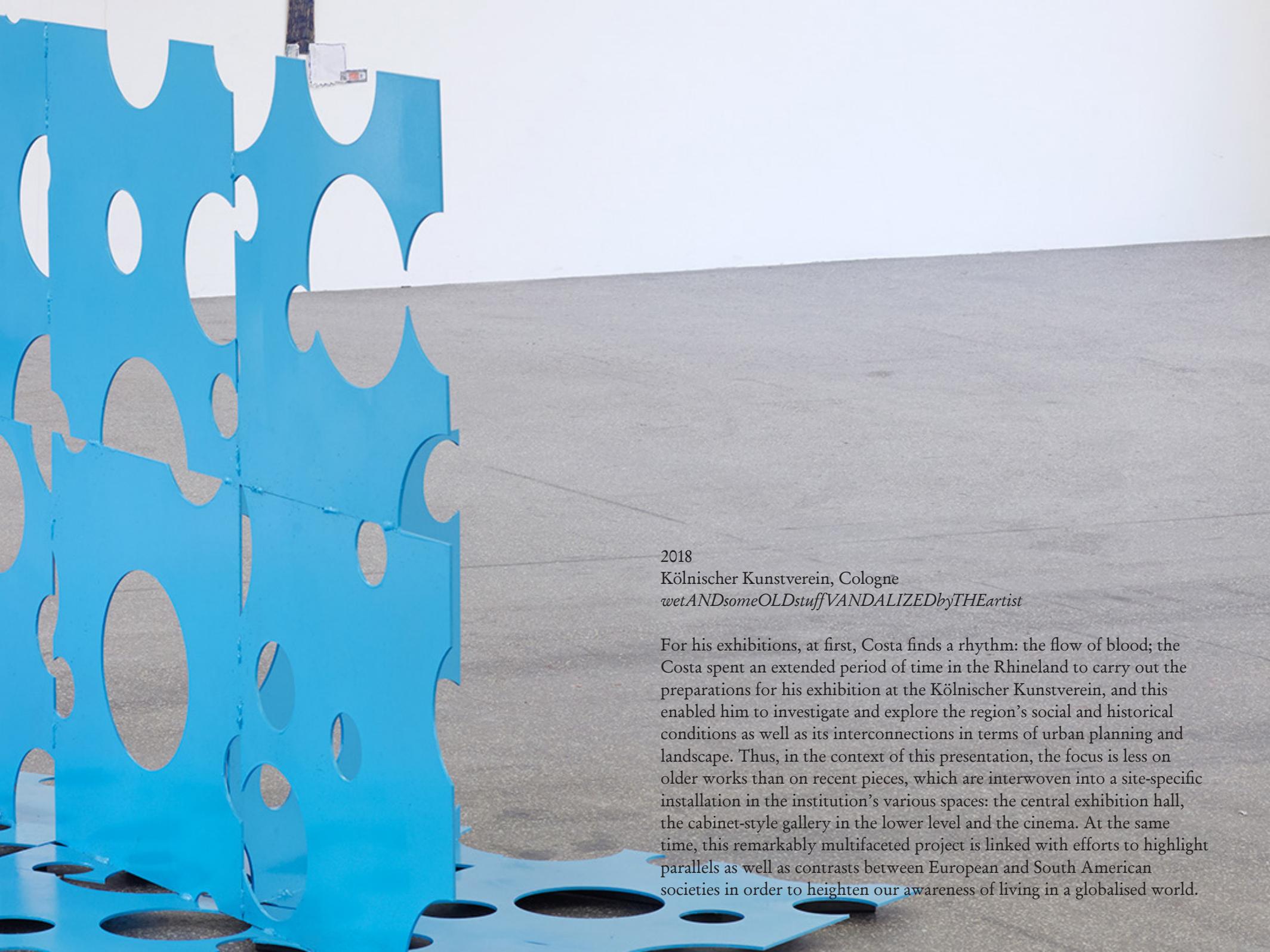
*Milk of Slums – Rua dos Cacique, Mendes Wood DM, New York, 2023*

**TADOR / COWBOY / CAT LOVER / VANDAL /**

**... TADOR / COWBOY / CAT LOVER / VANDAL / DELI**







2018

Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne

*wetANDsomeOLDstuffVANDALIZEDbyTHEartist*

For his exhibitions, at first, Costa finds a rhythm: the flow of blood; the Costa spent an extended period of time in the Rhineland to carry out the preparations for his exhibition at the Kölnischer Kunstverein, and this enabled him to investigate and explore the region's social and historical conditions as well as its interconnections in terms of urban planning and landscape. Thus, in the context of this presentation, the focus is less on older works than on recent pieces, which are interwoven into a site-specific installation in the institution's various spaces: the central exhibition hall, the cabinet-style gallery in the lower level and the cinema. At the same time, this remarkably multifaceted project is linked with efforts to highlight parallels as well as contrasts between European and South American societies in order to heighten our awareness of living in a globalised world.



*wetANDsomeOLDstuffVANDALIZEDbyTHEartist*, Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne, 2018



*wetANDsomeOLDstuffVANDALIZEDbyTHEartist*, Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne, 2018



*wetANDsomeOLDstuffVANDALIZEDbyTHEartist, Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne, 2018*



*wetANDsomeOLDstuffVANDALIZEDbyTHEartist*, Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne, 2018



*wetANDsomeOLDstuffVANDALIZEDbyTHEartist, Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne, 2018*





*wetANDsomeOLDstuffVANDALIZEDbyTHEartist, Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne, 2018*



*wetANDsomeOLDstuffVANDALIZEDbyTHEartist, Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne, 2018*



2021

Chi K11 Art Museum, Shanghai

*Breaking The Waves*

As we began to emerge from a time of solitude and isolation, *Breaking the Waves* brought together the works of 14 highly acclaimed artists and artist collectives from around the world, to explore discussion and dialogue as a cornerstone of contemporary art, and highlight the role of communication and social interaction in contemporary practice. The exhibition also examined the vast potential of art as a means of social development, communication and connectivity with the world through art.

The exhibition title refers both to persistence, the endlessly repeating climax of waves breaking on a shore, and the act of swimming against the tide, or coming up for air. In the current moment, it also seeks to convey optimism about the latent potentials for renewal as we slowly begin to re-enter a world reshaped following the COVID-19 pandemic. As a celebration of art's propensity for thinking differently and going against the grain, the exhibition seeks to speak to community, solidarity and the inspiring, sometimes challenging, visions of new futures and new possibilities that art is uniquely placed to offer.



