



Sonia Gomes weaves her work over the duration of time. The artist chooses materials that bring with them colors, textures, trims, and an indefinable set of memories. Each fabric, article of clothing, and accessory she uses has traveled its path and was dressed, stored, and altered before undergoing a final transformation in her studio.

By combining actions such as brushing, twisting, stretching, tensioning, suspending, and wrapping, Gomes turns sewing into a kind of drawing. Her gestures produce traces and set stages of fabric handling, linking, balancing, and associating pieces in a body that, as if growing, takes shape, establishing relationships with the surrounding space.

Sonia Gomes (b. 1948, Caetanópolis, Brazil) lives and works in São Paulo.

The artist's solo exhibitions include Mendes Wood DM, Paris (2024); Octógono da Pinacoteca de São Paulo, São Paulo (2023); Pace Gallery, New York (2022); Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo (2021); Blum & Poe, Los Angeles (2021); Museum Frieder Burda, Baden-Baden (2019); Mendes Wood DM, Brussels (2019); Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo (2018); Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand (MASP) and Casa de Vidro, São Paulo (2018); Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Niterói (MAC), Niterói (2018); Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo (2016); Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo (2014); Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo (2012).



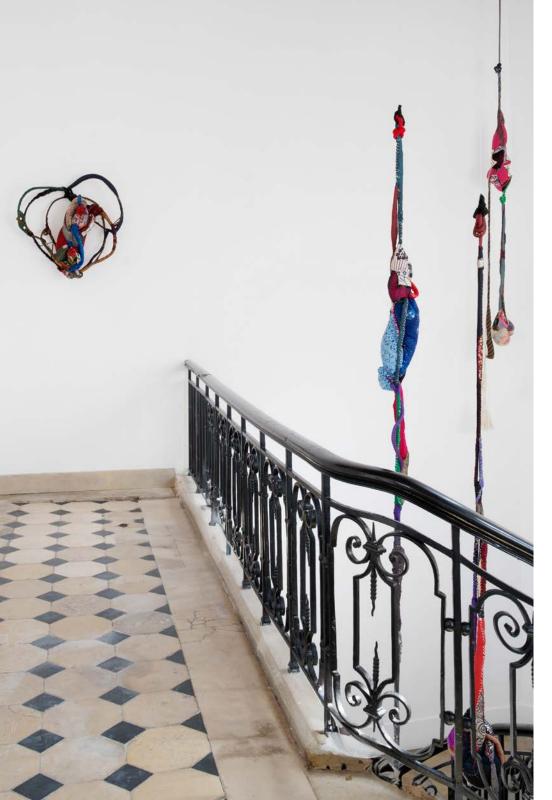




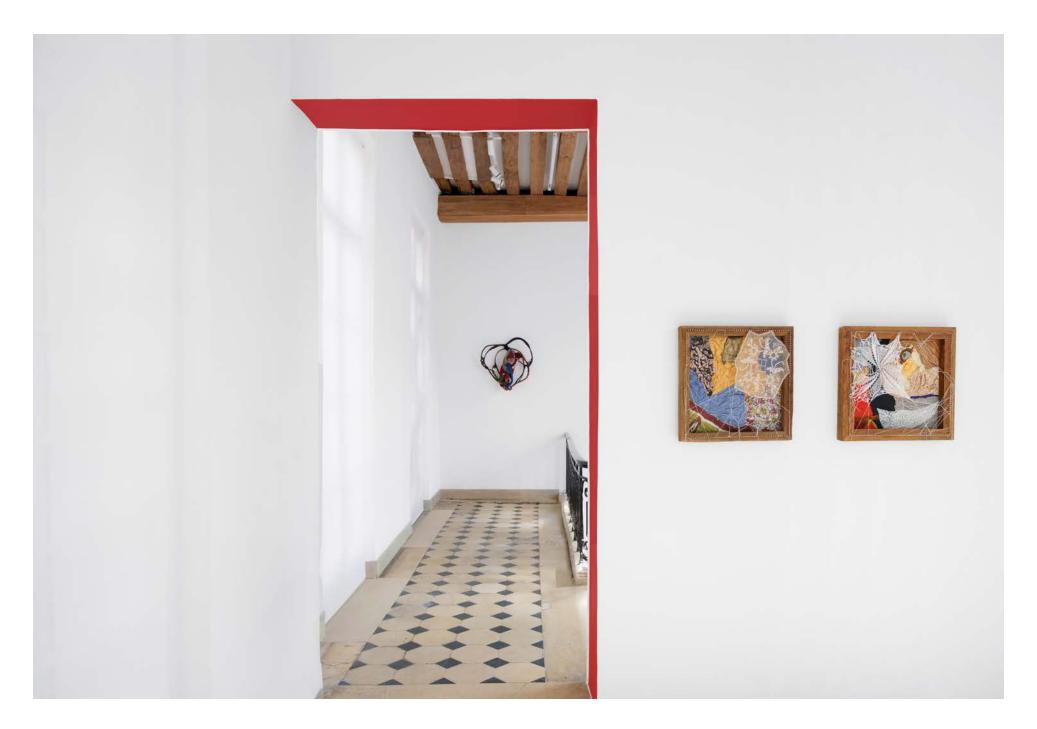


Mendes Wood DM, Paris ...vivem no compasso do Sol

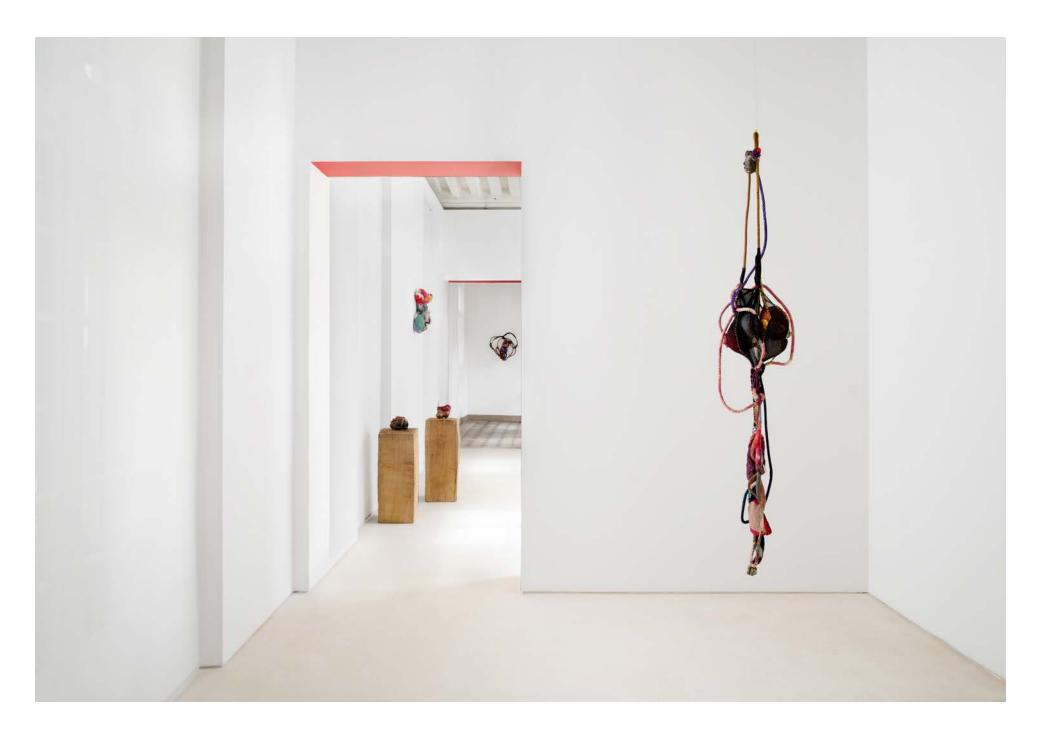




A whole world opens up to us when we enter the work of Sonia Gomes, a world that contains all the possible avatars of textile: from fine threads to sturdy ropes, replaced occasionally by cables, including scraps of embroidered textiles, printed silks, batiks and other fabrics, interwoven to form surfaces, structures, masses of decorated fibres, or little antennaed monsters that concede nothing to anthropomorphism (Trouxa). The atmosphere is organic in the textures and volume, as fabric envelopes are stuffed and sewn, patched or 'rapaillées', as the Québécois poet Gaston Miron wrote in 1970, resorting to the popular language that was seeking a term to describe 'gathering scattered objects'. Thus, Sonia Gomes 'rapaille' the fabrics given to her; she arranges them and gives them life and meaning through enhanced thickness and texture or replayed graphic motifs. At times, they form filamentous magmas evoking Spanish moss dangling from trees in the tropical American regions (Pendente). But this is metaphorical, since the material proudly asserts human labour, the labour of art. The twisting of masses, the stretching of fabrics, or the raised stitching, all produced by the artist's hand, underlie the work in a rough and meaningful way.



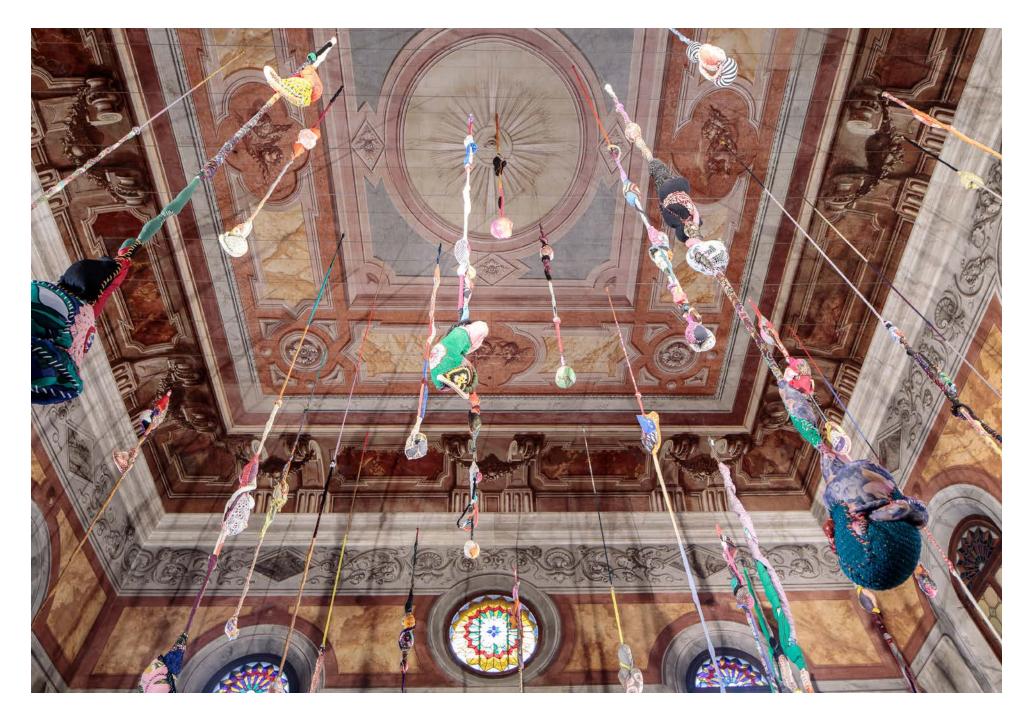














The artist presents the installation "Sinfonia das Cores, 34 acordes" in the group show "With My Eyes", curated by Chiara Parisi and Bruno Racine at the Women's Detention Centre in Venice-Giudecca. The exhibition brings together detainees, artists, and poets – draws inspiration from a fragment of Elizabethan poetry "I do not love you with mine eyes" (Shakespeare, Sonnet 141), which in turn resonates with verses 42.5 from the Book of Job, "My eyes have seen you." Challenging the desire for voyeurism and judgment towards artists and detainees, the exhibition aims to erode the boundaries between observer and observed, judge and judged, thus reflecting on power structures in art and institutions.



