



nara roesler

thiago barbalho
secrets and spells

opening
october 31, 2024

exhibition
oct 31, 2024 – jan 18, 2025

thiago barbalho secrets and spells

Nara Roesler São Paulo is pleased to present *Thiago Barbalho: Secrets and Spells*, the artist's first solo show at the gallery's São Paulo headquarters. With drawing as the main axis of his poetic expression, Barbalho began his professional journey as a writer, and, according to him, "drawing emerged from the process of dissatisfaction with writing, from the fraying of that relationship." Gradually, Barbalho realized that through graphic forms and signs—often created accidentally—it was possible to elaborate on the vast majority of images and visual stimuli we encounter daily. For him, the visual stimuli of various natures that surround us, from religious symbols to advertising, provoke fascination and enchantment in those who observe them, as if enchanting us.

In his works, a profusion of organic, religious, and ancestral elements in vibrant colors intermingle with the abundant details presented in the compositions, where figure and background sometimes blend together. Another important aspect is the gestural quality and the different ways in which the artist

manipulates colored pencils, pastels, pens, and markers, as well as acrylic and oil paints.

The exhibition brings together works in various formats, from large-scale pieces to drawings made in small notebooks. In these drawings, executed on small-format supports, the gestural element of his production becomes particularly evident, especially since this type of work often serves as a foundational element for larger-scale productions, reinforcing its experimental character.

Just as the act of drawing for Barbalho once broke the limits of words, the artist understands that working with the three-dimensionality of sculptures expands the very language of drawing as he conceives it. In different dimensions, the sculptures produced primarily with 3D printing and resin intensify the symbols already present in the artist's two-dimensional works, connecting them. "They make me think of emojis and images of deities lost in a forest; Pokémon, alien cacti, offerings from civilizations—symbols that, in a WhatsApp conversation, allow us to abandon words," he adds.

Another highlight of the exhibition is a series of works created by the artist for an exhibition held earlier this year in Jardim do Seridó, a municipality in the interior of Rio Grande do Norte, his mother's

hometown. In these works, Barbalho revisits characteristic elements of the region's culture, such as rock paintings found in local caves, the semi-arid landscape, and traditional textile production techniques. Also part of this collection is the tapestry *Futuro*. Developed for the same exhibition in collaboration with the collective Flor de Cantuta, the work is composed of immigrant women weavers and inspired by a type of artisanal production widely present in the region. In his words: "I wanted to gather various references, from the dams and rivers of our land to the craftsmanship of Potiguar, with its tapestries and quilts. But I wanted to avoid the clichés associated with Northeastern art in general."

Between July 16 and September 29, 2024, curator Catarina Duncan and the artist engaged in an email exchange as a method of investigative follow-up and dialogue around the artist's work. The conversation navigates Barbalho's artistic practice, the development of the exhibition, and simultaneously provides room for digressions and personal accounts amidst current events, dreams, and research references. The correspondence has been printed and will be available at the exhibition.

The perfect pie, 2024
colored pencil, pastel, ballpoint pen,
permanent marker, acrylic paint, oil
paint and spray on paper
208,5 x 198,5 cm
82.1 x 78.1 in





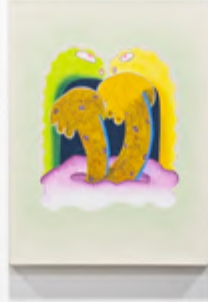
Thiago Barbosa
O Mundo dos Desenhos

Balneario of desires, 2024
colored pencil, permanent marker, graphite
pencil, ballpoint pen, spray paint, acrylic paint,
oil paint and colored pencil powder on paper
210 x 200 cm
82.7 x 78.7 in





Banana tree in the mud, 2024
oil paint, acrylic paint, graphite pencil,
colored pencil, ballpoint pen and
permanent marker on canvas
40 x 30cm
15.7 x 11.8 in