*Breaking The Waves*, Chi K11 Art Museum, Shanghai, 2021



*Breaking The Waves*, Chi K11 Art Museum, Shanghai, 2021



2018

Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo

*B A I L E*

In his works, Adriano Costa, from São Paulo, makes use of banal objects and images today produced, consumed and supposedly forgotten, to, as the curator points out, recombine them until the logic of the products fractures the artistic work and vice versa. “To the point where it can be perceived that the most advanced artifacts, images and ideas in the current production chain are materials of the present and may already be the memorabilia of the ruins that will exist in the future”.



*B A I L E*, Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo, 2018



VENDESI  
FOR SALE

2015  
Fiorucci Art Trust, Stromboli  
*Volcano Extravaganza*



*Volcano Extravaganza, Fiorucci Art Trust, Stromboli, 2015*



Set amid the wild beauty of Stromboli, the fifth edition of annual arts festival In Favor of a Total Eclipse harnessed the raw power of the Italian island's natural energy, inviting artists and musicians to create site-specific work in a number of locations, including on a remote beach, a sea cave, and on top of Mt. Stromboli – a live volcano. Below, curator Stella Bottai offers insight into the event's collaborations with artists including Adriano Costa, Goshka Macuga and Raphael Hefti, plus a special music program from Afro/cosmic DJ legend Daniele Baldelli and The Vinyl Factory.



*Volcano Extravaganza*, Fiorucci Art Trust, Stromboli, 2015



2014  
Guggenheim Museum, New York  
*Under the Same Sun: Art from Latin America Today*

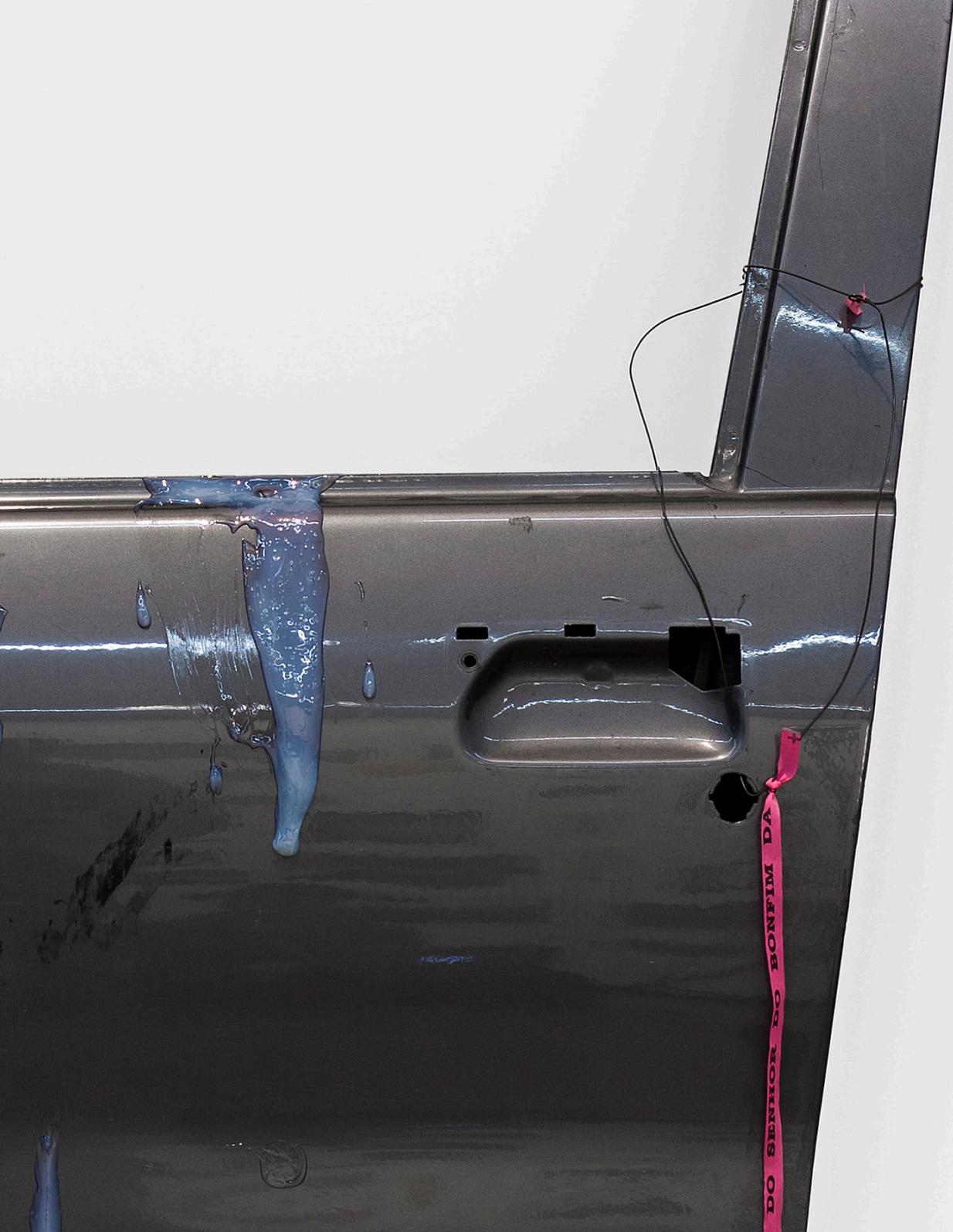


Under the Same Sun: Art from Latin America Today reconsiders the state of contemporary art in Latin America, investigating the creative responses of artists to complex, shared realities that have been influenced by colonial and modern histories, repressive governments, economic crises, and social inequality, as well as by concurrent periods of regional economic wealth, development, and progress. The exhibition presents contemporary artistic responses to the past and present that are inscribed within this highly nuanced situation, exploring the assertions of alternative futures.





The exhibition features 19 works by 12 artists that have been brought into the Museum's Collection in the last four years. Ranging from diverse media such as sculpture, drawing, collage, photography and film, the pieces represent themes that are recurrently explored by contemporary artists, namely the relationship between art and memory (personal, autobiographic and historic), the recognition of the virtues of fragility and impermanence (to the detriment of stability and monumentality), the questioning of the limits of the medium through its relationship with other forms of expression, and the bond between the art of now and the artistic, political and social movements that marked our more or less recent past.