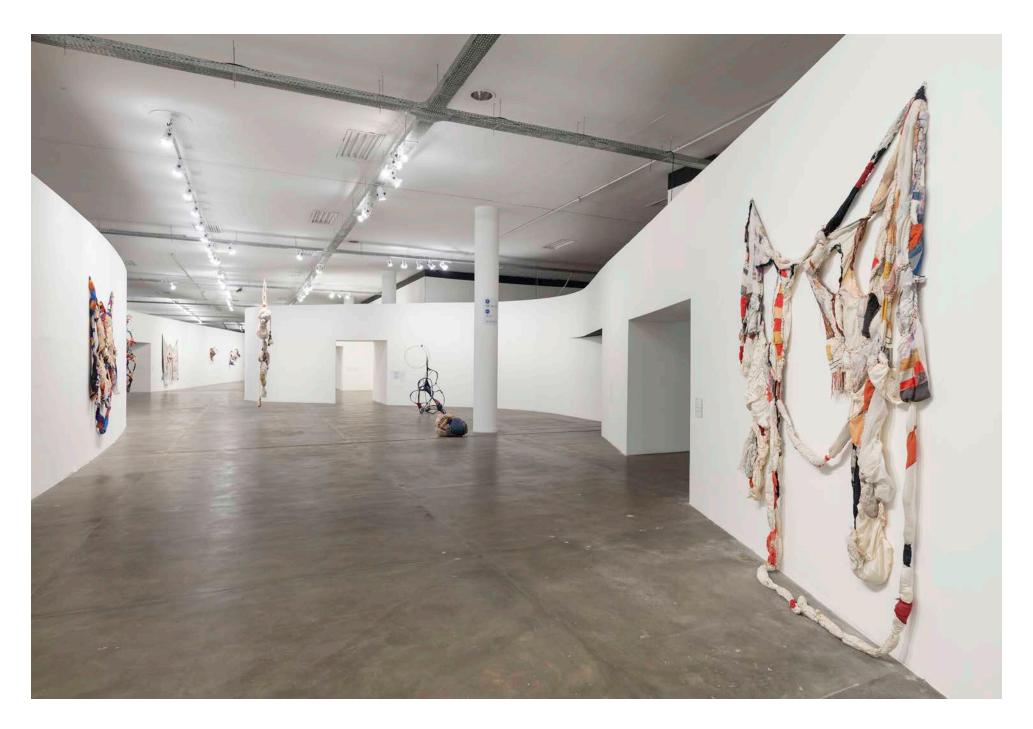


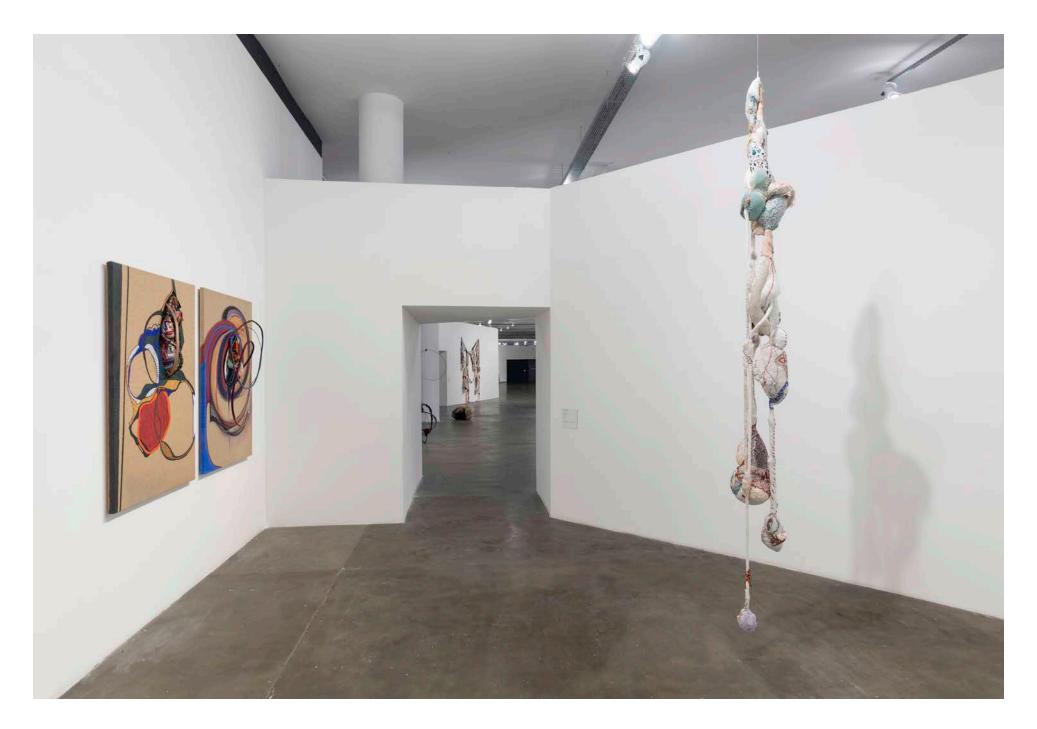
2023 Fundação Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo *35th São Paulo Biennial*

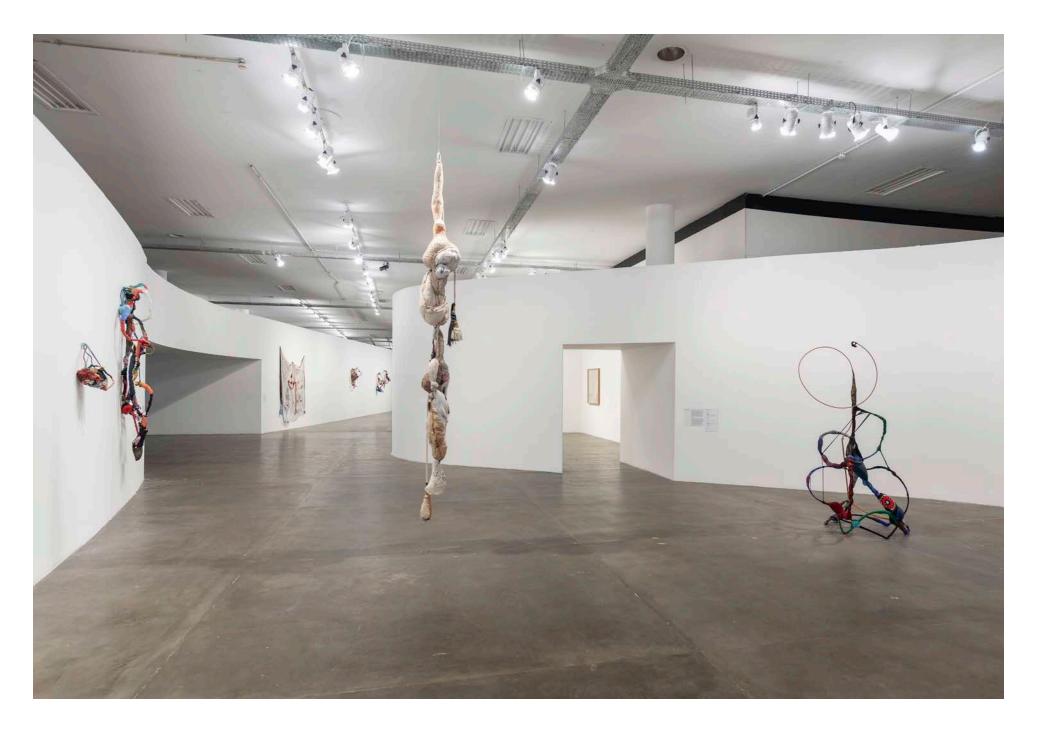
The 35th Bienal de São Paulo presents dozens of works by the Minas Gerais artist, forming a robust and representative body of her poetics and trajectory. Wall works, hanging pieces, rods, and some pieces from the Torção [Torsion] series – Gomes' trademark – will comprise the space. As such, the condensed, tonic time and entangled memories of the millenary resistance of black women takes shape and manifests itself in the choreographies of the impossible.

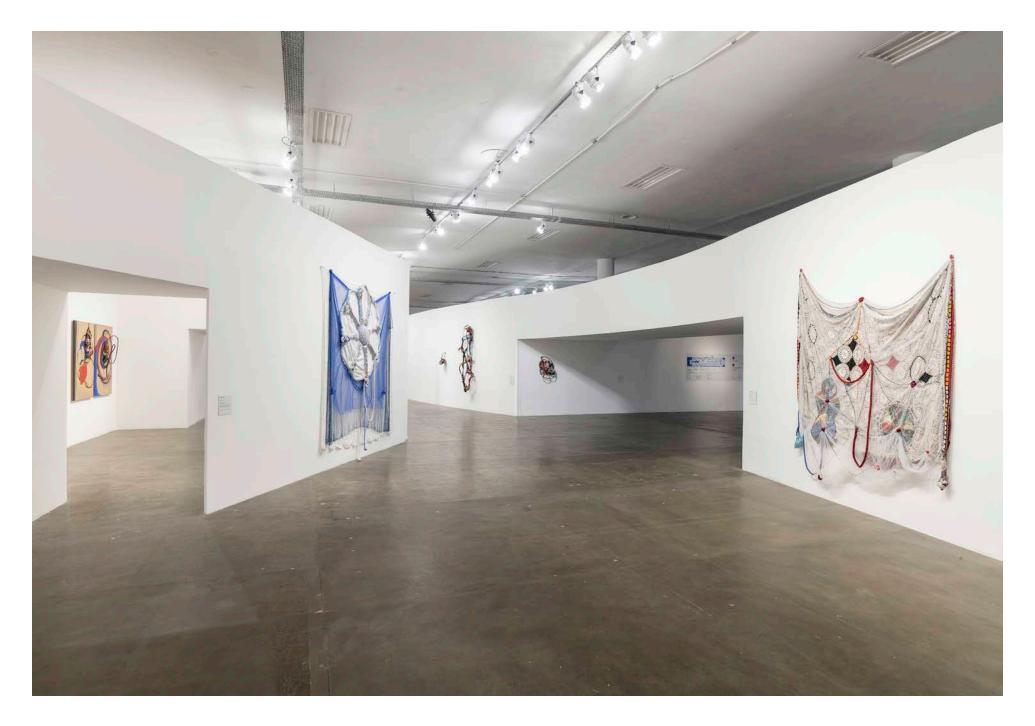
- Juliana de Arruda Sampaio, translet from Portuguese by Philip Somervell





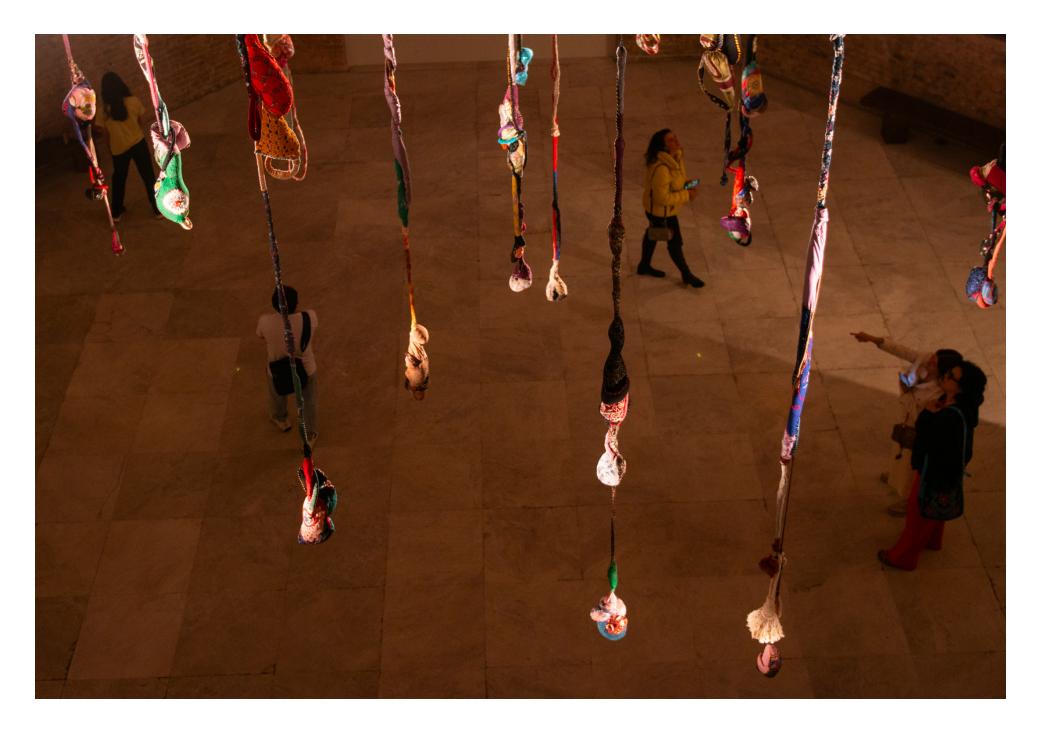




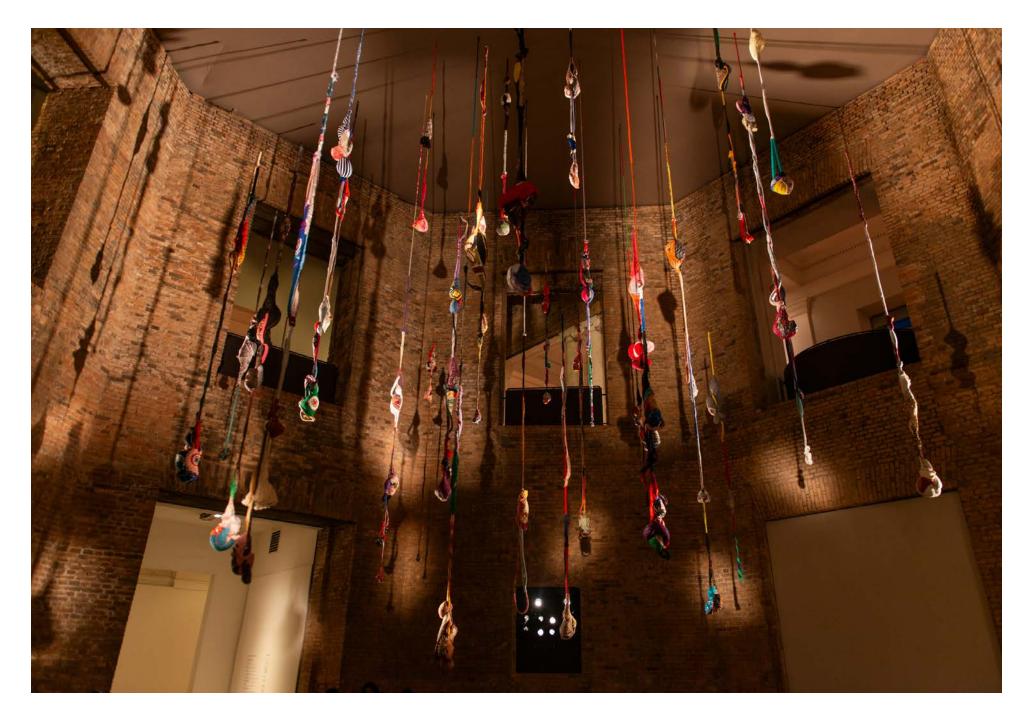


35th São Paulo Biennial, Fundação Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo, 2023

