

GALERIA DA BOAVISTA

10.10–24.12.2023

Artificio

Odete

curated by
Marta Espiridião



Multidisciplinary artist, Odete (b. 1995, Oporto) develops a work that operates in the domain of music, visual arts, performance and theatre. Her work is mainly an “eroto-historiographical” and paranoid archaeology (a method she develops with her performances). She has presented her creations in different spaces and contexts such as Teatro Sao Luiz (Lisbon), Teatro Municipal do Porto, malavoadora. porto, TNDMII, CAPC - Círculo de Artes Plásticas de Coimbra, Festival Iminente, Rua das Gaivotas 6, among others.

Recently she won the ReXform award for performing arts, presenting the project “On Revelations and Muddy Becomings” at MAAT and in collaboration with the biennial BoCA. In the area of music, she has edited EPs and albums by Genome (China), New Scenery (UK), Rotten:Fresh or Naivety (PT). She was part of the “SHAPE platform” 2021-2022. She presented her first solo exhibition at O Bardo and, more recently, the exhibition LYSIS, with Diana Policarpo at Quéréla (Lisbon). She launched her first poetry book “The Elder Femme and other Stone Writings” by Pântano Books. Between 2022 and 2024 she integrates the Future Laboratory, a European project of performative research, from CAMPUS (Porto).

Speculating on the links between the history of cosmetics, surgery, alchemy, ‘sexual enhancement,’ and artificial intelligence, Odete proposes an installation that evokes the image of a house-museum workshop. Living in this place, which has mysteriously survived in ruins from the 19th century to the present day, is a society that, from a normative point of view, can be seen as depraved, obscene or perverted. Developing libidinal fictions based on stories, artifices, and artefacts, the artist reveals a chapter of her constant dialogue with the DALL-E Artificial Intelligence, a mirror that reveals glimpses of other bodies and visions of other experiences, composing pasts that become preludes to futures.

On the ground floor, a library (both physical and digital) is available for consultation, printing, photocopying and composition, and where the most varied themes, interests, obsessions and fixations can be found. The themes mainly cover magic, secret societies, non-normative historical characters, queer theory, trans-historiography, critical thinking about gender, science fiction, and other artifices. The archive is lively and dynamic, built for anyone who wants to read and learn about the subjects covered here, inviting them to copy and take texts, pages or chapters of interest – or even to be inspired by the selection and collection of written excerpts, more or less contextualised, to build their own archival book.

As an assembly can only be constituted through assemblage, this library-archive space will be activated at various times throughout the exhibition through readings of these (and other) books. Authors, thinkers, artists and theorists have been invited to share books and ideas in a kind of book club where people can discuss and reinterpret the works that make up Artificio’s library. The assembly space will also host other activations and artifices such as tarot cards, tea leaf readings, soundscapes, and ancestral balms.

On the upper floor, after the time it takes our eyes to adjust to the darkness, we find material relics of this vanished society, whose mission was to collect and record lost knowledge about alchemy, botany, beauty, and magic. A long textile piece unfolds on the twilight, sewing the faces and bodies that escaped normative logic into history - a work weaved by countless fingers, a circle of embroiderers pouring their scars and subjectivities into the material. Positions

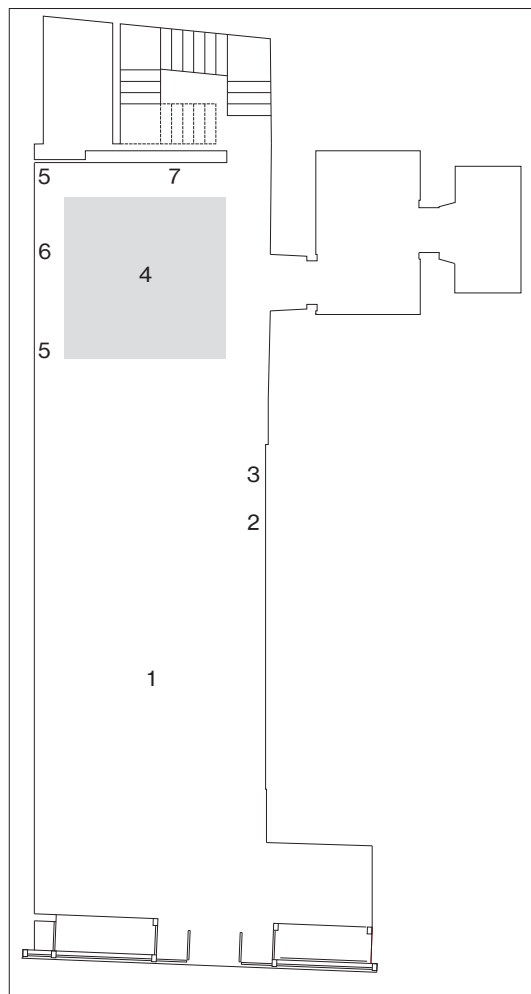
of hands, stars, demons, and flowers make up complex schemes, where artifices of calculation reorganise the signifiers of reality into narratives we did not yet know were possible. A Herbarium, full of recipes, petals, and prompts, can be carefully leafed through – pages of (al)chemical arts that beautify eyes and lips, plants that modify the body and voice, music that enchants the spirit and skin – scrolls that would never have a place in the history of the world of white cisnormativity and Western patriarchy.