*Imagine Brazil*, Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo, 2015



*Imagine Brazil*, Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo, 2015





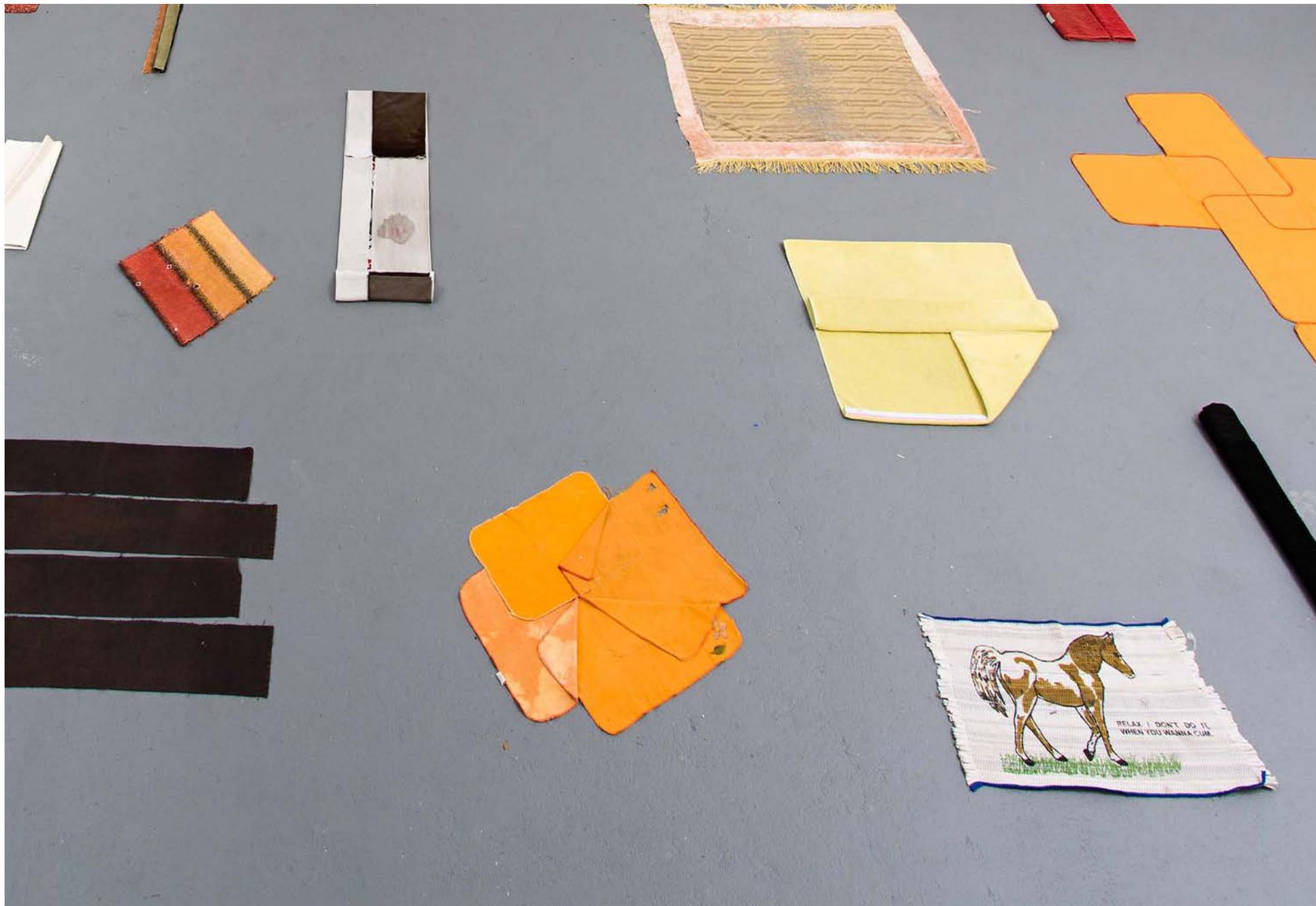
*Kiti Ka'aeté*, The Modern Institute, Glasgow, 2015











The background is a dense, dark green texture, possibly made of paper or fabric, with irregular, torn edges. Interspersed throughout are thin, horizontal and diagonal strips of gold leaf, which catch the light and add a shimmering effect. There are also several irregular white cutouts or holes scattered across the surface, creating a complex, layered appearance.

SELECTED  
WORKS



**Adriano Costa**

*Kate Boi*, 2025

fake hair, fabric and guitar

123 x 70 x 20 cm

48 3/8 x 27 1/2 x 7 7/8 in

MW.ACT.1369



**Adriano Costa**

*E desejo me corresponder com o rapaz que seja o tal, 2025*

wig, flower and speaker

55 x 37 x 31 cm

21 5/8 x 14 5/8 x 12 1/4 in

MW.ACT.1340



**Adriano Costa**

*Sandra (Arujá mototáxi)*, 2025

fake hair, motorcycle taxi trunk

90 x 50 x 51 cm

35 3/8 x 19 3/4 x 20 1/8 in

MW.ACT.1368



Adriano Costa

*Garrincha*, 2025

fake hair over guitar amp

100 x 71 x 44 cm

39 3/8 x 28 x 17 3/8 in

MW.ACT.1372



**Adriano Costa**

*Burn, burning in flames, higher and higher, 2025*

iron

165.5 x 60 x 60 cm

65 1/8 x 23 5/8 x 23 5/8 in

MW.ACT.1378



**Adriano Costa**

*Burn, burning in flames, higher and higher, 2025*

iron

165.5 x 60 x 60 cm

65 1/8 x 23 5/8 x 23 5/8 in

MW.ACT.1378



**Adriano Costa**

*Rose*, 2025

acrylic on bronze

97 x 95 x 0.5 cm

38 1/4 x 37 3/8 x 1/4 in

MW.ACT.1366



Adriano Costa, *Moletom*, 2025, acrylic on bronze, 75 x 81 x 0.5 cm | 29 1/2 x 31 7/8 x 1/4 in, MW.ACT.1361



Adriano Costa, *Esbórmia*, 2025, glazed ceramic, 21 x 25 x 21 cm | 8 1/4 x 9 7/8 x 8 1/4 in, MW.ACT.1343



Adriano Costa, *Aurora fluminense*, 2024, bronze, 32 x 42 x 2.5 cm | 12 5/8 x 16 1/2 x 1 in, MW.ACT.1329





**Adriano Costa**

*TV Mulber, 2025*

fake hair and sequins over bronze

75 x 35 x 62 cm

29 1/2 x 13 3/4 x 24 3/8 in

MW.ACT.1371



Adriano Costa, *Barroco Zona Leste*, 2025, glazed ceramic, 39 x 50 x 16 cm | 15 3/8 x 19 3/4 x 6 1/4 in, MW.ACT.1344





**Adriano Costa**

*Erê*, 2025

bronze on burnt tin

32 x 24 x 26 cm

12 5/8 x 9 1/2 x 10 1/4 in

MW.ACT.1374



**Adriano Costa**

*O Flautista*, 2025

electrostatic painting on bronze

44 x 28 x 20 cm

17 3/8 x 11 x 7 7/8 in

MW.ACT.1331



Adriano Costa, *tvC15*, 2024, resin, 17.5 x 22.8 x 7 cm | 6 7/8 x 9 x 2 3/4 in, MW.ACT.1321