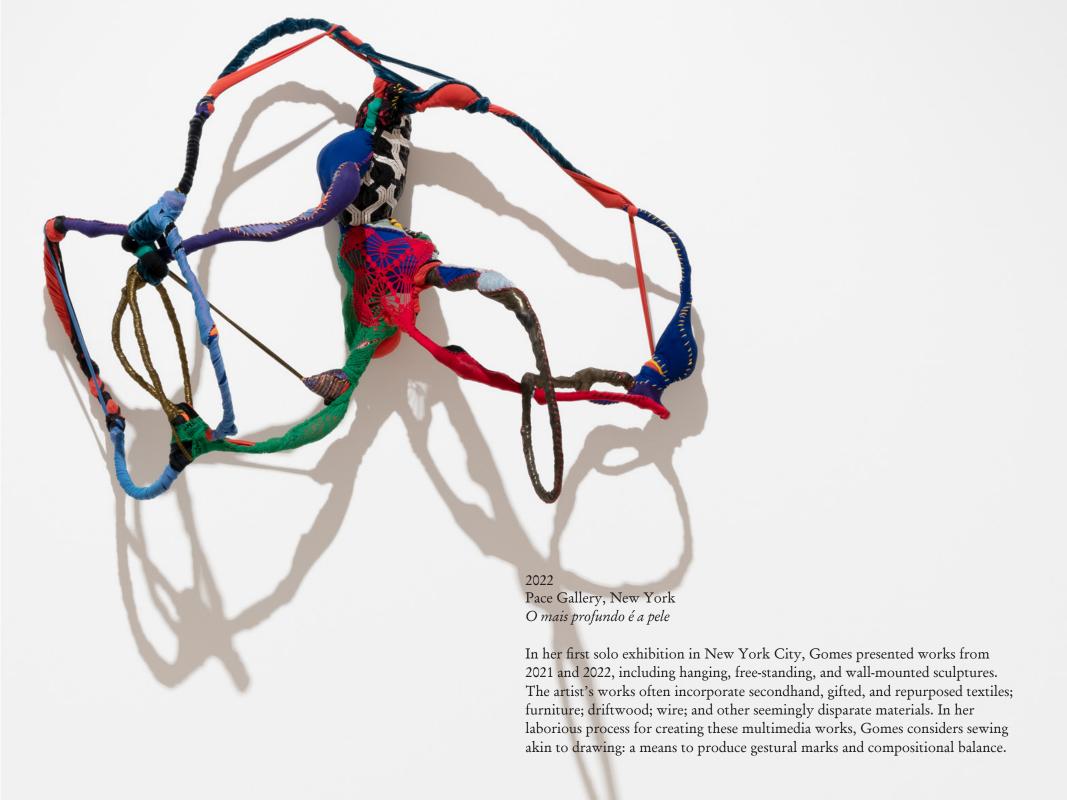


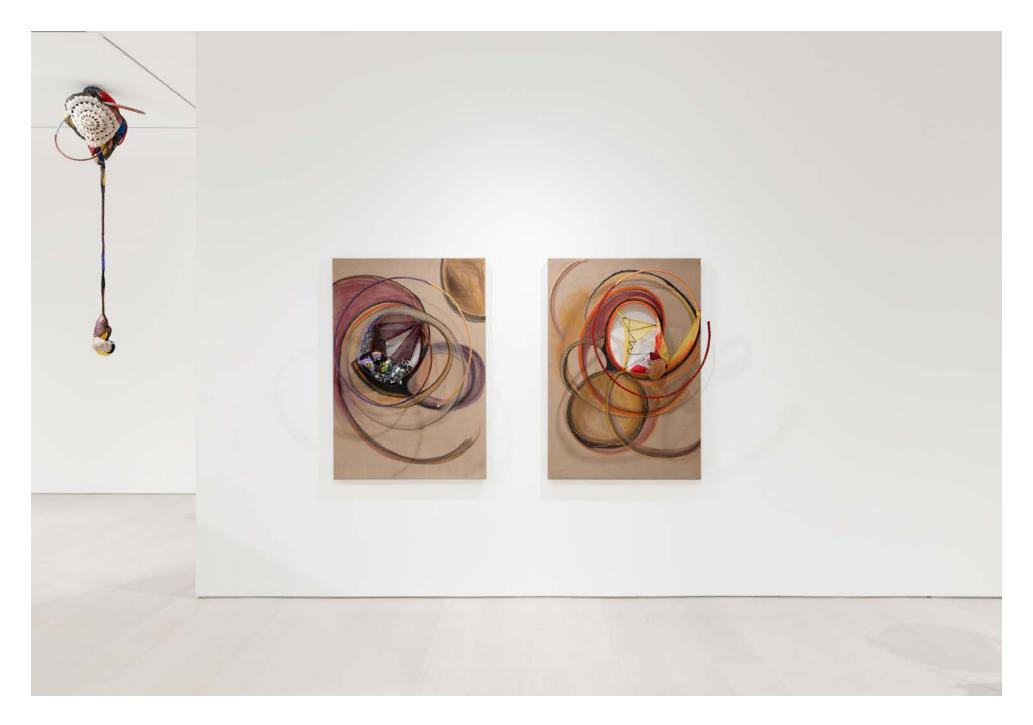


Sinfonia das Cores, Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo, 2023

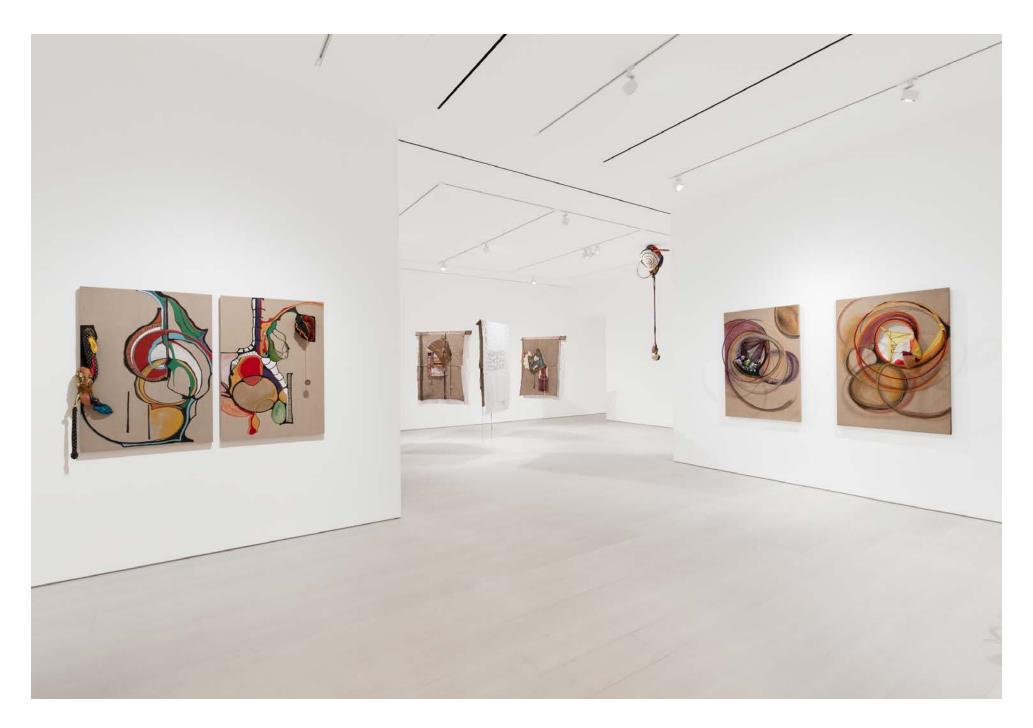








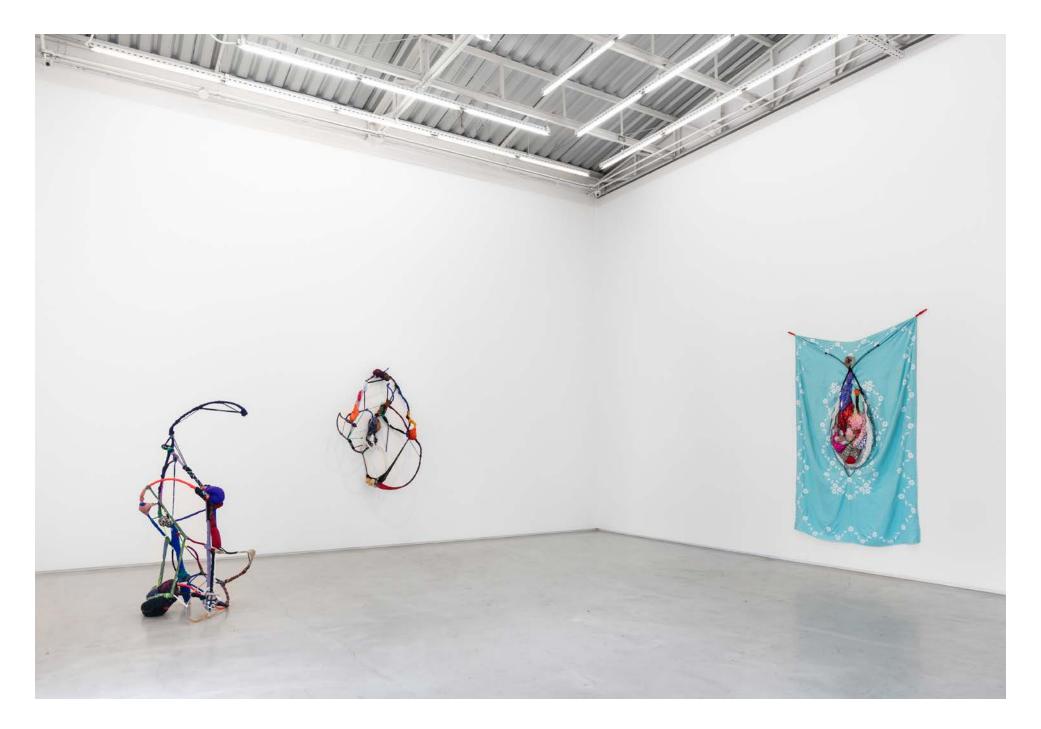






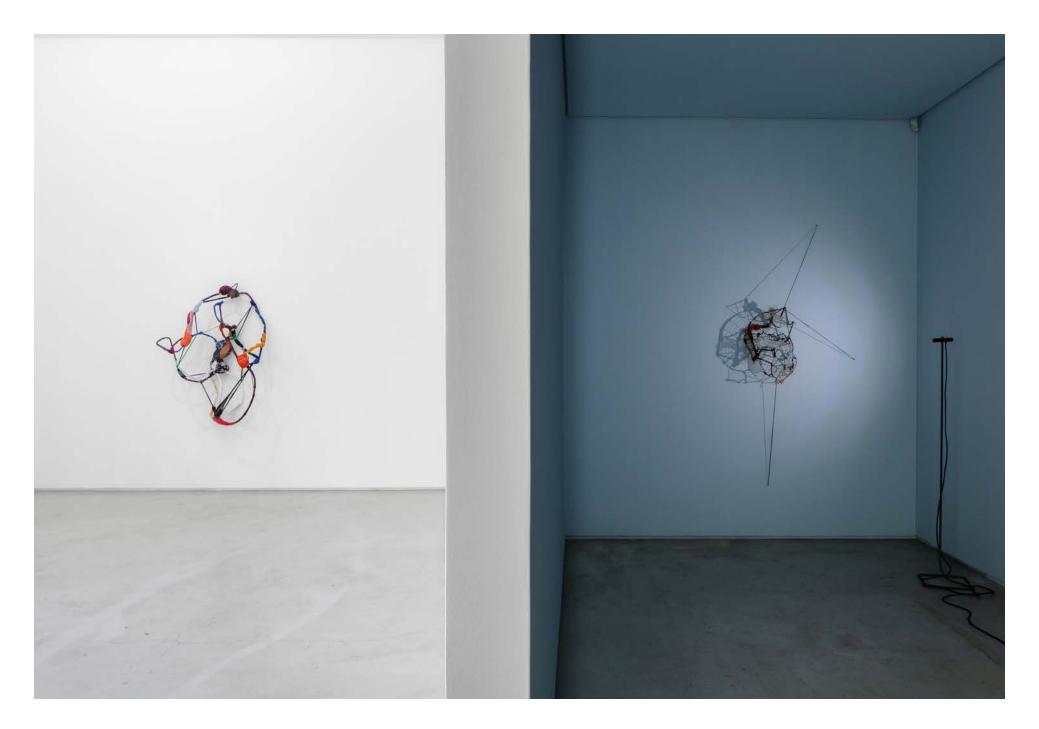


The exhibition orbits around a work titled Lágrima [Tear], which was completed at the beginning of the 2020 pandemic. The blue fabric with white details is cut through by a body that is recurrent in Gomes' sculptures, made of different textures and forms on its surface. Known for her conflicting combinations, the artist builds a convergence point between all the different possibilities and combinations brought together by the memories that impregnate the fabrics. The works follow a process of destruction, and this is the first step in Gomes' method: she tears, wrinkles and breaks in order to build her bodies. This entropic movement is what feeds the artist's radicality, understood by her as fundamental. Losing control of the stories we experience is Gomes' claim for this exhibition; the materialization of the most visceral feelings in the shape of a tear.