Also on the upper floor, a video-essay on Beauty as technology combines elements of contemporary internet culture with an aesthetic from the past to create a unique visual and conceptual ecosystem, where Time is secularised and where disobedience to the writing of hegemonic History becomes a tool for study. Odete methodically dissects the artifices of Beauty and emphasises the importance of trans and gender non-conforming bodies in the development of this embodied ‘discipline.’

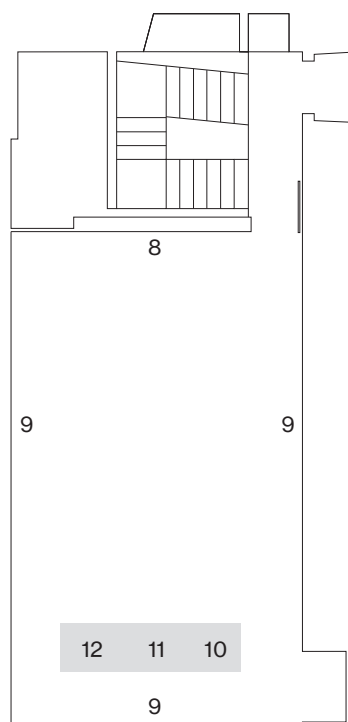
Odete operates like an archaeologist: she digs, collects and cleans stories like pearls, which she then wraps in silks to present to us. Waste no time questioning notions of reality or the imaginary – we know that ‘history’ is written by dominant forces that deliberately exclude that which does not conform to their standards. The characters are timeless, their questions are still those of the past and will be those of the future: they belong simultaneously to all times, as real and artificial as the present. Odete – a time traveller, builder of worlds, alchemist of the invisible, historiographer of the future – conjures spells, words and flowers in the basket of fiction; in the air a seductive perfume that urges us to question,

is not artifice a reality in the making?

ground floor



first floor



1.
Library

2.
Boudoir I, 2023
Drawings on paper, glass, hand-painted frame
29,7 x 42 cm
Frame decoration: Etelvina dos Santos
Courtesy of the artist

3.
Boudoir II, 2023
Drawings on paper, glass, hand-painted frame
29,7 x 42 cm
Frame decoration: Etelvina dos Santos
Courtesy of the artist

4.
Assembly

5.
*Cozy Old Library Atmosphere Asmr Study
Focus Chill Vibes Turning Page Writing
Fireplace*, 2023
Sound, 60'21"
Courtesy of the artist

6.
Iphone memos on Fetishism, 2023
Sound, 9'52"
Courtesy of the artist

7.
Dorian Gray's Collection, 2023
Sound, 10'47"
Courtesy of the artist

8.
Da Beleza, 2023
Video, color, sound, 37'13"
Editing: Mário Espada
Frame: Etelvina dos Santos
Courtesy of the artist

9.
Bed Sheets, 2023
Print on textile with embroidery, dyed with
black tea
100 x 2000 cm
Embroidery by Sandrina Espiridião, Mariana
Moncívio, Mariana Mascate, Matilde Almeida,
Márcia Mendes, Bento Santos, Cláudia Realista,
Briana Ferreira, Violeta Silva
Courtesy of the artist

10.
Atelier de Impressão em Clorofila, 2023
Installation with sheets, acetate and glitter prints
variable dimensions
Courtesy of the artist

11.
Herbário, 2023
Book, dyed with black tea
42 x 59,4 cm
Courtesy of the artist

12.
O Romance de Eleanor e Azazel, 2023
Sound, 12'16"
Courtesy of the artist

GALERIAS MUNICIPAIS – GALERIA DA BOAVISTA
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Open everyday 10h-13h and 14h-18h
Free entrance

Guided tours by appointment
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