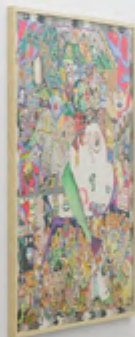




Borderline revenge, 2024
colored pencil, permanent marker, graphite
pencil, ballpoint pen, spray, acrylic paint, oil
paint and colored pencil powder on paper
210 x 200 cm
82.7 x 78.7 in

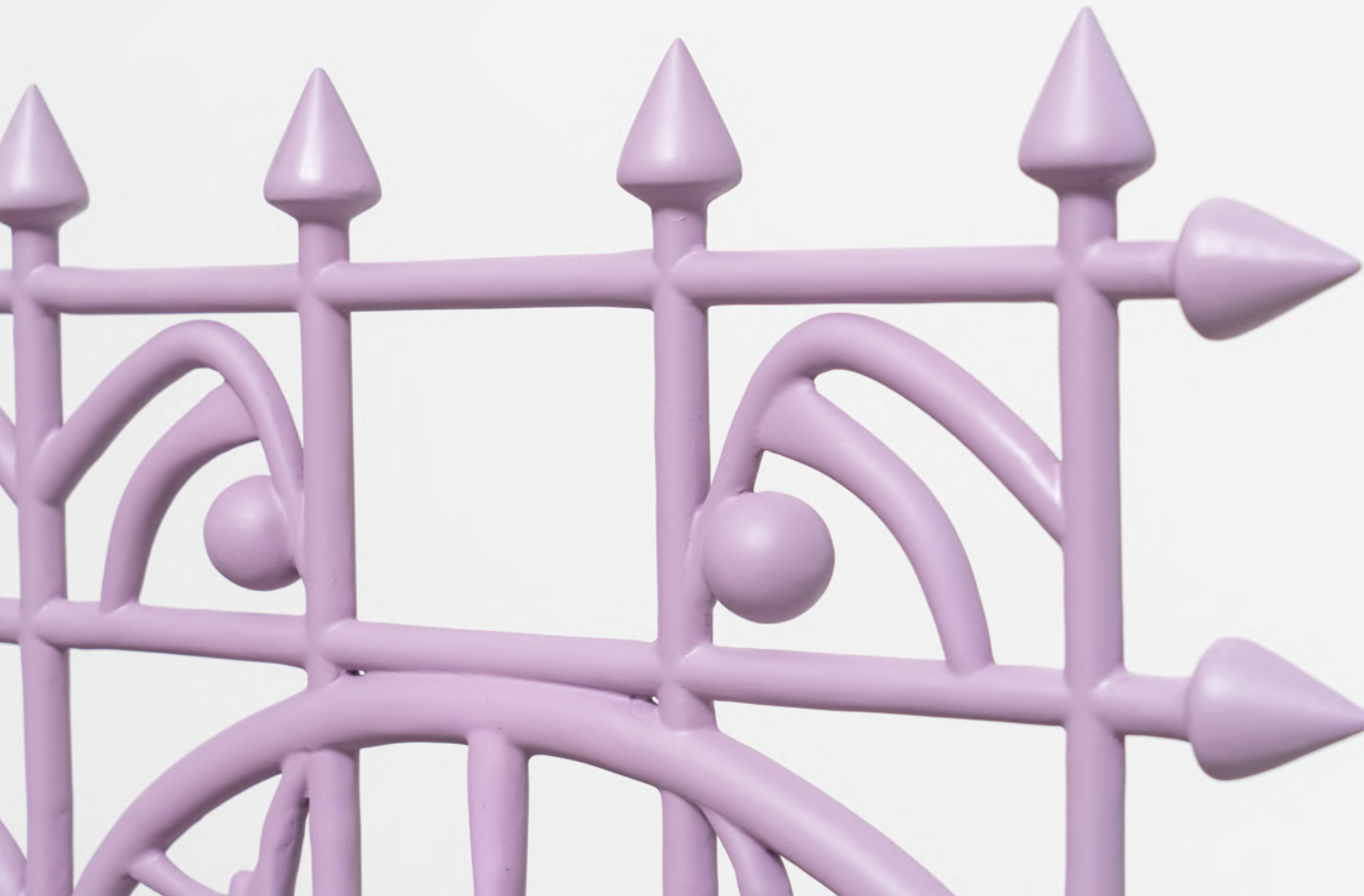






Xique-xique, 2024
3D printing, polyester resin
and automotive paint
60 x 169 x 5 cm
23.6 x 66.5 x 2 in