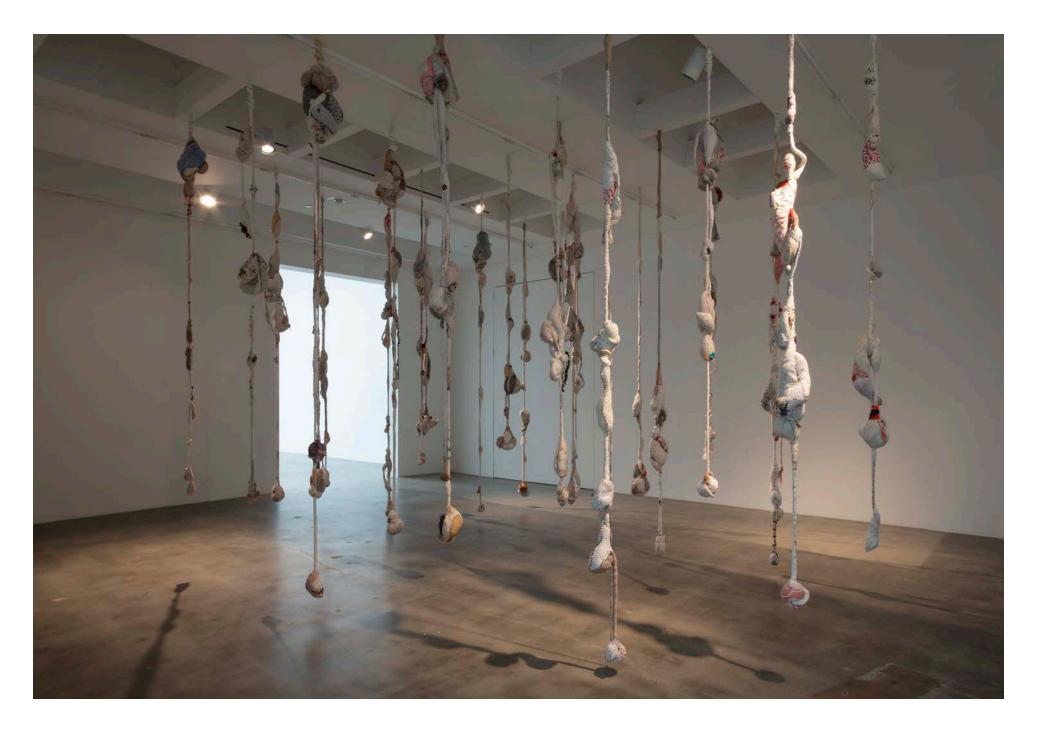


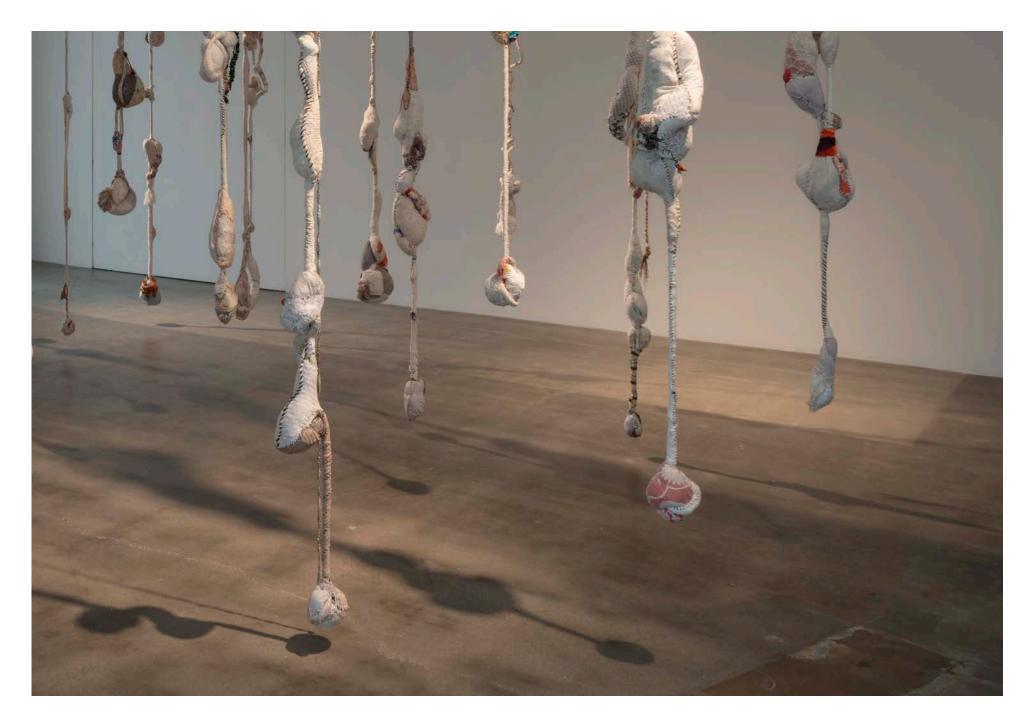




When the sun rises in blue, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, 2021

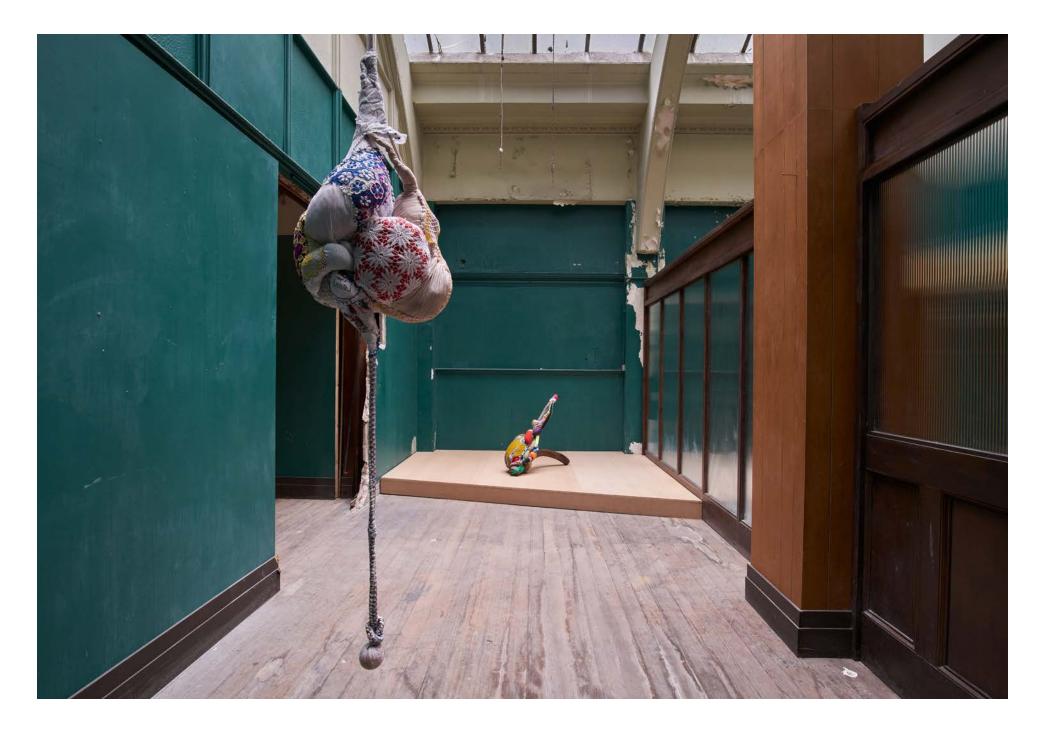


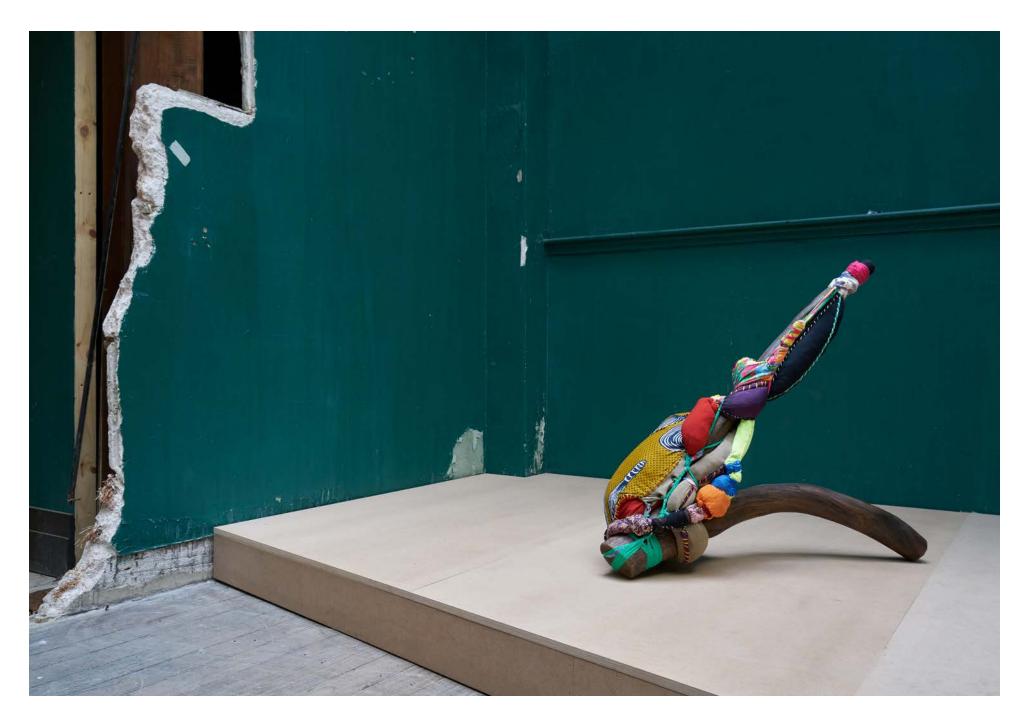


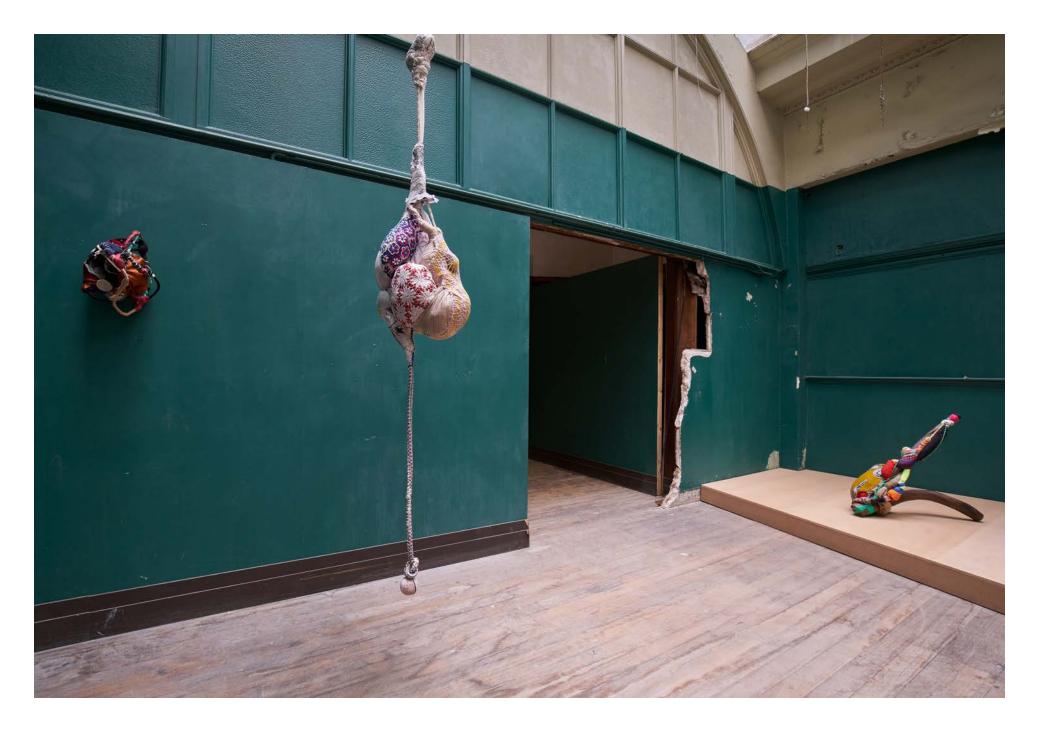


When the sun rises in blue, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, 2021





