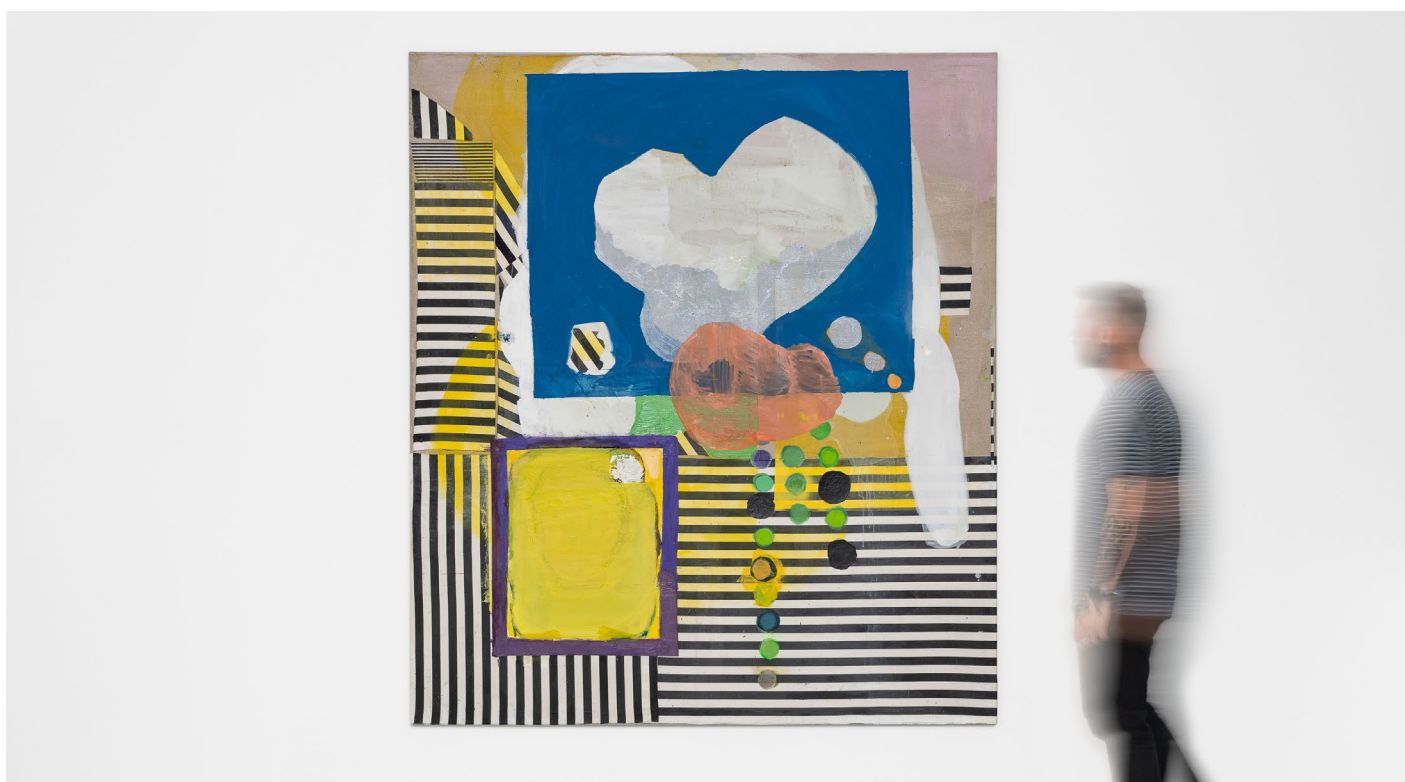


**cristina canale**  
memento vivere

**nara roesler são paulo**

**opening** august 19

**exhibition** august 19—september 7, 2023



Cristina Canale, *Clouds and portrait*, 2023.

Nara Roesler São Paulo presents “Memento Vivere”, Cristina Canale’s sixth solo exhibition at the gallery’s São Paulo location. The showcase brings together a selection of her most recent artworks, created between 2021 and 2023. Curated by Marcelo Campos, the exhibition features thirteen paintings and six drawings, all of which are previously unseen and will be open to the public from August 19th, coinciding with the 4th edition of the Circuito Jardim Europa.

Cristina Canale emerged in the Brazilian art scene during the 1980s, a period marked by a resurgence of painting in Brazil and internationally, greatly influenced by German neo-expressionism. She also participated in the emblematic group exhibition “Como vai você, Geração 80?” (How Are You, Generation 80?), held at the Escola de Artes Visuais do Parque Lage (EAV Parque Lage) in Rio de Janeiro in 1984, which brought together many artists of that generation.