Adriano Costa, *Geiger Country*, 2024, bronze, 18 x 22 x 5 cm | 7 1/8 x 8 5/8 x 2 in, MW.ACT.1333



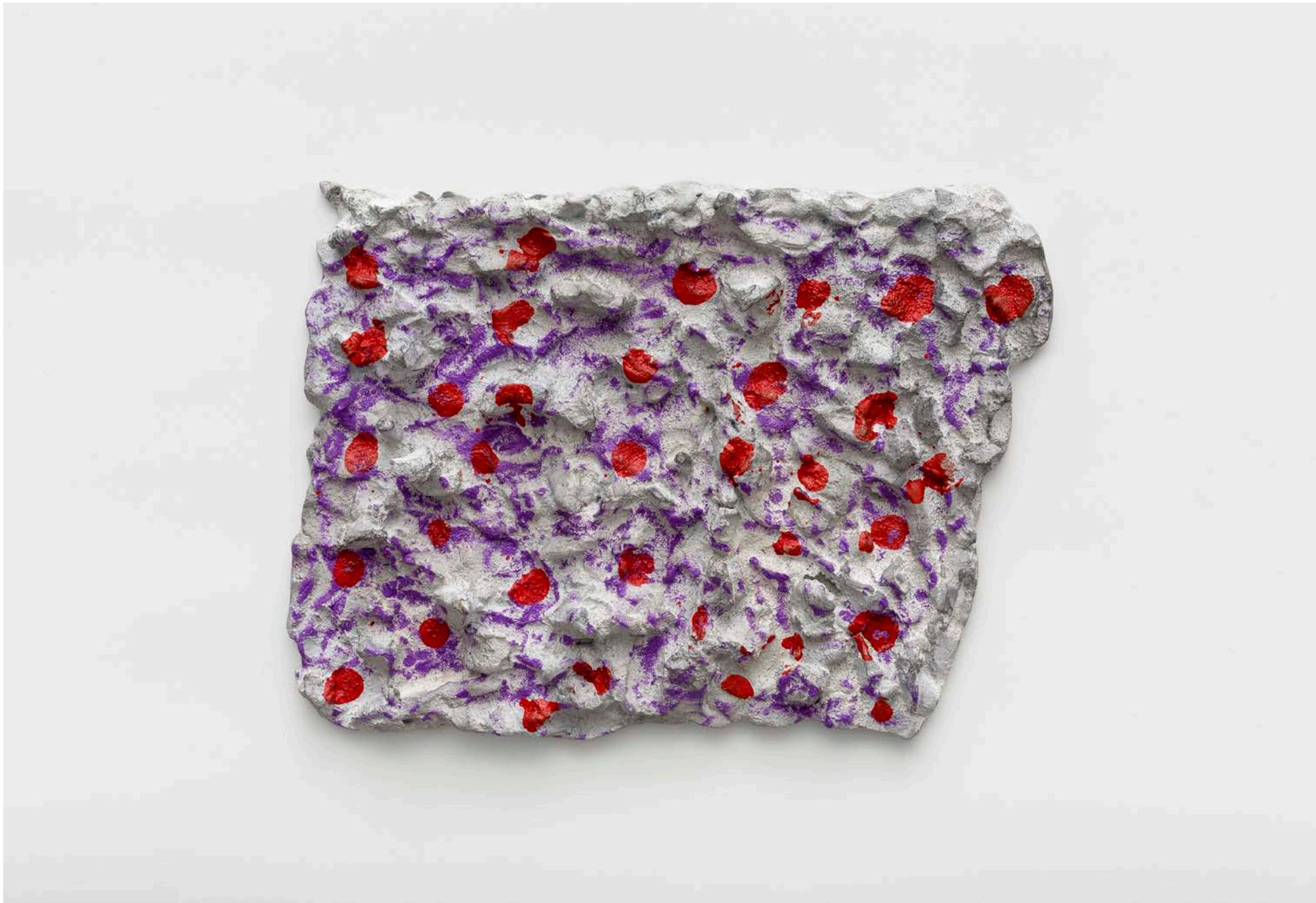
Adriano Costa, *Pifafon*, 2024, oil on paper, 30 x 42 cm | 11 3/4 x 16 1/2 in, MW.ACT.1318



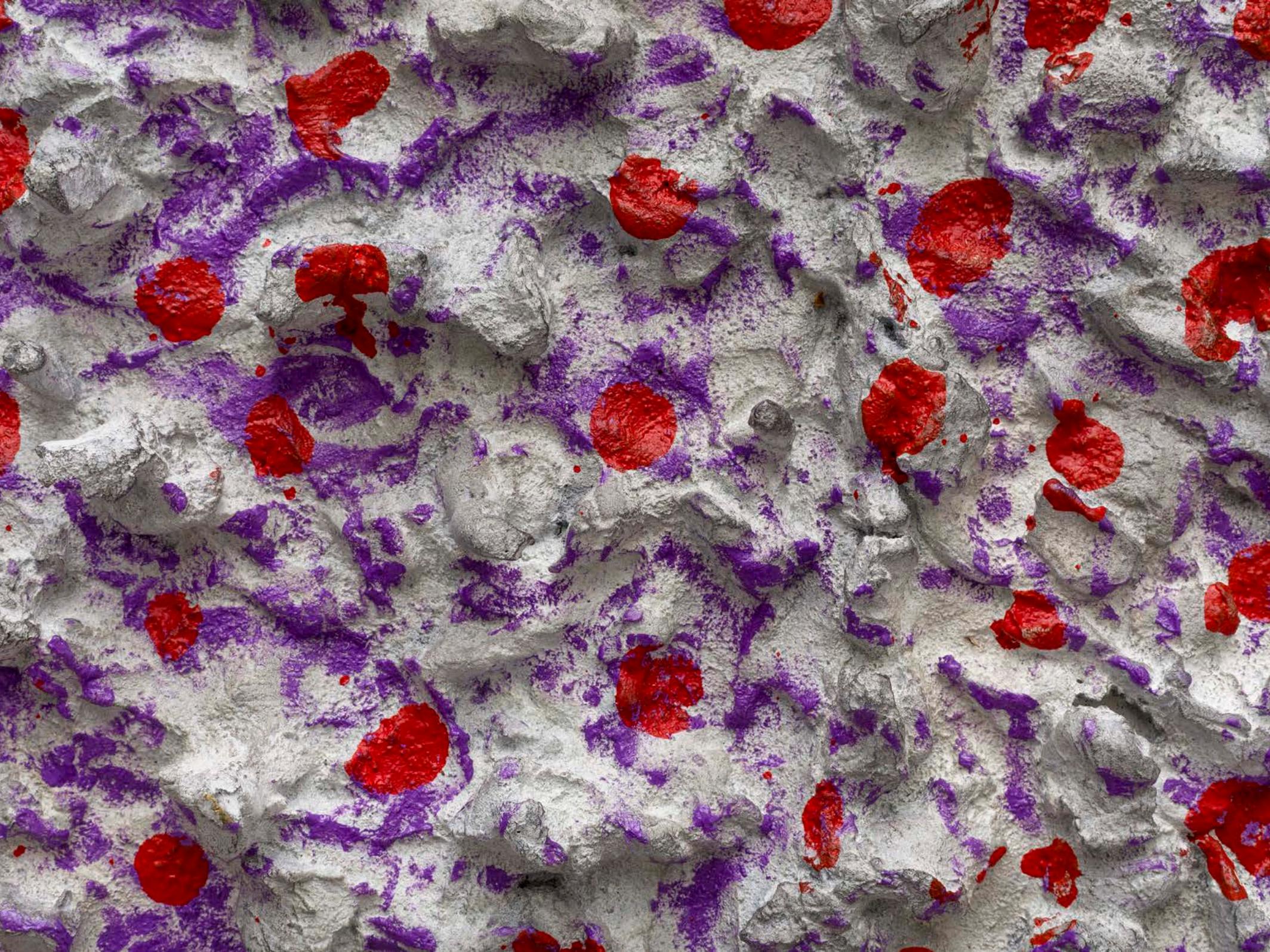
Adriano Costa, *Moda chata de consertar tudo*, 2024, t-shirt on a mirror, 67.5 x 64.6 x 6.2 cm | 26 5/8 x 25 3/8 x 2 1/2 in, MW.ACT.1322