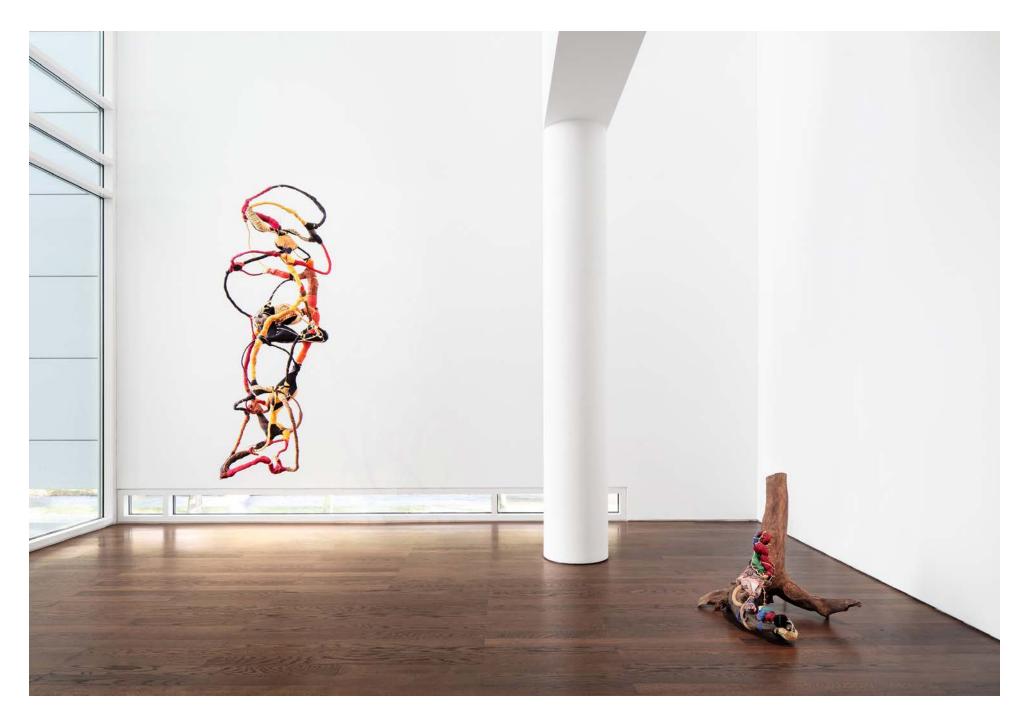






2019 Frieder Burda Museum, Baden I Rise – I'm a Black Ocean, Leaping and Wide

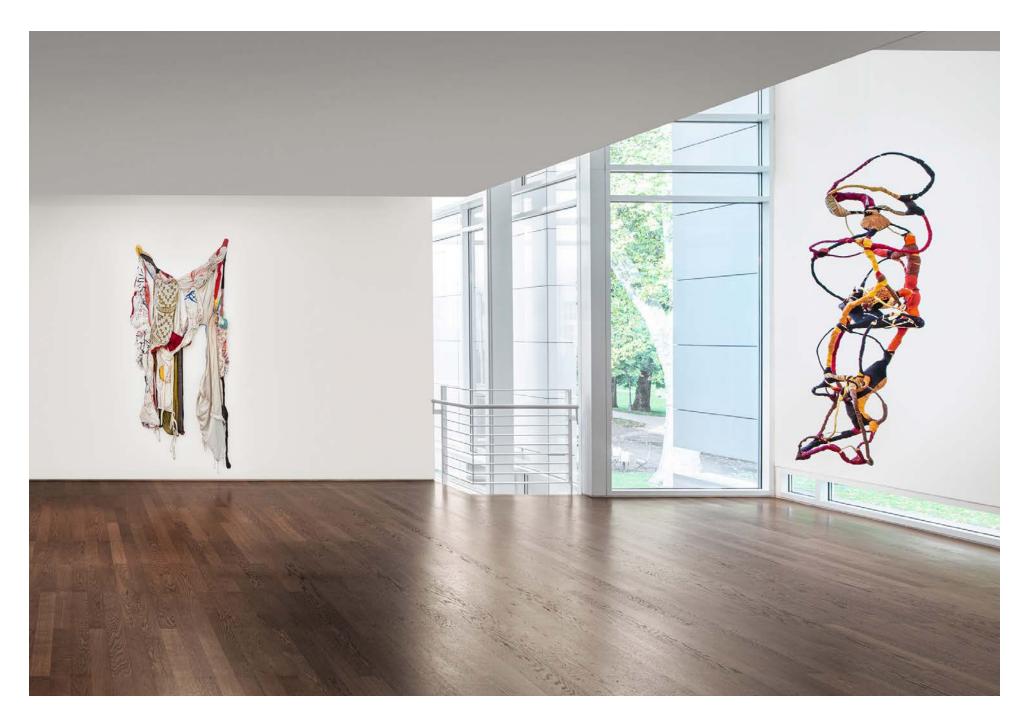
The exhibition I Rise – I'm a Black Ocean, Leaping and Wide combined works from the early 2000s with Gomes' latest mixed-Media sculptures. The poetic title of the exhibition was inspired by passages from the eponymous poem by the Afro-American writer and civil rights activist Maya Angelou (1928-2014). Still I Rise is an anthemic protest against racism, sexual violence, the marginalization of black women and the history of slavery. The exhibition documents how Gomes uses traditional handcraft techniques to create objects that blend extreme physicality with the sacred and the transcendental. Her later works, especially, refer in multi-facetted way to oppression, violence and the eternal existential cycle of life and death.



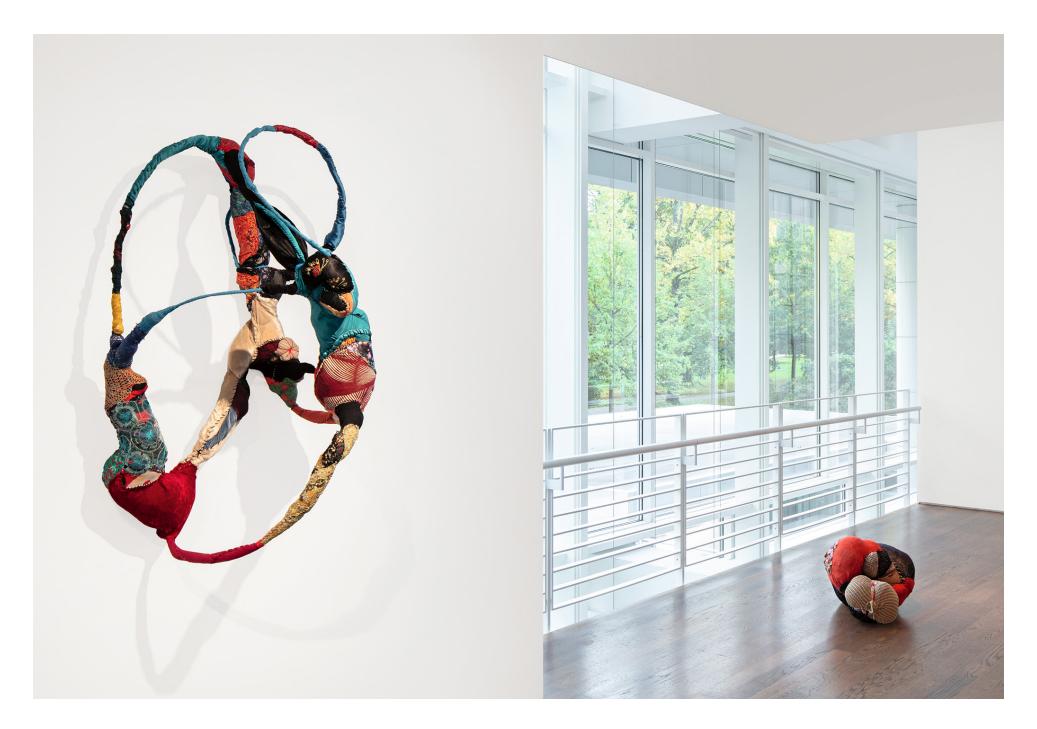
I Rise - I'm a Black Ocean, Leaping and Wide, Frieder Burda Museum, Baden, 2019



I Rise - I'm a Black Ocean, Leaping and Wide, Frieder Burda Museum, Baden, 2019



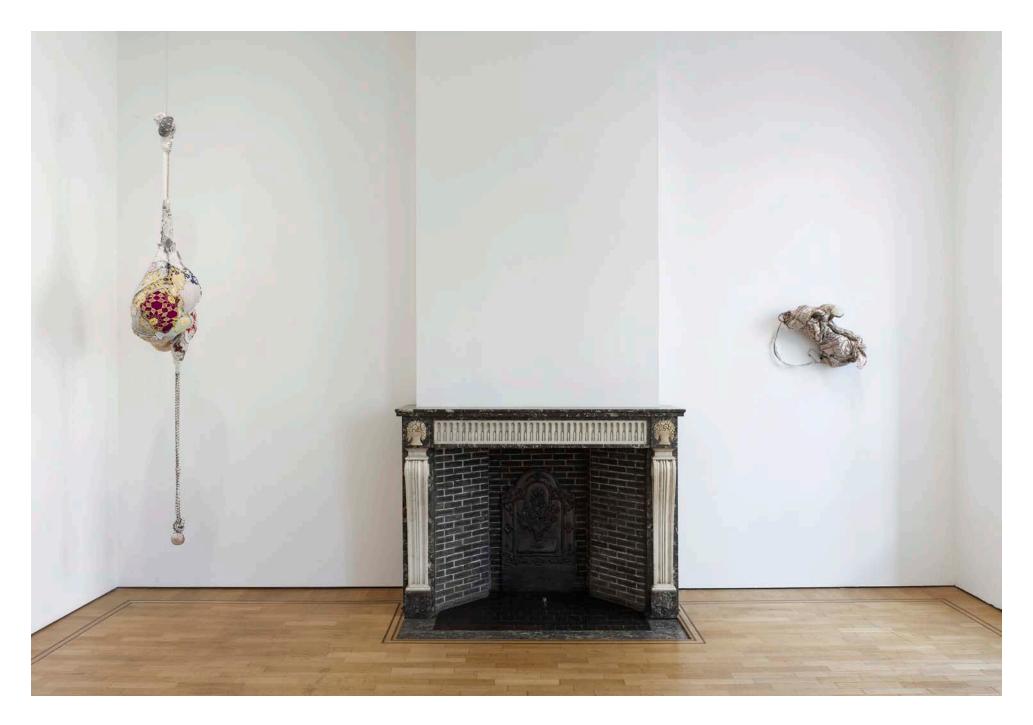
I Rise - I'm a Black Ocean, Leaping and Wide, Frieder Burda Museum, Baden, 2019

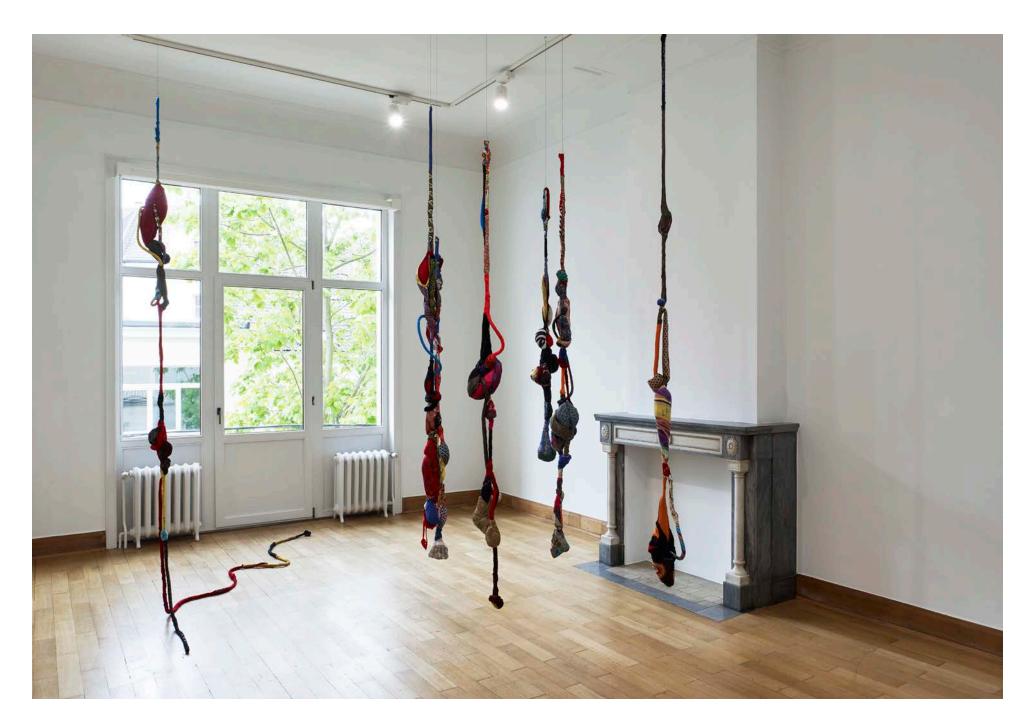




2019 Mendes Wood DM, Brussels *The Silence of Color*

The Silence of Color traces the trajectory of Gomes' recent practice, showcasing colorful works from her latest institutional exhibitions in Brazil, Still I Rise at MASP (São Paulo, 2018) and Casa de Vidro (São Paulo, 2018), as well as a body of new works, from which this exhibition derives its title. Inspired by her work Maria dos Anjos (2017-2018), which Gomes made from pieces of a wedding dress that were sewn together with seams, moorings and various other fabrics, this new series of work marks the first in which white fabric is predominately incorporated. Despite using a wide and varied palette across her practice, the color white posed a challenge for Gomes - namely in that she viewed it as synonymous with silence. After bringing Maria dos Anjos to completion, Gomes decided on a hiatus from working with color in order to explore her aversion to using white fabric.