Crying mountain, 2024
oil paint, acrylic resin, colored pencil powder,
permanent marker, colored pencil, graphite
and ballpoint pen on canvas
40,5 x 30 x 3 cm
15.9 x 12 x 1.2 in







The sleep of language make flowers, 2024
colored pencil, permanent marker, graphite
pencil, ballpoint pen, spray paint,
acrylic paint, oil paint, forest fire ash
and colored pencil powder on paper
210 x 200cm
82.7 x 78.7 in



Future, 2024
cotton fabric
200 x 150 cm
78.7 x 59.1 in









Sprout after the fires, 2024
3D printing, resin and fiberglass,
acrylic, and automotive painting
150 x 186 x 32,9 cm
59.1 x 73.2 x 13 in





Little notebook IV (craze of greatness), 2020
colored pencil, graphite, ballpoint pen,
permanent marker, oil paint and spray on paper
14 x 18,3 x 0,3 cm
5.5 x 7.2 x 0.1 in





Little notebook V (paranoia), 2020
colored pencil, graphite, ballpoint
pen, permanent marker, oil
paint and spray on paper
14,7 x 21 x 0,5 cm
5.8 x 8.3 x 0.2 in





Little notebook VII (smoker), 2020
colored pencil, graphite, ballpoint pen,
permanent marker, oil paint and spray on paper
20,6 x 26 x 0,5 cm
5.9 x 8.3 in





Caderninho III (Brave), 2024
colored pencil, graphite pencil, ballpoint pen,
permanent marker, acrylic and oil on paper
15 x 21cm
5.9 x 8.3 in





Night sap, 2024
oil paint, thickening gel, colored pencil, graphite,
permanent marker and hydrographic pen on canvas
40,3 x 30 x 3 cm
15.9 x 11.8 x 1.2 in





Ocular abduction, 2024
oil paint, resin, colored pencil, graphite,
permanent marker and ballpoint pen on canvas
40,5 x 30 x 3 cm
15.9 x 11.8 x 1.2 in







Behind the bushes, 2024
metallized polyester fabric
157 x 115 x 3 cm
61.8 x 45.3 x 1.2 in





Plastic bag, 2024
colored pencil, graphite, acrylic resin, ballpoint
pen and permanent marker on canvas
40,5 x 30,5 x 3 cm
15.9 x 12 x 1.2 in





Rave in the rain and lightning, 2024
oil paint, graphite, colored pencil, acrylic
resin, permanent marker on canvas
40,5 x 30,5 x 3 cm
15.9 x 12 x 1.2 in