Adriano Costa, *Cecil B. DeMille*, 2025, 8 neoprene swimsuits, variable dimensions, MW.ACT.1367



Adriano Costa, *Untitled*, 2025, acrylic on bronze, 25 x 33 x 3.5 cm | 9 7/8 x 13 x 1 3/8 in, MW.ACT.1338





Adriano Costa, *quarta-feira*, 2025, acrylic on bronze, 41.5 x 47.5 x 5 cm | 16 3/8 x 18 3/4 x 2 in, MW.ACT.1336



Adriano Costa

*Painting the sun and some flores, 2025*

acrylic on bronze

62 x 90 x 4 cm

24 3/8 x 35 3/8 x 1 5/8 in

MW.ACT.1355





Adriano Costa, *Untitled*, 2025, acrylic on bronze, 45.5 x 52.5 x 2 cm | 17 7/8 x 20 5/8 x 3/4 in, MW.ACT.1335





**Adriano Costa**

*Milk*, 2025

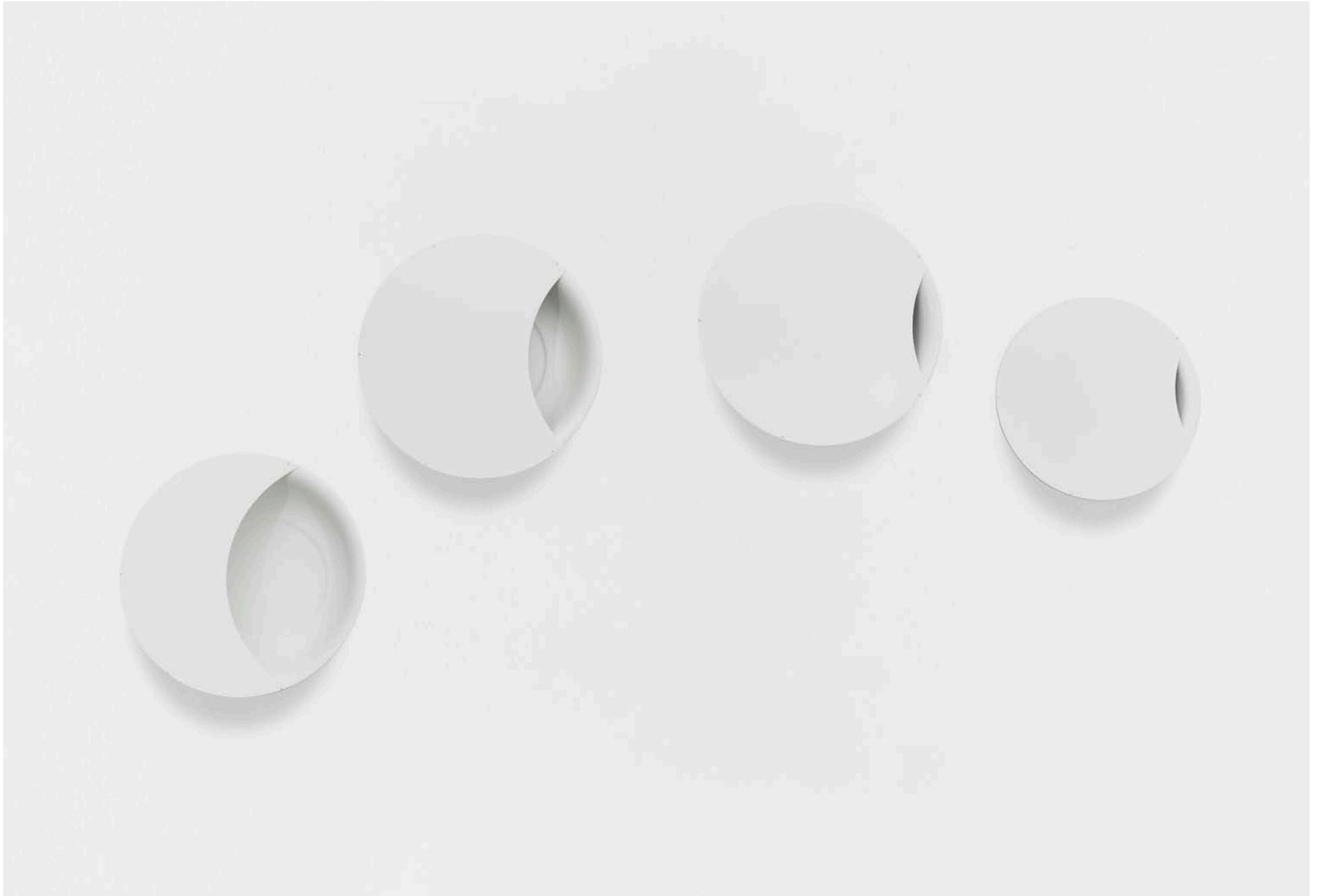
varnish and graffiti on bronze

35.8 x 27 x 2 cm

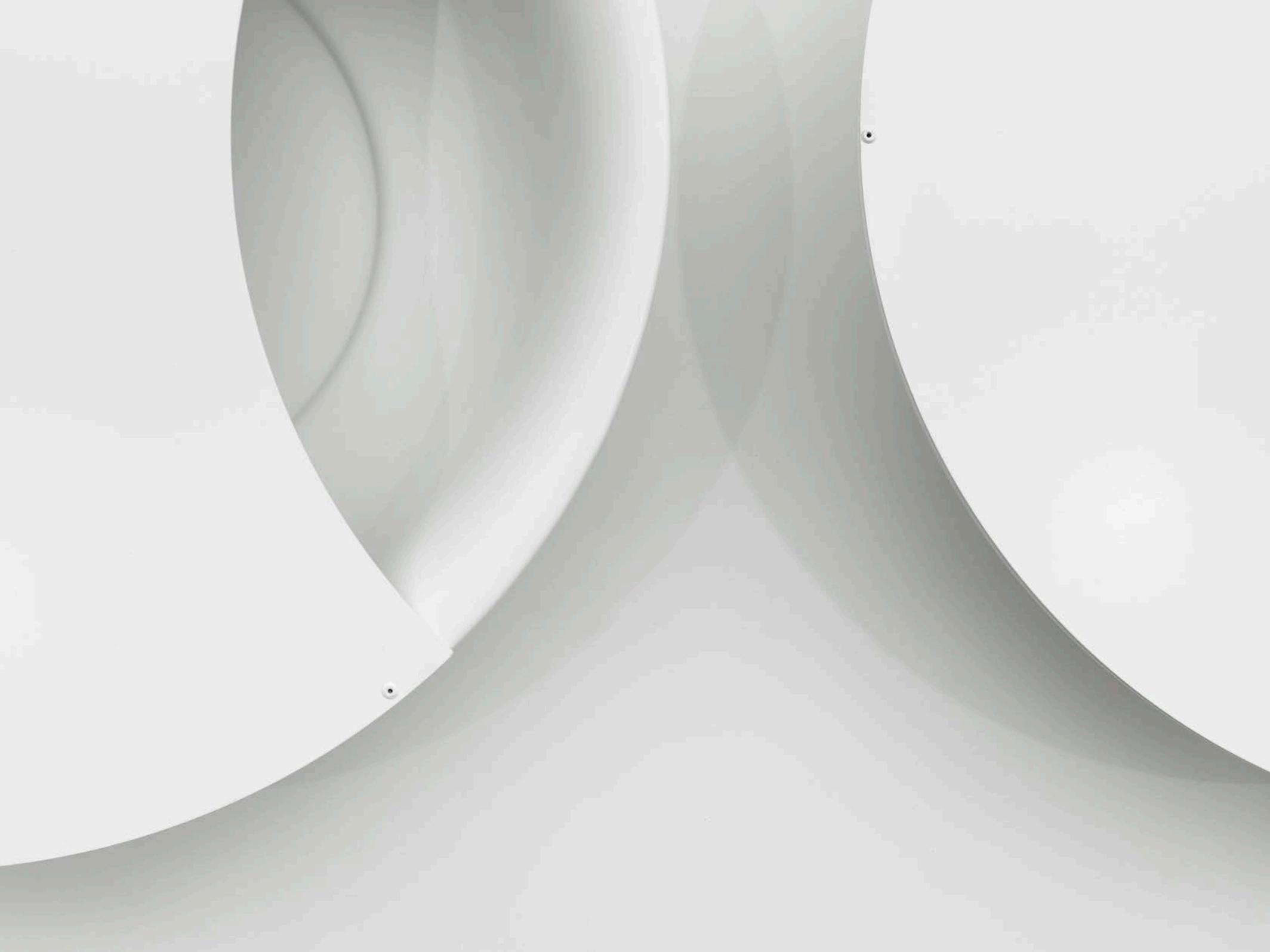
14 1/8 x 10 5/8 x 3/4 in

MW.ACT.1337