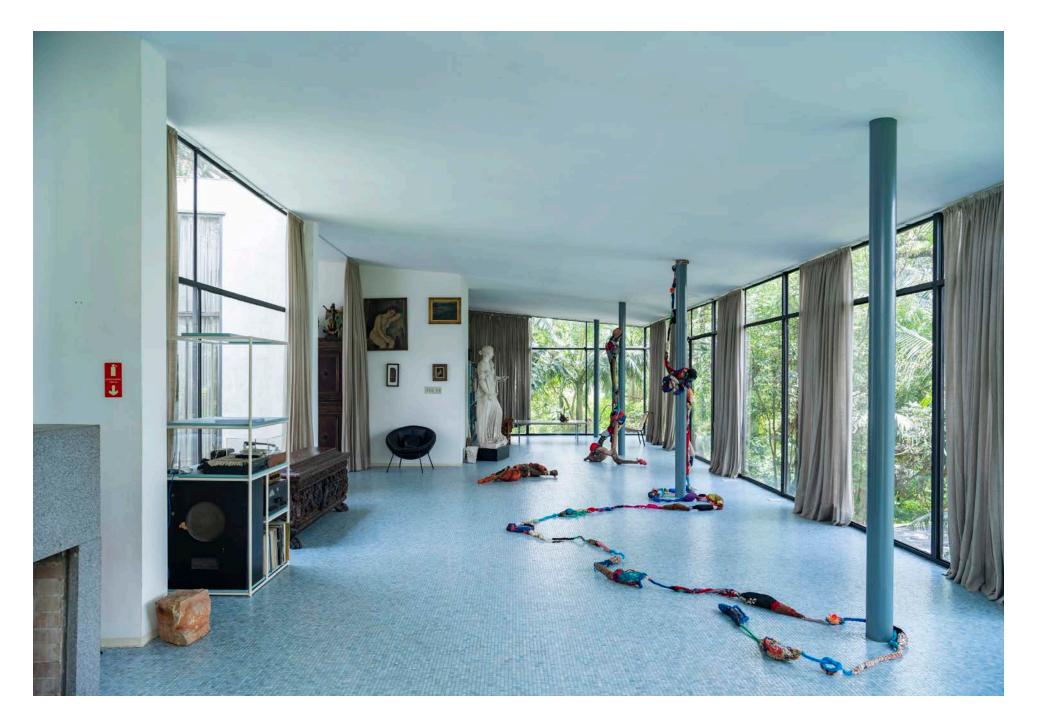




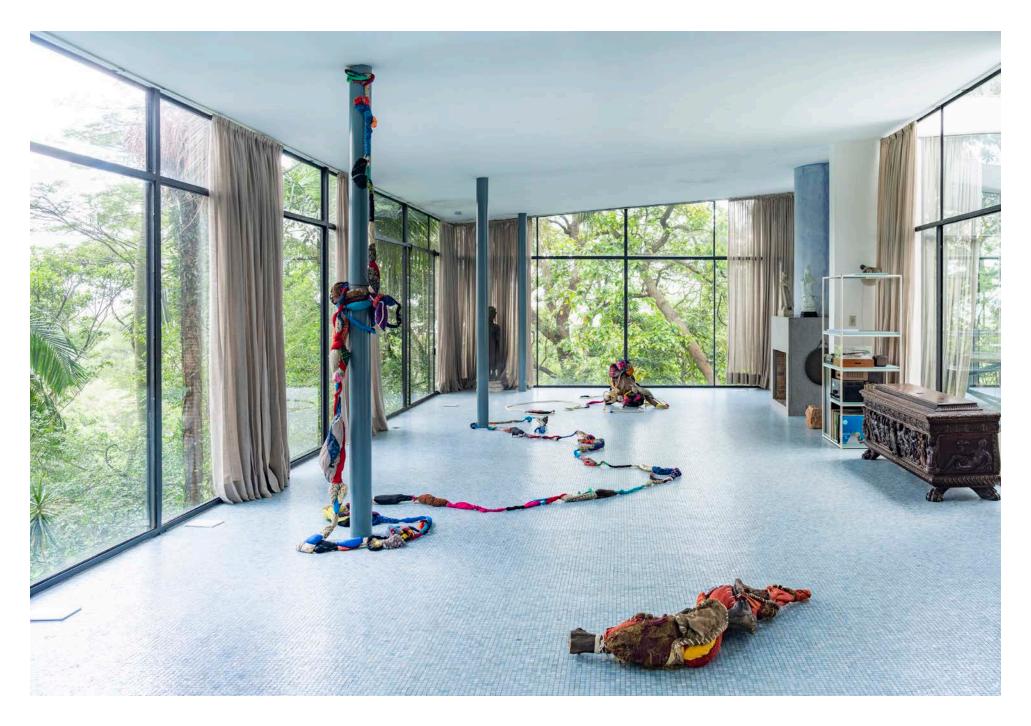
















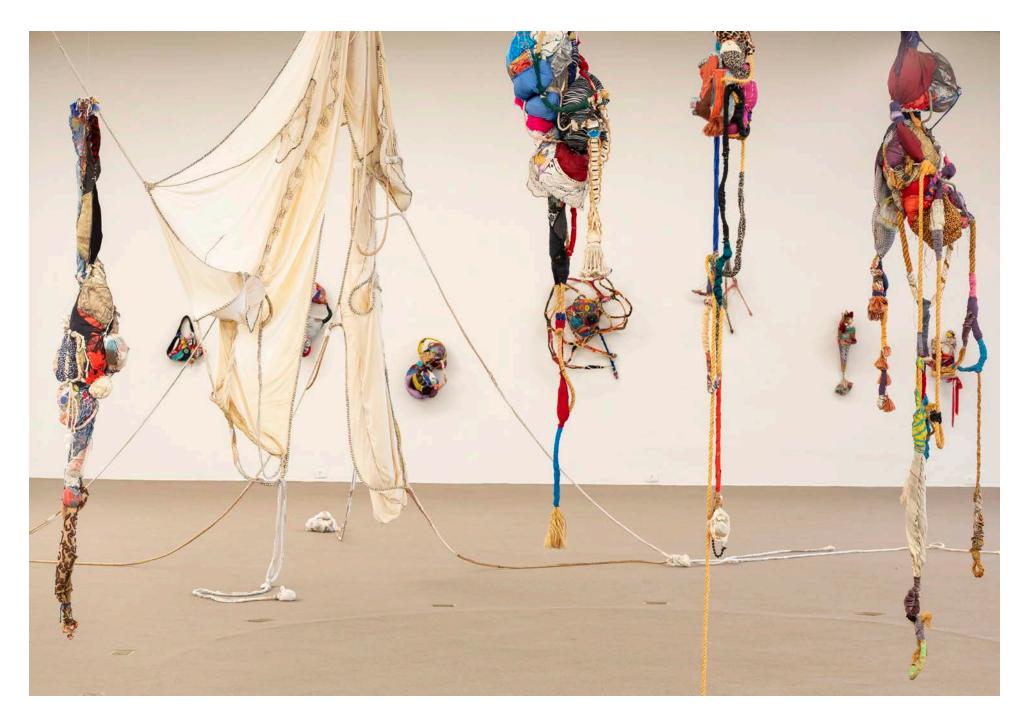
2018 MAC-Niterói, Niterói *A vida renasce, sempre*

The exhibition featured 40 works produced in the last 20 years by the artist. Her famous pendants and sculptures made of twisted cloth make up an exhibition accompanied by drawings on paper, fabric and wood, in addition to interventions in books, household and work objects. Her sculptures' techniques, shapes and prints refer to the artist's family memory and racial identity, included in an intimate and inviting universe.



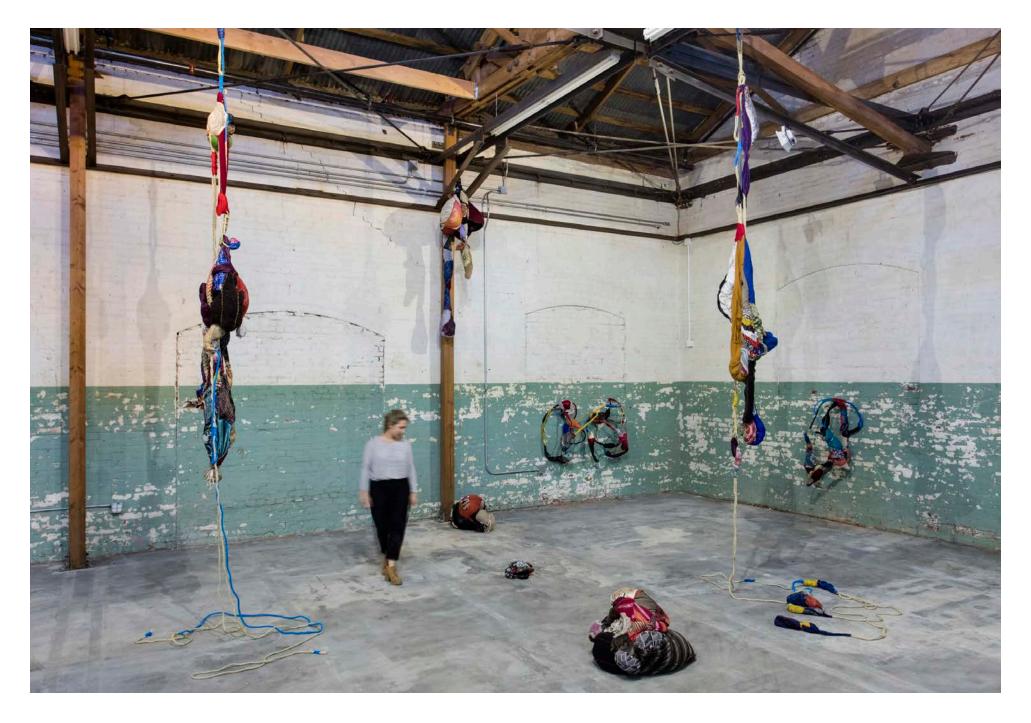








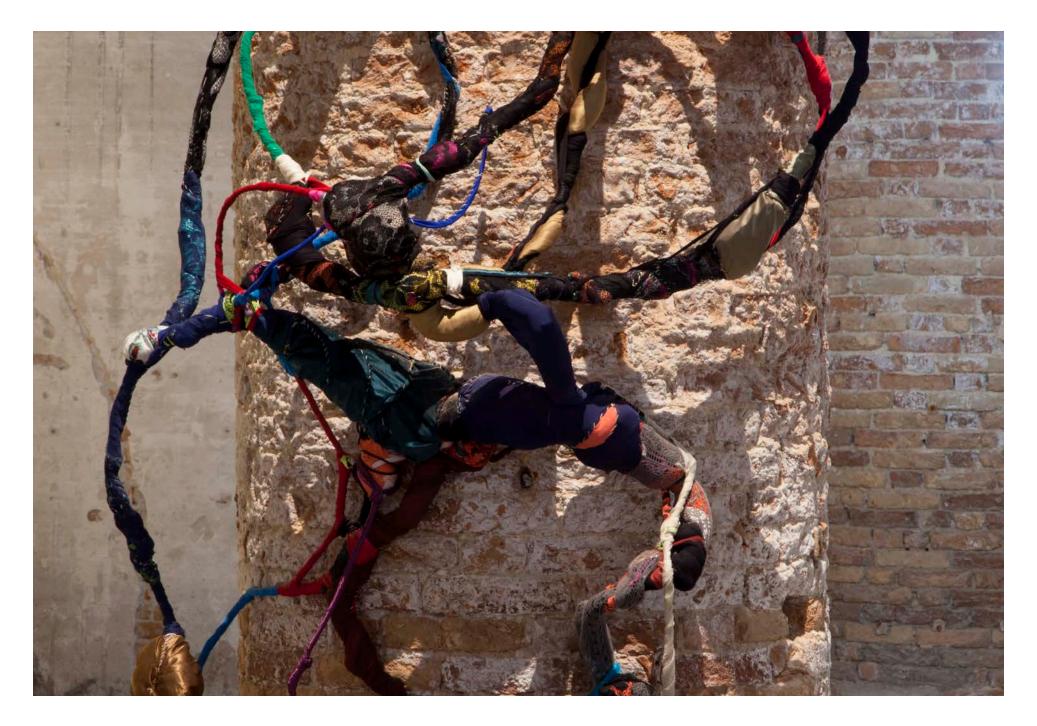




Revolution in the Making: Abstract Sculpture by Women, Hauser Wirth & Schimmel, Los Angeles, 2016

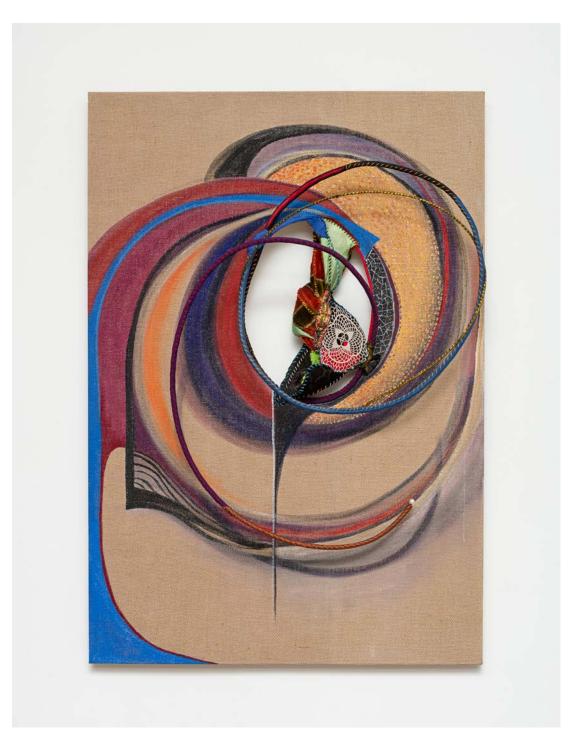






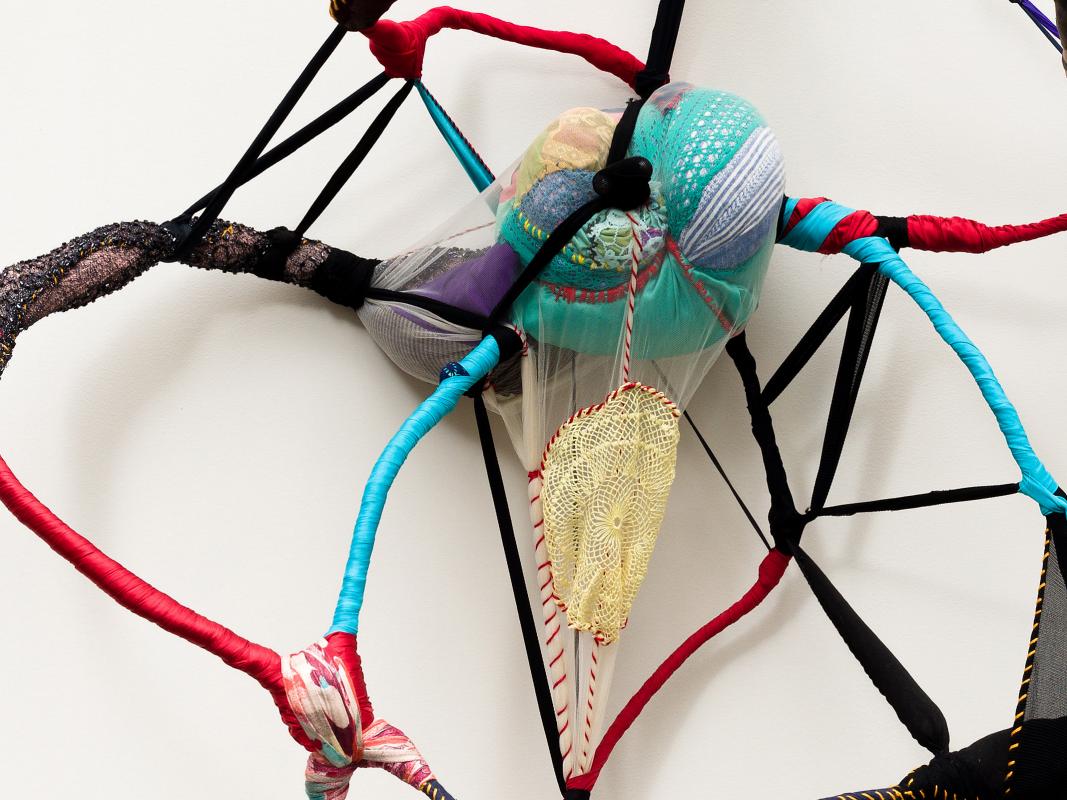


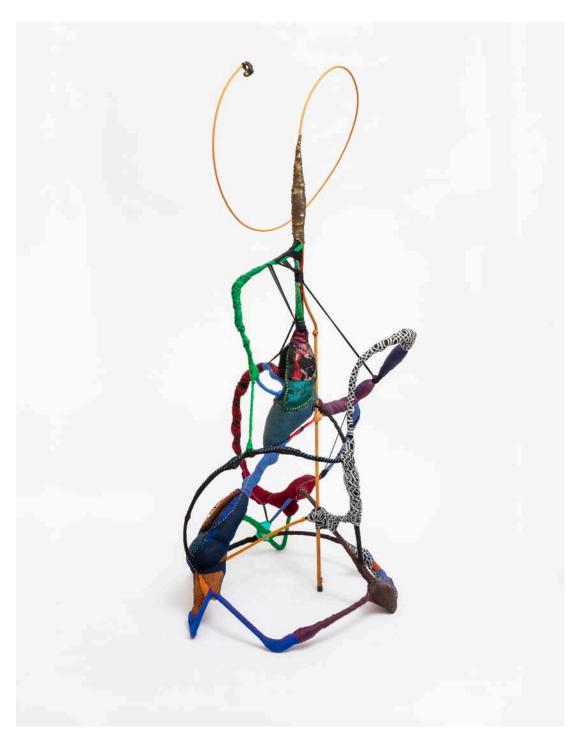




Chuva de ouro, from tela-corpo series
2023
vinyl and acrylic on jute, various fabrics iron and pearl
145 x 100 x 24 cm
57 1/8 x 39 3/8 x 9 1/2 in
MW.SGM.453