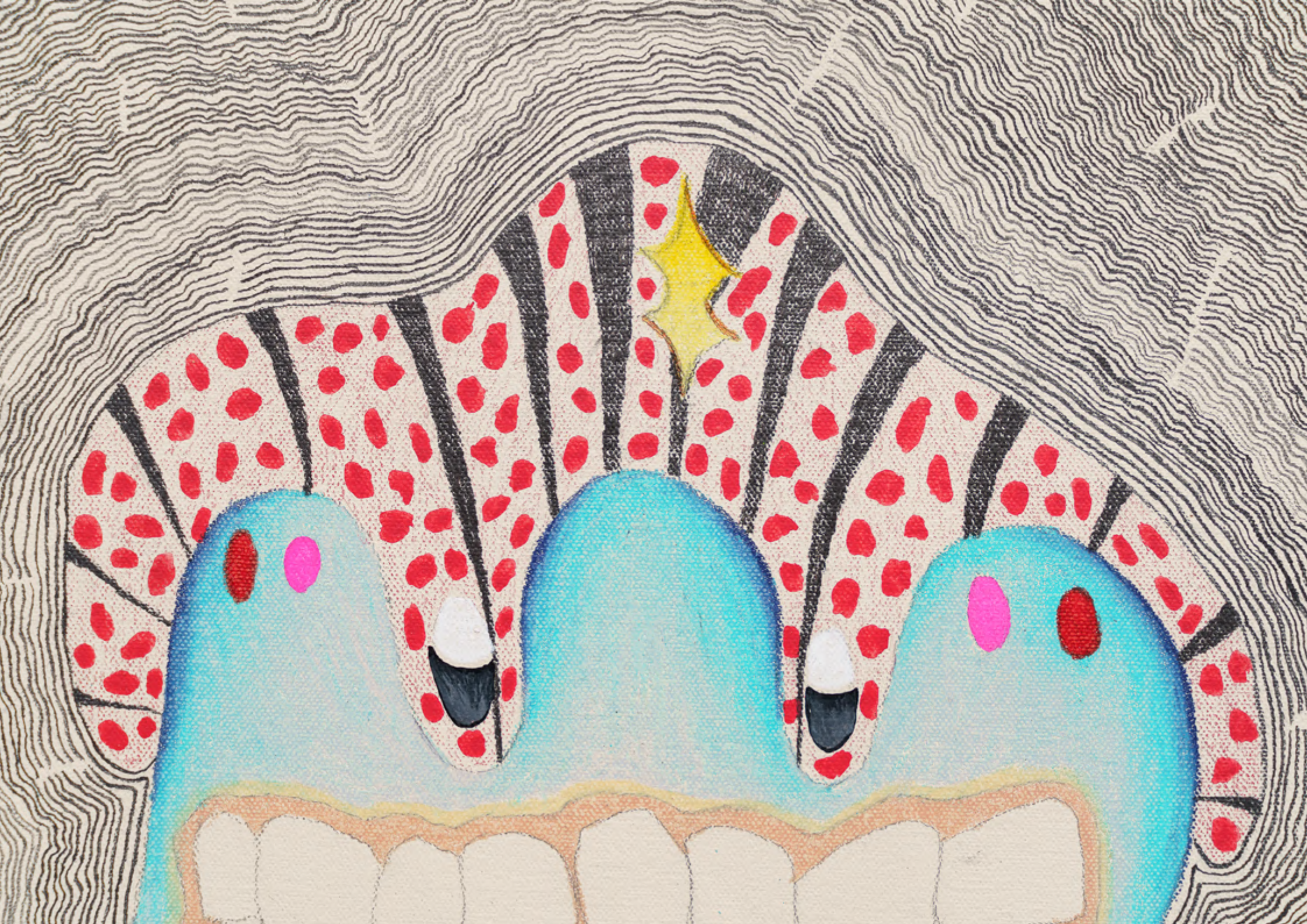
Telling a secret, 2024
colored pencil, graphite, permanent
marker and ballpoint pen on canvas
40,5 x 30 x 3 cm
15.9 x 11.8 x 1.2 in





Embarrassed smile, 2024
oil paint, colored pencil, graphite, permanent
marker and ballpoint pen on canvas
40,5 x 30 x 3 cm
15.9 x 11.8 x 1.2 in





Tiktok dance, 2024
oil paint, ballpoint pen, colored pencil, thickening gel,
acrylic resin, permanent marker and graphite on canvas
40,3 x 30 x 3 cm
15.9 x 11.8 x 1.2 in







Lights after five (Countryside XII), 2024
colored pencil, permanent marker
and ballpoint pen on paper
21 x 15 cm
8.3 x 5.9 in