Adriano Costa, *LUA series - 4 casas*, 2024, electrostatic painting on iron and aluminum, 13 x 60 x 60 cm approx (each) | 5 1/8 x 23 5/8 x 23 5/8 in approx (each), MW.ACT.1285





Adriano Costa, *Sol Horizontal*, 2021, formica on wood, 211 x 31 x 5 cm | 83 1/8 x 12 1/4 x 2 in, MW.ACT.932





**Adriano Costa**

*Medusa*, 2023

acrylic on paper sewn on canvas

30 x 17 x 2 cm

11 3/4 x 6 3/4 x 3/4 in

MW.ACT.1165



Adriano Costa

*Carrossel*

2023

bronze and iron

55 x 57 x 36 cm

21 5/8 x 22 1/2 x 14 1/8 in

MW.ACT.1138



Adriano Costa, *César*, 2023, bronze, 28 x 32 x 20 cm (left) and 25 x 32 x 16 cm (right) | 11 x 12 5/8 x 7 7/8 in (left) and 9 7/8 x 12 5/8 x 6 1/4 in (right), MW.ACT.1168



Adriano Costa, *Landscape - Red Sun*, 2022, mixed media, 41 x 51 x 5 cm | 16 1/8 x 20 1/8 x 2 in, MW.ACT.996



