

GALERIA DA BOAVISTA

14.11.2024–30.03.2025

Perpetua

Motion

Machine

Pedro Moreira

curated by  
David Revés



Pedro Moreira's work spans different artistic disciplines and aesthetic territories, close to archaic practices and contemporary ritualities, syncretically summoning various performativities, images, objects and subjectivities that mix real life and the creation of digital worlds, positive History, mythological constructions and fantastic metaphysics, as well as sacred narratives and profane beliefs and materialities. Since the beginning of their career, around video, installation, writing and performance, Pedro has been continuously influenced by the multiple symbols, discursivities and psychological processes from fantasy and role-playing games. Since 2020, they have also begun a ceramics practice that allows them to produce objects that embody the fictional universes and entities they imagine, as living receptacles of storytelling and worldbuilding modalities.

***Perpetual Motion Machine*** is the artist first institutional solo show, and therefore was designed to represent the poetic multiplicity and polysemic breadth of their body of work. Based on Pedro's homonymous book, written especially for this project, ***Perpetual Motion Machine*** materialises, in a scenographic and operatic way, some of the episodes of the speculative narrative that describes life in *Domain*, a virtual and terraformed reality created by the artist in 2017 (and since then activated through other texts, devices and circumstances), and of which this exhibition is its conclusion.

At Galeria da Boavista, we can thus witness some moments of the tragic existence, both utopian and dystopian, of four tripplesapiens who inhabit an alternative universe where death is a process of reappearance, but also the result of an incorruptible bond in exchange for eternal life. Four post-human entities who, in this show as well as in the book, are assaulted by individual dilemmas while facing the dictates of an elusive, mysterious and treacherous world, also developing relationships of tension, conflict or complementarity with each other, as they are intrinsically aligned with a cosmogony defined by order (Tertius), chaos (Orbis), neutrality (Uqbar) and truth (Tlön).

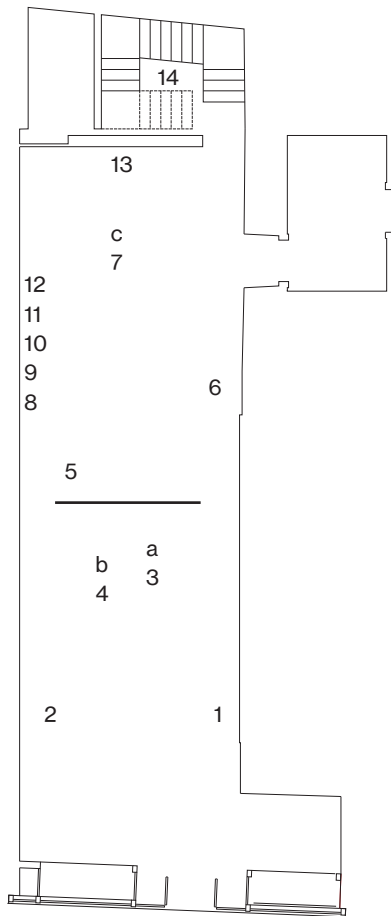
Delving into theological realms and esotericism to an equal extent, ***Perpetual Motion Machine*** is loosely inspired by creationist and Afterlife doctrines of Mormon dogma – the church to which Pedro Moreira was introduced since their childhood – also suggesting analogies with texts from other religions, such as Christianity, Judaism or Hinduism, drawing on medieval Kabbalism and the figure of the Golem, as well as some of the mystical and occult practices of the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn and images from its Tarot oracle. Likewise, the artist explores an intimate connection with literature, namely with the short story *Tlön, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius*, by Argentinian writer Jorge Luis Borges, from which the names of the beings that inhabit both Pedro's narrative project and the gallery space are taken.

In the limbo between beliefs of Historical Progress and of total nihilism, Pedro Moreira creates allegories that, while having a fantastical and queer dimension, echo many of the circumstances associated with contemporary anxieties and problems, seeking to reflect on the place of spirituality in today's world, but also on the danger of political polarization, situations of constant conflict, or the threat of collapse and entropy.

***Perpetual Motion Machine*** thus reaffirms the discredit in the theoretical hypothesis introduced as its title (perpetual motion machine as a mechanism that infinitely reuses the energy generated by its own movement), acknowledging the inviolability of the forces and rhythms of the Cosmos, as well as the sign of contingency and the fatality of chaos in all existences.

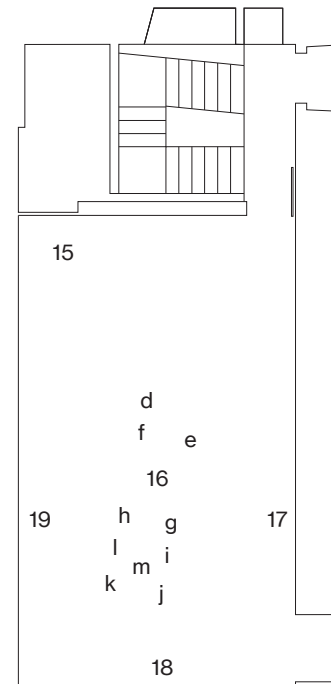
– David Revés

ground floor



4. *Tertius' Retribution*, 2024  
Ceramics and iron
- b) *Tornasol*, 2024  
Ceramics and iron
5. *Rapture Traeds*, 2024  
Ceramics
6. *Part II*, 2024  
Video, HD, color, PT / EN, 9'40" (each)
7. *Uqbar's Reason*, 2024  
Ceramics and iron
- c) *Memory*, 2024  
Ceramics and iron
8. *Pillar*, 2024  
Ceramics
9. *Beasts*, 2024  
Ceramics
10. *Void*, 2024  
Ceramics
11. *Map*, 2024  
Ceramics
12. *False God?*, 2024  
Ceramics
13. *Tlön's True Face*, 2023  
Ceramics

1st floor



14. *Orbis' Peace*, 2023  
Ceramics and iron
15. *Epilogue*, 2024  
Video, HD, color, sound, 20' (each)
16. *Tlön's Loss*, 2024  
Ceramics
- d) *Venom (O)*, 2024  
Ceramics
- e) *Honor (T)*, 2024  
Ceramics

- f) *Justice (T)*, 2024  
Ceramics
- g) *Temperance (U)*, 2024  
Ceramics
- h) *Harmony (U)*, 2024  
Ceramics
- i) *Last Wish (T)*, 2024  
Ceramics and iron
- j) *Grief (O)*, 2024  
Ceramics
- k) *Insight (U)*, 2024  
Ceramics and iron
- l) *Eternity (TL)*, 2024  
Ceramics and iron
- m) *Doom (O)*, 2024  
Ceramics
17. *Orbis' True Face*, 2024  
Ceramics and iron
18. *Uqbar's True Face*, 2024  
Ceramics
19. *Tertius' True Face*, 2024  
Ceramics

All the works in the exhibition are courtesy of the artist.

1. *Perpetual Motion Machine*, 2024  
Book for consultation
2. *Part I*, 2024  
Video, HD, color, PT / EN, 9'40" (each)
3. *Orbis' Vengeance*, 2024  
Ceramics and iron
- a) *Malice*, 2024  
Ceramics

GALERIAS MUNICIPAIS – GALERIA DA BOAVISTA

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Tuesday to Sunday 10am–1pm and 2–6pm

Free entrance

Guided tours by appointment

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