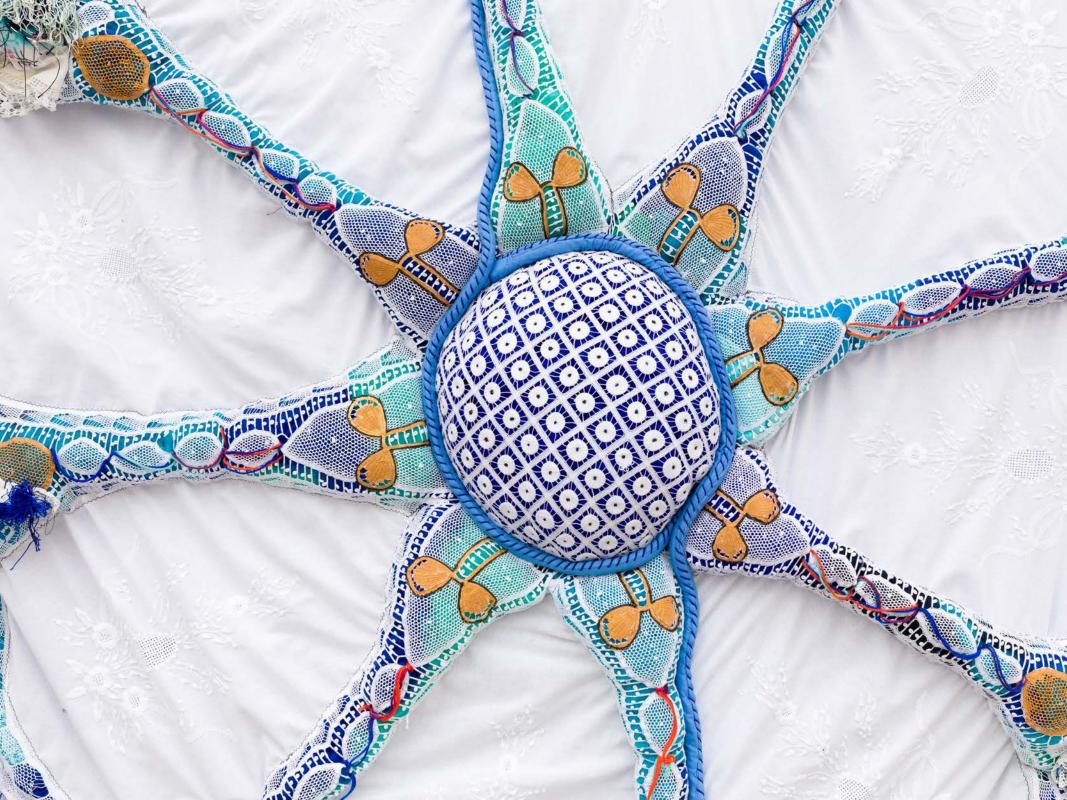


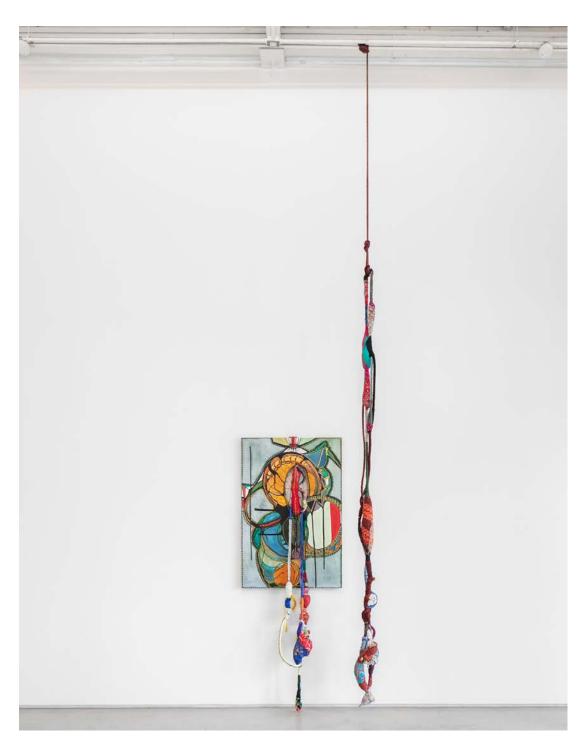
Untitled, from Torção series
2022
various fabrics, galvanized wire on industrial iron rebar
208 x 126 x 97 cm
1 7/8 x 48 7/8 x 39 3/8 in
MW.SGM.421





Sonia Gomes, Quando o sol nascer azul, 2021, different fabrics, lace, acrylic paint, nyulon threads, metal and different fragments, 322 x 283 x 30 cm | 126 3/4 x 111 3/8 x 11 3/4 in, MW.SGM.376





Intervlo

2020 - 2021

acrylic, gouache, acrylic marker, threads, different fabrics on canvas and rope

219 x 80 x 20 cm (painting)

86 1/4 x 31 1/2 x 7 7/8 in

340 x 20 x 20 cm (pending)

133 7/8 x 7 7/8 x 7 7/8 in

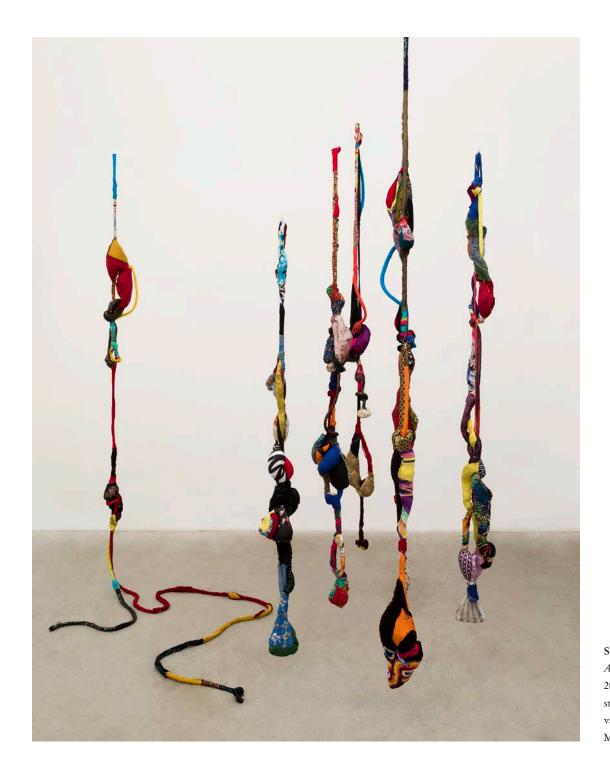
MW.SGM.372





Sonia Gomes, Untitled, from A vida não me assusta series, wire, fabric, threads and stone, 22.5 x 20.5 x 21.5 cm | 8 7/8 x 8 1/8 x 8 1/2 in, MW.SGM.339





Sonia Gomes

Acordes Naturais

2018

stitching, bindings, different fabrics and laces variable dimensions

MW.SGM.247





Sonia Gomes, Untitled, from Raiz series, 2018, stitching, bindings, different fabrics and laces on wire and wood, 64 x 100 x 75 cm | 25 1/4 x 39 3/8 x 29 1/2 in, MW.SGM.251





Sonia Gomes, Correnteza, from Raiz series, 2018 stitching, bindings, different fabrics and laces on wood, 90 x 260 x 80 cm | 35 3/8 x 102 3/8 x 31 1/2 in, MW.SGM.255





Sonia Gomes, Maria dos Anjos, 2017 - 2018, stitching, bindings, different fabrics and laces, variable dimensions, MW.SGM.231





Sonia Gomes

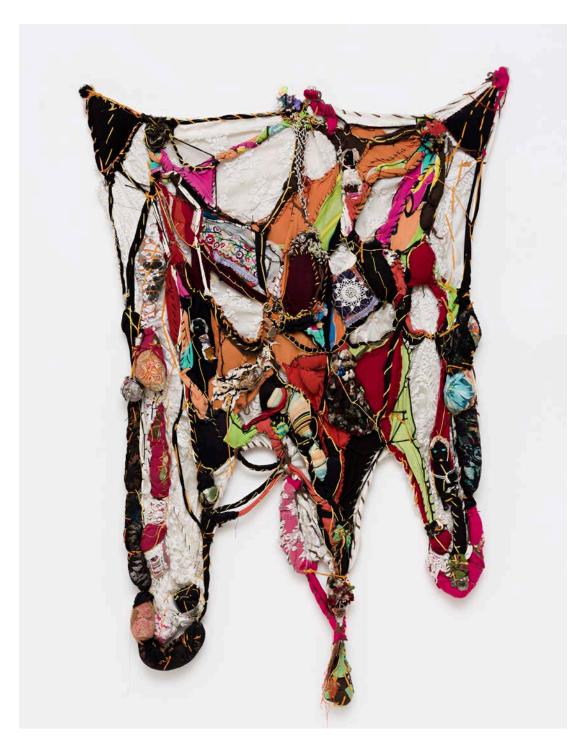
Cordão dos Mentecaptos 2016 stitching, bindings, different fabrics and laces variable dimensions MW.SGM.S.162





Sonia Gomes, Magia, 2014, stitching, moorings and different fabrics, 240 x 215 cm | 94 1/2 x 84 5/8 in, MW.SGM.S.094





Pano

2012

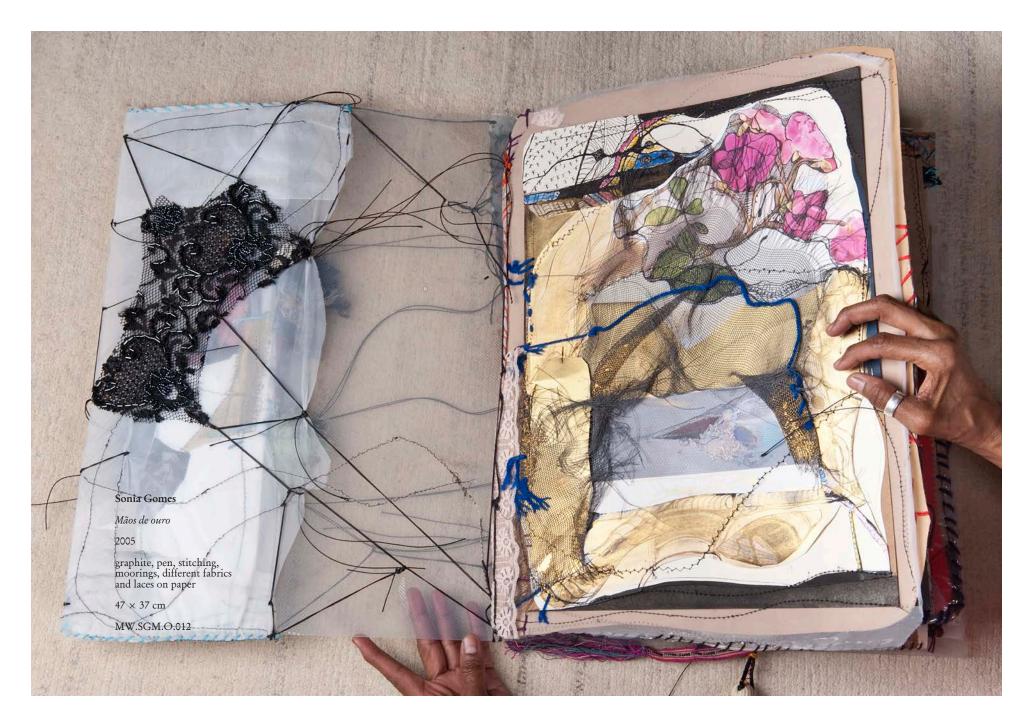
stitching, bindings, different fabrics and laces