**Adriano Costa**

*Abajur*

2018 – 2021

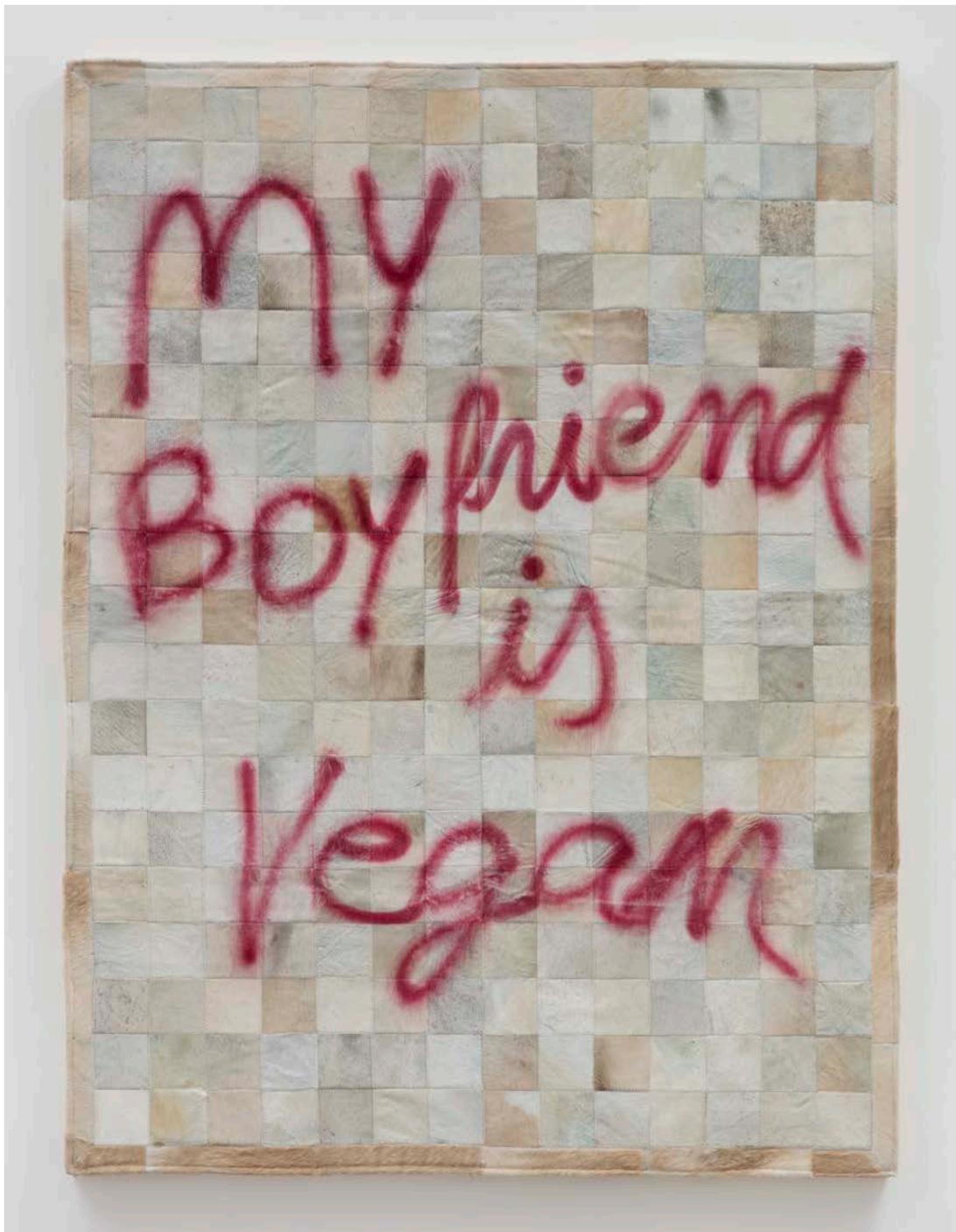
eletrostatic painting on bronze and aluminum

75 x 45 cm ø

29 1/2 x 17 3/4 in

edition of 5 plus 1 artist's proof

MW.ACT.930



**Adriano Costa**

*The Butcher's Arms*

2016

spray paint and leather mounted on wood

198 x 147 x 6 cm

78 x 57 7/8 x 2 3/8 in

MW.ACT.B.496

Linda Yablonsky around the 47th Art Basel

"By general consensus, this was turning out to be the best Art Basel in years." READ ON

We are in the full moon of Gemini. intense energy, great time to strengthen the creative mind and remember that life can be a magical experience when the mind works in our favor! Shalom!!!!



Consequently, the Olympians will almost certainly come into contact with disease-causing viruses, which, according to some tests, are present at levels up to 1.7 million times above what would be considered alarming in beaches in Southern California, USA.

2016201520142013201220112010200920082007200620052004200320022001200019991998199719961995199419931992199119901989198819871986198519841983198219811980197919781977197619751974197319721971197019691968196719661965196419631962



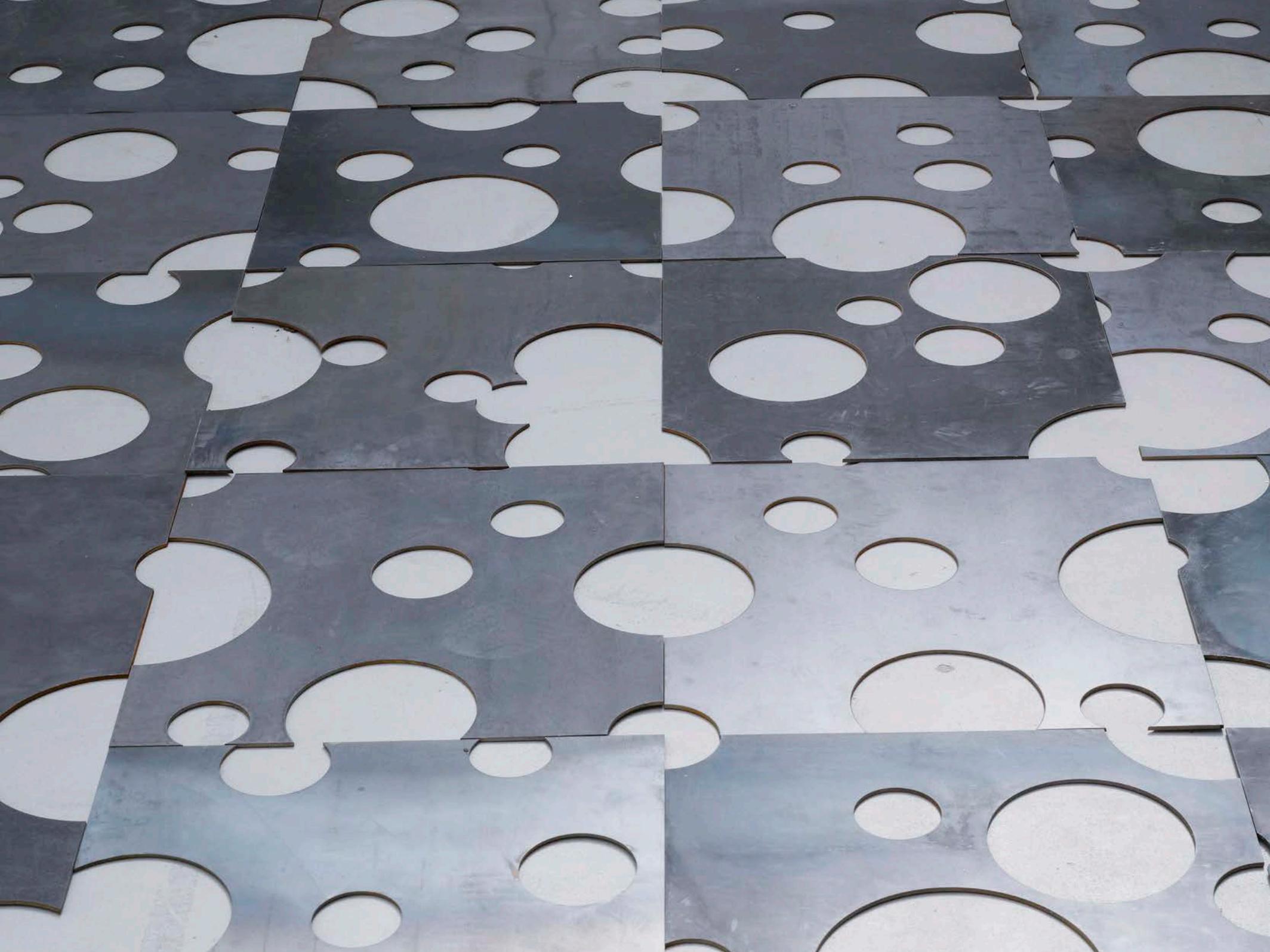


Adriano Costa, *A Morta*, 2015, acrylic on canvas, 52 x 63 x 4.5 cm | 20 1/2 x 24 3/4 x 1 3/4 in, MW.ACT.P.412