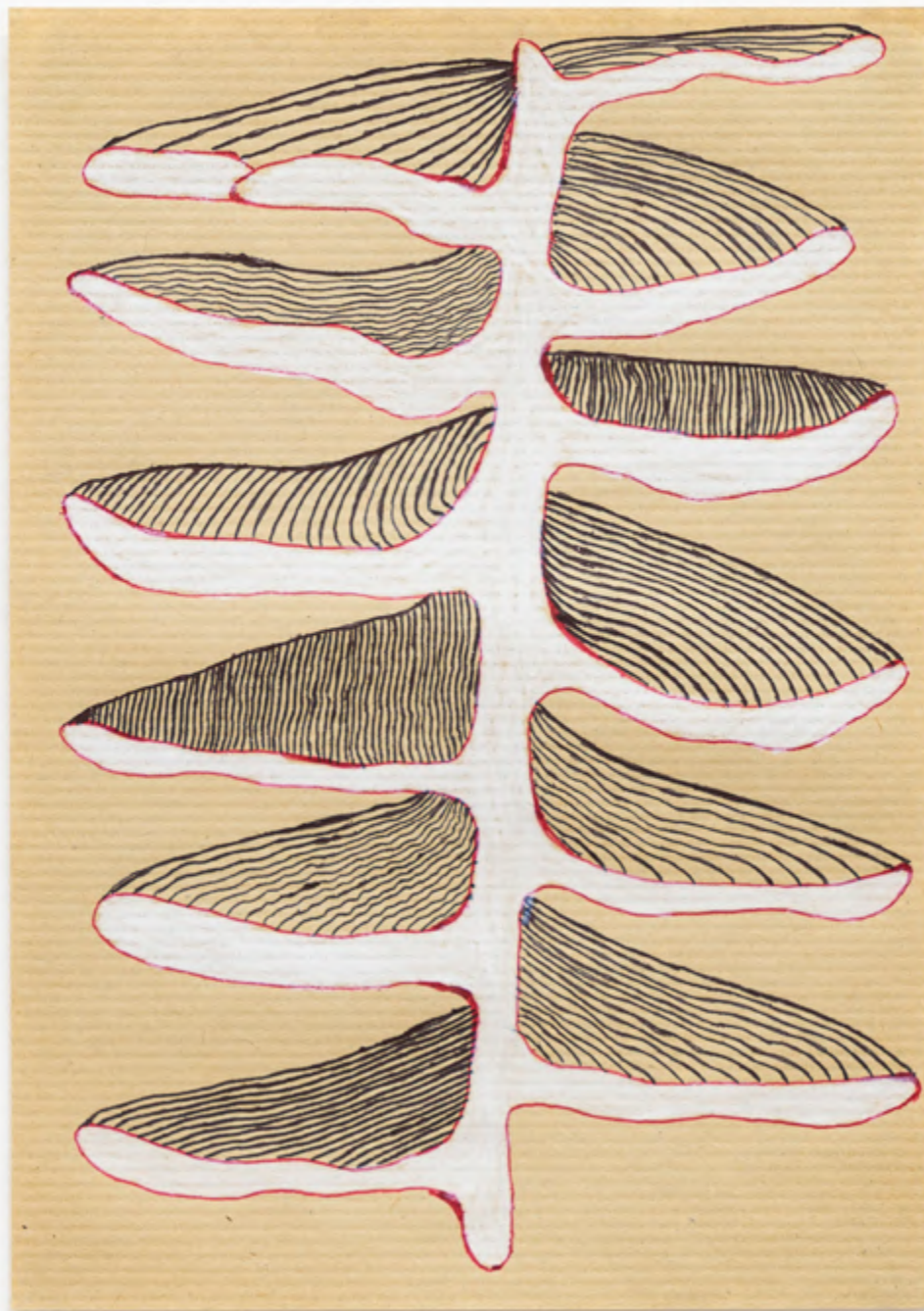






Accident on a hot day (Interior IX), 2024
colored pencil, permanent marker
and ballpoint pen on paper
21 x 15 cm
8.3 x 5.9 in