Throughout her career, Canale has consistently explored established painting genres such as portraiture and landscape. She often incorporates elements and scenes from everyday life, frequently derived from advertising photographs, creating compositions characterized by vibrant colors, an abundance of ambiguous forms and dreamlike settings.

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The central theme of this exhibition revolves around a series of portrait paintings focused on female figures. In creating these works, the artist revisits not only the history of portraiture but also draws inspiration from mythological elements. Canale points out that the primary function of a portrait is to immortalize faces and presence, serving as mementos. Thus, in some of her works, she starts with mythological figures like the goddess Thetis and Princess Danae, symbolizing the female figure as a source of fertility and life. In other cases, she employs a technique commonly used in portrait art since the Renaissance – mirroring or duplicating the subject, as seen in *Sincronias* (2022) and *Mãe e filha II* (2023).

As a recurring motif in her artistic journey, Canale removes distinct facial features from her characters, reducing their faces to essential lines. Her compositions also incorporate recurring elements like dialogue balloons, clouds, droplets, and atmospheric elements, blurring the boundaries between pictorial genres, blending landscape and portraiture, and challenging the distinction between figuration and abstraction. These artistic approaches ultimately give rise to what Canale describes as an “anti-portrait,” where she dissolves the conventional notion of portraiture.

In this exhibition, Canale introduces two-dimensional elements through collages, a technique she has previously employed in her work. These elements are present not only in her paintings but also in a series of drawings on paper. Using various colorful and richly patterned papers traditionally found in gift wrapping, these drawings establish a dialogue with her artwork.

Even in pieces that are not explicitly portraits, the feminine element, associated with life and vitality, appears directly or indirectly. While traditional portraits often served as “memento mori” – reminders of mortality – Canale’s anti-portraits become their opposite: “memento vivere” – reminders to embrace life.

### **cristina canale**

Cristina Canale gained recognition in the art world through her participation in the landmark collective exhibition “*Como vai você, Geração 80?*” (How Are You, Generation 80?) at the School of Visual Arts of Parque Lage (EAV Parque Lage) in Rio de Janeiro in 1984. Like many of her peers from the “Geração 80” (Generation 80), her early works aligned with the international resurgence of painting, influenced by German neo-expressionism. Her initial paintings featured a material-driven approach with visually striking elements and richly contrasting and vibrant colors, a style that still characterizes her works today. In the early 1990s, Canale moved to Düsseldorf, Germany, where she studied under the guidance of the Dutch conceptual artist Jan Dibbets. Her compositions began exploring spatiality, suggesting planes and depths, and displaying a greater fluidity in the use of colors, elements that defined her artistic production during this period. Often based on everyday mundane scenes, frequently extracted from advertising photography, her works display intricate compositional work and blur the lines between figuration and abstraction. Her pieces move from figuration dissolving into abstraction on one hand, to abstraction evoking figuration on the other. Her art can be found in prominent collections, including MASP, Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro (MAM Rio), Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Niterói (MAC-Niterói), Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Universidade de São Paulo (MAC USP), Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, Sparkasse Oder-Spree, Frankfurt an der Oder (Germany), and Museum No Hero, Delden (Netherlands). Canale has solo exhibitions scheduled at Instituto Ling (Porto Alegre) and Fundação Roberto Marinho (Rio de Janeiro) in 2024.

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**nara roesler**

Nara Roesler is one of the leading contemporary art galleries in Brazil, representing influential Brazilian and Latin American artists from the 1950s and important established and emerging artists who engage with the trends initiated by those historical figures. Founded in 1989 by Nara Roesler, the gallery consistently fosters curatorial innovation while maintaining the highest standards of artistic production. It has developed a carefully selected and rigorous exhibition program in close collaboration with its artists. Nara Roesler also established and maintains the Roesler Hotel program, a platform for curatorial projects. Additionally, the gallery continuously supports its artists beyond its physical space by partnering with institutions and curators for external exhibitions. The gallery expanded its exhibition space in São Paulo in 2012 and inaugurated new spaces in Rio de Janeiro in 2014 and New York in 2015, continuing its mission to provide the best possible platform for its artists to showcase their works.

**cristina canale**  
memento vivere

**nara roesler são paulo**  
**opening** august 19, 11am–5pm

**exhibition** august 19 – october 7, 2023  
monday–friday, 10am–7pm  
saturday, 11am–3pm

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