Adriano Costa, *Norwegian Cheese*, 2014, steel, variable dimensions, MW.ACT.667







*Costa seeks observational freedom. He absorbs the forms of his world – tiles, bottles, slabs, skis, umbrellas – sometimes integrating them into his work, sometimes making new work informed by their humble energy. Nevertheless, he rejects the notion of ‘found’ materials, seeing all things, from bronze to plastic, as equal.*

*Primarily a sculptor, he also brings his material sensitivity to painting, drawing, collage and writing, all of which fill his vast, meticulous installations. Much of Costa’s work is in the act of arranging. A wall of bricks lays flat on the floor; rugs hang from the ceiling; a constellation of detritus crawls across the corner of a room. His environments suggest an idiosyncratic, anarchic culture of his own making, where he can do whatever he wants. He is both careful and sloppy, minimal and busy, highly formalist and crassly lowbrow. Often, he slips subversive humour into his gestures. He engraves the phrase ‘I see a penis’ into a chunk of marble. He casts ratty doormats in gold and stick-figures in bronze.*

– Ross Simonini, Adriano Costa in conversation with Ross Simonini, ArtReview Magazine, 2018

## Education

BA, ECA-Universidade São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

## Solo Exhibitions

2025

*1 metro de cabelo*, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil

2024

*ax-d. us. t.*, Emalin, London, UK

2023

*all fishermen know about u(s)*, A Sud, Pescara, Italy

*MILK OF SLUMS – RUA DOS CACIQUES*, Mendes Wood DM, New York, USA

*Jac Leirner & Adriano Costa, YOUR WORK AND ITS CONSEQUENCES*,

Emalin, London, UK

2022

*CEMITÉRIO*, City SALTS, Birsfelden, Switzerland

*HUMANONLY*, Terzo Fronte, Rome, Italy

*ANYBLOOD.?*, Terzo Fronte, Athens, Greece

*Philosophy of the World*, Mendes Wood DM, Brussels, Belgium

2021

*flowers and holes (glory)*, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil

2019

*ROCKWHORESHOW3-What Have We Done 2 Deserve This*, Castiglioni,

Milan, Italy

*ROCKWHORESHOW*, Nuno Centeno, Porto, Portugal

2018

*We Chose Life . What Now, Georg? Tshirts ?*, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil

*wetANDsomeOLDstuffVANDALIZEDbyTHEartist*, Kölnischer Kunstverein, Cologne, Germany

*B A I L E*, Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo, Brazil

2017

*ChapéuFilosófico – a show about LOVE LOST LET IT GO OR AS U WISH*,

Galeria Múrias Centeno, Lisbon, Portugal

2016

*DearMeatCutsDevilMayCry*, David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

*Storytellingcaipira*, Supportico Lopez, Berlin, Germany

2015

*Tia Deth*, Stefania Batoeva & Adriano Costa, Emalin, London, UK

*Every Camel Tells a Story*, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil

*Draw Flying Penis/Pussy Against Gentrification*, White Cubicle Toilet Gallery, London, UK

2014

*Touch me I am geometrically sensitive*, Sadie Coles HQ, London, UK

*La Commedia dell'Arte*, Peep-Hole, Milan, Italy

*S Título C Amor From Me To U*, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil

2012

*Crisis Doesn't Matter If You Love Me*, Galeria Nuno Centeno, Porto, Portugal

*Plantation*, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil

2010

*Programa Anual de Exposições*, Centro Cultural São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

2009

*Black Barroco*, galeria polinesia, São Paulo, Brazil

## Group Exhibitions

2025

*Contour Fatigue*, Emalin, London, UK

2024

*Prove per un paesaggio d'insieme*, Collezione Agovino, Naples, Italy

*Lygia Clark: The I and the You and Sonia Boyce: An Awkward Relation, Limited Editions*, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK

*The Rough Grace of a Bard*, FLATS, Brussels, Belgium

*118½*, Emalin, London, UK

*Cruella De-vil*, Galerie Sultana, Paris, France

*Dreaming of Spilliaert*, D'Ouwe Kerke, Retranchement, The Netherlands

2023

*Primary Forms: III edition*, Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, Poland

*Pick Pocket*, Fondazione Zimei, Pescara, Italy

*Tanz auf dem Vulkan*, Fondazione Morra Greco, Napoli, Italy

*SHOKAKKO*, TheMerode, Brussels, Belgium

*Linhas Tortas*, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil

*Apaixonados*, Coleção Andrea e José Olympio Pereira, São Paulo, Brazil

*Slow Dance (3)*, Stadtgalerie Bern, Bern, Switzerland

*Esfíngico Frontal*, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil

*Elzéard Bouffer*, TheMerode, Brussels, Belgium

2022

*HISTORY(IES) OF ART: RECENT ACQUISITIONS IN THE SERRALVES*



*Meditation*, Trance, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil  
*17th Festival Internacional de Arte Contemporânea – SESC VideoBrasil*, SESC  
Belenzinho, São Paulo, Brazil

2010

*Tentativa e Aposta*, Red Bull House of Art, São Paulo, Brazil  
*Sempre à Vista (Miragem)*, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil

2009

*LO-FI KIBUTZ*, galeria polinesia, São Paulo, Brazil

2008

*Colônia Selvagem*, galeria polinesia, São Paulo, Brazil

2007

*TATI*, Pandangle House/Favela Erótica, London, UK

2006

*Viés*, Galeria Vermelho, São Paulo, Brazil

2003

*Vizinhos*, Galeria Vermelho, São Paulo, Brazil  
*poT*, Galeria Camargo Vilaça, São Paulo, Brazil

### **Awards**

Prêmio Residência Artística, Kiosko, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia  
PIPA Prize nomination, 2012, 2013, 2016

### **Collections**

Boros Collection  
Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo (MAM – SP)  
Museu de Arte Contemporânea Armando Martins (MACAM)  
Museum of Fine Arts, Huston  
Sandretto Re Rebaudengo Collection  
Serralves Foundation  
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum  
Zabludowicz Collection



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