Berra bode (Interior VIII), 2024
colored pencil, permanent marker
and ballpoint pen on paper
21 x 15 cm
8.3 x 5.9 in



Made in China (Interior VII), 2024
colored pencil, permanent marker
and ballpoint pen on paper
21 x 15 cm
8.3 x 5.9 in





Body ornament (masonry), 2024
colored pencil, oil paint, acrylic paint,
permanent marker, graphite pencil and
ballpoint pen on handmade cotton paper
65 x 48 cm
25.6 x 18.9 in







Horizon with bones, 2024

oil paint, acrylic paint, graphite pencil, colored
pencil, ballpoint pen and permanent marker on canvas
40 x 30cm
15.7 x 11.8 in





thiago barbalho

n. 1984, Natal, Brasil

vive e trabalha em São Roque, Brasil

Escritor e artista visual, Thiago Barbalho encontrou no desenho um modo de expressão que suplantou uma crise com a palavra. Trabalhando em diferentes dimensões e com diversos materiais (lápis de cor, grafite, spray, óleo, pastel oleoso e marcador sobre papel), suas composições trazem ao olhos do público universos intrincados, em que formas e cores se entrelaçam e embaralham em narrativas que parecem radicalizar e dotar de um ar contemporâneo e lisérgico o universo fantástico de Hieronymus Bosch.

Segundo a crítica e curadora Kiki Mazzuccheli: “Ao trabalhar essencialmente com desenho, Barbalho produz composições extremamente intrincadas, porém não planejadas, nas quais uma multiplicidade de imagens, símbolos e campos de cor se fundem umas nas outras para criar superfícies vibrantes ininterruptas”. O aparente caos de suas imagens surgem do vagar do gesto que traceja, recusando a submeter-se às lógicas formais ditadas pela racionalidade. De fato, deparamo-nos em seu trabalho com fragmentos diversos, uma profusão de referências de diferentes esferas, da cultura pop à tradição da história da arte, desierarquizando categorias e a própria relação entre figura e fundo.

Com formação em Filosofia, Barbalho se ampara em conceitos da disciplina para guiar sua prática. Nesse sentido, ele entende o desenho como uma tecnologia ancestral, que atravessa eras e culturas, sendo uma invenção da espécie humana, qualificando-a. Sua pesquisa visual vê no desenho o rastro de uma presença e da relação entre a mente – a imaginação –, e o corpo – o gesto –, entre a consciência e a realidade.

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exposições individuais selecionadas

- *Depois que entra ninguém sai*, Nara Roesler, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil (2022)
- *Correspondência*, Galeria Marília Razuk, São Paulo, Brasil (2019)
- *Thiago Barbalho*, Kupfer Project Space, Londres, Reino Unido (2018)

exposições coletivas selecionadas

- *Phantom Dance: Thiago Barbalho and Theodore Ereira Guyer*, Elizabeth XI Bauer, Londres, (2023)
- *Mapa da estrada: Novas obras no acervo da Pinacoteca de São Paulo*, Pinacoteca de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brasil (2022)
- *Electric Dreams*, Nara Roesler, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil (2021)
- *AVAF*, Casa Triângulo, São Paulo, Brasil (2018)
- *Rocambole*, Pivô, São Paulo, Brasil (2018)
- *Rocambole*, Kunsthalle Lissabon, Lisboa, Portugal (2019)
- *Voyage*, Galeira Bergamin & Gomide, São Paulo, Brasil (2017)
- *Shadows & Monsters*, Gasworks, Londres, Reino Unido (2017)

coleções selecionadas

- Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brasil

nara roesler

são paulo

avenida europa, 655
jardim europa, 01449-001
são paulo, sp, brasil
t 55 (11) 2039 5454

rio de janeiro

rua redentor, 241
ipanema, 22421-030
rio de janeiro, rj, brasil
t 55 (21) 3591 0052

new york

511 west 21st street
new york, 10011 ny
usa
t 1 (212) 794 5038

info@nararoesler.art

www.nararoesler.art