137 x 104 x 7 cm

54 x 41 x 2 3/4 in

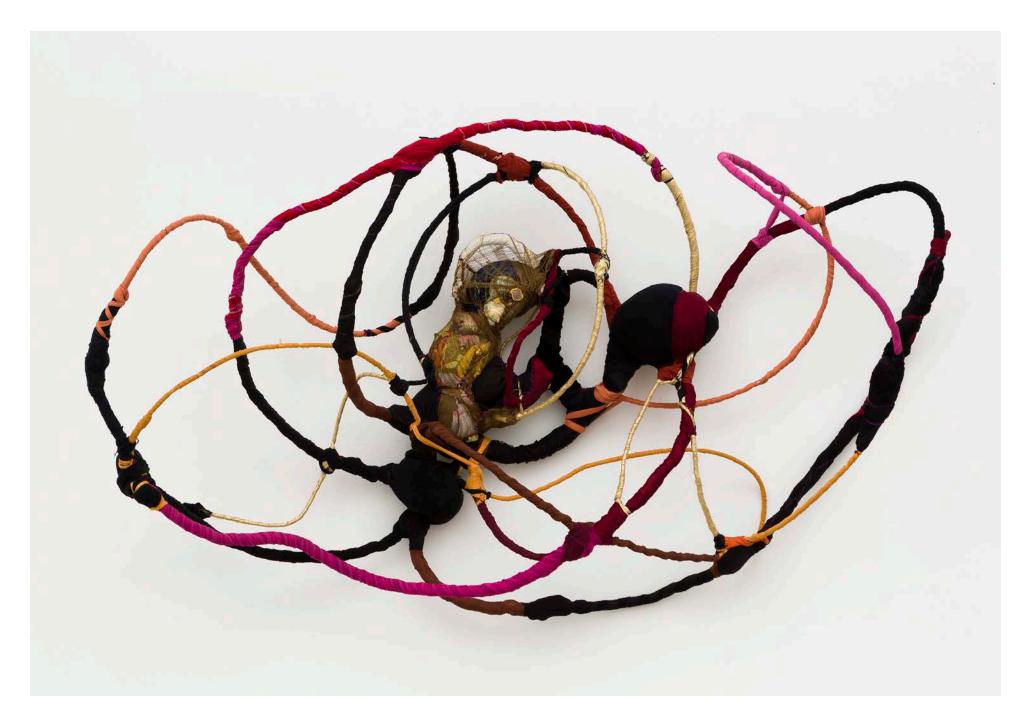
MW.SGM.S.135





Sonia Gomes, Mãos de ouro, 2005, graphite, pen, stitching, moorings, different fabrics and laces on paper, 47 x 37 cm | 18 1/2 x 14 5/8 in, MW.SGM.O.012









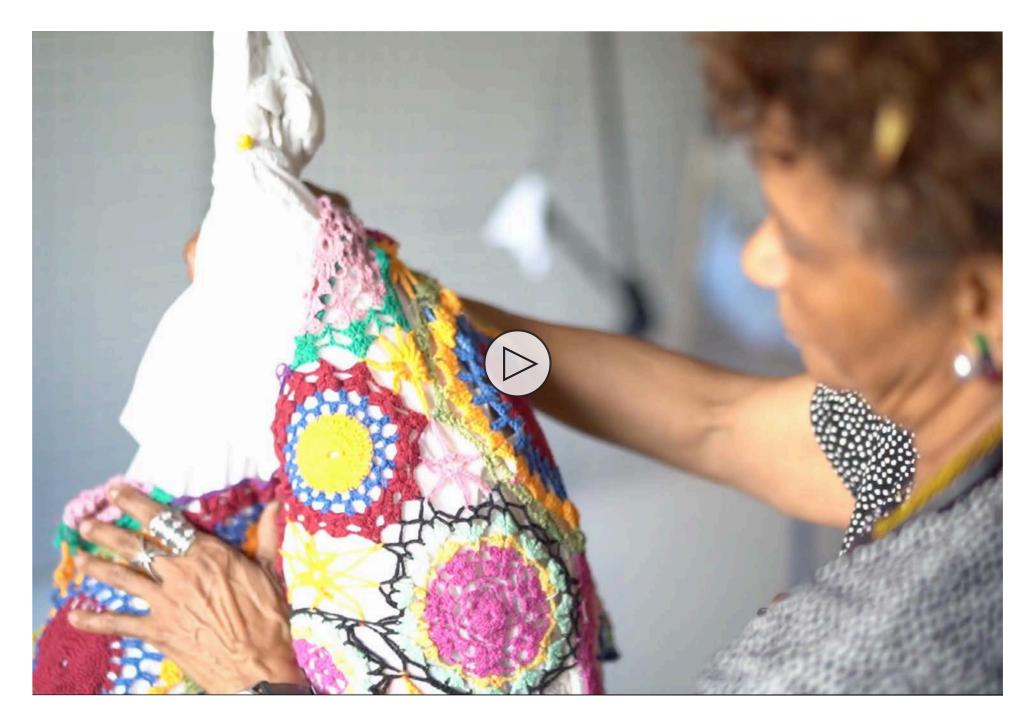














It took Ms. Gomes most of her life to realize that she had always been an artist. As a young girl growing up in Caetanópolis, a small town once known as a manufacturing hub for textiles, she liked to deconstruct her clothes and turn them into something different, using leftover fabric and found materials to make her own jewelry.

"It's part of this rebelliousness that I've always had," she said. "I still don't like things that are predetermined, that say you have to do things or wear things a certain way."

She was 45 when she left behind a career as a lawyer to attend the Guignard School, an art school in her home state of Minas Gerais. There she discovered that "not everything is art, but art can be anything," she said, giving her the confidence to move forward with her work, which reclaims the Afro-Brazilian experience and culture, which continue to be diminished and appropriated in the last country in the Western world to abolish slavery.

- Jill Langlois, *Fabrics With Powerful Stories to Tell*, The New York Times, 2020

Education

1994

Visual Arts at School Guignard, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Solo Exhibitions

2024

...vivem no compasso do sol, Mendes Wood DM Paris, France

202

Sônia Gomes: Sinfonia das Cores, Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

2022

O mais profundo é a pele (Skin is the deepest part), Pace Gallery, New York, USA

2021

Lágrima, Mendes Wood DM São Paulo, Brazil

When the Sun Rises in Blue, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, USA

2020

Sonia Gomes & Marina Perez Simão, Pace Gallery, New York, USA

2019

 $\label{localization} \textit{IRise-I'm a Black Ocean, Leaping and Wide}, \\ \text{Museum Frieder Burda, Baden-Baden, Germany}$

Sonia Gomes, Mendes Wood DM, Brussels, Belgium

2018

Sonia Gomes, MASP, São Paulo, Brazil

Sonia Gomes, MAC Niterói, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2017

A.R. Penck and Sonia Gomes, Hic Svnt Dracones, New York, USA

2016

Linhas em tramas, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil

2014

Nascer Uma Vez Após a Outra, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil

2012

Stitch In Time, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil

2011

O ritmo da linha, Espaço cultural Fórum Lafayette, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

2008

Um Lugar, BDMG Cultural, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

2005

Serie Patuás e Torções, Thomas Cohn Gallery, São Paulo, Brazil

2004

Etsuko Kobayashi et Sonia Gomes, Edgard Gallery, Paris, France

Objetos, Sandra & Marcio, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

1994

Pinturas, Casa de Cultura de Sete Lagoas, Sete Lagoas, Brazil

Group Exhibitions

2024

Imagining Black Diasporas: 21st-Century Art and Poetics, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, USA Artistas do vestir: uma costura dos afetos, Itaú Cultural, São Paulo, Brazil

The Poetics of Dimensions, Institute of Contemporary Art San Francisco, California, USA

A black planet: The Art and Culture of Panafrica, Art Institute of Chicago, USA

Dona Fulô e Outras Joias, Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Bahia (MAC Bahia), Salvador, Brazil

Making Their Mark, Berkeley Art & Pacific Film Archive (BAMFA), Berkeley, USA

With My Eyes, The Holy See Pavilion, 60th International Art Exhibition - La Biennale di Venezia, Italy

Resilient Currents: On Communal Re-Existence, Paris, France

Dos Brasis: arte e pensamento negro, SESC Quitandinha, Petrópolis, Brazil

202

Coreografias do impossível, 35ª Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

HARD/SOFT Textiles and Ceramics in Contemporary Art, Museum für angewandte Kunst, Vienna, Austria

Making Their Mark, The Shah Garg Foundation, New York, USA

The Mother & The Weaver: Art from the Ursula Hauser Collection, Foundling Museum, London, UK

Mãos: 35 anos da Mão Afro-Brasileira, Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

Linhas Tortas, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil

Brasil Futuro: as formas da democracia, Museu Nacional, Brasília; Espaço Cultural Casa das Onze Janelas,

Belém; Museu Solar Ferrão, Salvador, Brazil

Dos Brasis: arte e pensamento negro, SESC Belenzinho, São Paulo, Brazil

Andar pelas bordas: bordado e gênero como práticas de cuidado, Arte 132, São Paulo, Brazil

Alvaro Barrington, Grandma's Land, Sadie Coles, London, UK

Everyone is an Island After All? Part II, Gesellschaft für Aktuelle Kunst, Bremen, Germany

Esfíngico Frontal, Mendes Wood DM São Paulo, Brazil

Tropic of Cancer, Pace Gallery, Palm Beach, USA

2022

Sensory Poetics: Collecting Abstraction, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA

Front 2022: Oh, Gods of Dust and Rainbows, Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art, USA

Por muito tempo acreditei ter sonhado que era livre, Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo, Brazil

Courage Before Expectation, The Flag Art Foundation, New York, USA

Contramemória, Theatro Municipal de São Paulo, Brazil

Setas e Turmalinas, Casa de Cultura do Parque, São Paulo, Brazil

Bispo do Rosário - Eu Vim: Aparição, Impregnação e Impacto, Itaú Cultural, São Paulo, Brazil

Transbordar: Transgressões do Bordado, SESC Pinheiros, São Paulo, Brazil

2021

Imagens que não se comportam, Museu de Arte do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Carolina Maria de Jesus: Um Brasil para os brasileiros, Instituto Moreira Salles, São Paulo, Brazil; Museu de

Arte do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Enciclopédia Negra, Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, Brazil; Museu de Arte do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Convergent Evolutions The Conscious of Body Work, Pace Gallery, New York, USA

13th Gwangju Biennale: Minds Rising, Spirits Tuning, Gwangju, Korea

11th Liverpool Biennale: The Stomach and the Port, Liverpool, UK

Male Nudes: a salon from 1800 to 2021, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil

Portals, Former Public Tobacco Factory, Athens, Greece

2020

Mecarõ. Amazonia in the Petitgas Collection, Montpellier Contemporain, France

At The Noyes House: Blum & Poe, Mendes Wood DM and Object & Thing, The Eliot Noyes House, New

Canaan, USA

Garden of Earthly Delights, Gropius Bau, Berlin, Germany

2019

Unconscious Landscape · Works from the Ursula Hauser Collection, Hauser & Wirth Somerset, Bruton, UK

Experimenting with Materiality, Lévy Gorvy, Zurich, Switzerland

2018

Histórias Afro-Atlânticas, MASP, São Paulo, Brazil

11a Bienal do Mercosul: O Triângulo Atlântico, Porto Alegre, Brazil

Tissage, Tressage, quand la sculpture défilé, Fondation Villa Datris, L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, France

2017

Everyday Poetics, Seattle Art Museum, USA

Osso - Exposição-apelo ao amplo direito de defesa de Rafael Braga, Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo, Brazil

Entangled, Turner Contemporary, Margate, UK

Revival, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington D.C., USA

2016

New Shamans/Novos Xamãs: Brazilian Artists, Rubell Museum, Miami, USA

Tudo Joia, Bergamin & Gomide, São Paulo, Brazil

Brasil, Beleza?!, Museum Beelden aan Zee, Den Haag, The Netherlands

Aquilo Que Nos Une, Caixa Cultural Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Revolution in the Making: Abstract Sculpture by Women 1947-2016, Hauser Wirth & Schimmel, Los Angeles,

USA

Histórias/Histories: Contemporary Art From Brazil, University of South Florida Contemporary Art

Museum, Florida, USA

2015

No Man's Land: Women Artists From The Rubell Family Collection, Rubel Family Collection, Miami, USA

All the World's Futures, 56^a Venice Biennale, Italy

19º Festival de Arte Contemporânea Sesc Video Brasil: Panoramas do Sul, Associação Cultural Video Brasil,

São Paulo, Brazil

The Poetry in Between: South to South, Goodman Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Made By...Feito por Brasileiros, Cidade Matarazzo, São Paulo, Brazil

2013

Nova Mão Afro-Brasileira, Museu Afro Brasil, São Paulo, Brazil

Art & Textiles - Fabric as Material and Concept in Modern Art, Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany

Out of Fashion. Textile in International Contemporary Art, Museum of Modern Art Aalborg, Denmark

2012

Alphabet of The Magi, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil

2011

Meditation, Trance, Mendes Wood DM São Paulo, Brazil

2008

Impulsos, Galeria Emma Thomas, São Paulo, Brazil

Oferenda, Galeria Rhys Mendes, Jardim Canadá, Brazil

2006

Brasil Imaginário, Estação São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

X Bienal de Santos, Brazil

Encontro com a Arte, XLVII Encontro do BID, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

2005

Chita Bacana, SESC Belenzinho, São Paulo, Brazil

1998

Processos Tridimensionais, Casa da Saudade, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Collections

Centre Pompidou

Minneapolis Institute of Art

MALBA

MASP

MoMA

Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain

Museu Afro Brasil

Museu de Arte do Rio de Janeiro

Museum Frieder Burda

Muzeum Susch

National Gallery of Art, USA

Pérez Art Museum Miami

Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo

Rubell Museum

San Antonio Museum of Art

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

Tate Modern

The Museum of Fine Arts Houston

