

Collect Art

Abstract Art | Special Edition | N 15



George Chaushba | Untitled, Acrylic on paper, 60x40, 2021



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Patrícia Abreu

is a Brazilian Visual Artist who mixes multiple techniques in the realization of her works. With a degree in Graphic Design, Photography and professional experience in Art Direction for Audiovisual Dramaturgy, she moves fluently through different languages in search of the original expression. Themes about Time, Memory, and the Natural World are a constant presence in her work. Currently, she practices Macro Photography as a conceptual, formal, and artistic exercise, achieving then, an abstractionism in her image creation process.

The Time Capsules Series, 2022, is an ongoing Collection composed of Macro Photographs that capture otherworldly landscapes. In my personal research on old family belongings, objects that could retain the Past, I found 2 hand-blown glass paperweights that belonged one to my father and the other to my father-in-law, who left us last year. Father figures are represented on blocks of blown glass, objects I carry with me as reminders of their presence in my life. When using them in a Still Photography session, I noticed through the lens, their individual beauty, with several properties that could be investigated through Macro Photography. Then, through my Macro Lens, something beyond was revealed to me. The existence of those small bubbles inside, which, when enlarged, assumed a supernatural aspect, revealing fragments of encapsulated worlds, containing their own atmosphere, their air of the Past. When that became clear to me, I started building this Collection in search of the “magical photospheres” these objects contained. Sensitive images that evoke other Worlds, other Times. Capsules that store air and encapsulated weight memories of the Past. There are no digital manipulations in the composition of these images, just post-production to transform RAW images with a digital darkroom approach to retouch, contrast and better equilibrate the final image. Although I like occasionally to interfere with the images, this Series brought me a new challenge to face the distortions caused by the bubbles inside the glass objects. Seeing abstractions through the Macro Lens is a delightful way to build my images. Let the light trace the lines to follow, direct the gaze and reveal the sensations as we see, allowing the mystery of shadows, colors, contours, and visible shapes of the new image to tell us its path. “Mysteries lie all around us, even in the most familiar things, waiting only to be perceived.” – Wynn Bullock.

Captured with my Canon 5D Mark IV - 100mm Macro Lens. The Time Capsules Series is composed of Macro Photographs that capture otherworldly landscapes.



Time Capsules S1_03 - Digital Macro Photography, Archival Pigment Inkjet Print, 58X36cm, 2022

Where are you from and how does that affect your work?

I'm from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, which is a coastal city full of sea breeze. But considering that my family came from the countryside, my childhood was colored by the land and nature that I carry inside me and usually translates into my works.

Describe how an artist is important to society.

Art is a form of self-discovery, and as a form of self-construction, it paves the way for building whole worlds of perspectives and explorations. All these shared experiences can change our present and future environments. In these unstable times, art builds bridges between all these multiple possible realities.

Where or how do you rediscover inspiration when you're feeling creatively dry?

Music is always a strong force of restoration. I'm always connected with some intimate soundtrack and I also have a lot of inspiring playlists. But the very practice of Photography, with all the exercise of seeing and equalizing the images, brings back my exhausted energies. Peaceful walks and bird watching are also always natural sources of healing.



What do your works reveal about your personality?

I don't know exactly what I reveal about myself through my works. I know they carry my identity and my visual pursuits, but I don't know how it becomes perceptible to others and that's what makes this kind of opportunity so important for artists, enabling this connection with viewers while taking part in collective publishing. Part of my works is composed of multiple layers that can bring countless interpretations and that seem very close to my personality type. But I also tend to develop a refined approach to image creation that carries minimalism and abstractionism in its results, shaping colors and light, which also speaks to me. Perhaps this flexible way of seeing everything together, instead of separating distant parts, translates my way of thinking. I don't intend to be attached to one style, instead, I keep my eyes fresh to always see far and around.

What motivates you to create?

creating is a life impulse. It gives me a chance to expand on interpretations that bring me back to the present moment. This makes me capable of translating my thoughts and inner perceptions into something that can be shared with others. It is an attempt to connect and share your perception of the world with others.

Time Capsules S14_05
2022
Digital Macro Photography
Archival Pigment Inkjet Print 62X42cm



Does the work introduce a thought, concept, or idea and/or make you think on a higher level?

Certainly! Work always comes with ideas, thoughts, and contexts. But it is something close to a kind of simultaneity and not with pre-established concepts. There will always be discoveries along the way. But I carry with me some recurring research themes that talk about Time, Memory, and the Future. In the Series "Time Capsules", the close look at the subject in the case paper weights hand-blown glasses, allowed the perception of those small bubbles, which, magnified by Macro Photography, gained a supernatural aspect, revealing fragments of encapsulated worlds, which contained its own atmosphere, its air of the Past. This was something really unexpected and the context came to me as a whole truth. Seeing abstractions through Macro Lens is a natural way to build my images. Let the light trace the path to follow, direct the gaze and reveal sensations as we see, allowing the new image's shadow mysteries, color contours, and visible shapes to tell us its way. This constant search for meaning makes me realize certain latent connections that are what matter to me the most.

Time Capsules S5_63
Digital Macro Photography, 2022
Archival Pigment Inkjet Print 60X40cm

How do you develop your art skills?

I'm always practicing, I think practice is essential to keep your eyes open and in line with your instincts and mind, and it requires you to be open to various subjects of your craft. So, when the routine becomes automatic and repetitive, pay attention to the details that surround it, it might help you reconnect with yourself. Besides that, I also like to make collages and watercolor illustrations, so I'm always writing and filling journals with some kind of motive that opens new paths for future works.

What are you working on at the moment?

I'm working on two parallel modalities of Photography, both involving an Abstract approach. The first are works done in Digital Macro Photography and make up my ongoing series called "Time Capsules". It has several sub-series and the images were a part of this Special Edition of Collect Art Magazine. In addition to this Series, I carry out another project called "Half Lies are Half Truths" which is composed of Photomontages in order to investigate the current algorithmic ways of producing images of the new generation of cellphones, in my case the iPhone 13 Pro Max.

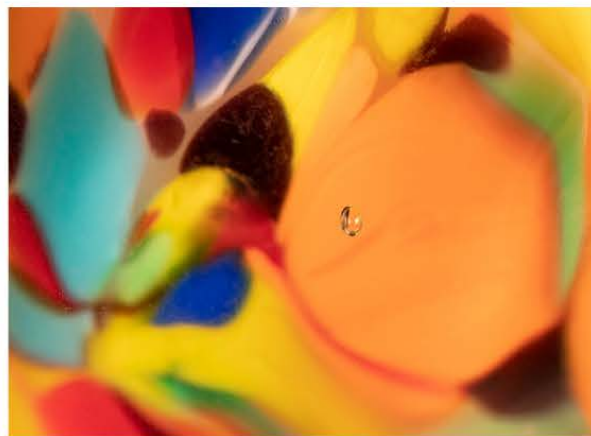


How do you balance your time in the studio with other commitments such as a part-time job, family, or admin?

Since I dedicate my time to both work and family and I also work from home, a routine is very important to me. In my professional routine, mornings are a priority, and when the morning is over, I take a break and come back in the late afternoon or early evening. When I have to do a photo session, which happens around 2 times a week, I reserve the whole day for it. However, it is easier to reconcile the demands of this lifestyle at this point in my life, with grown children and a Studio at home.

How do you stay connected and up-to-date with the art world?

I think that nowadays it is easy to find volumes of artistic influences due to the possibilities that the world wide web offers us all. The problem with this is becoming information-obsessed and getting lost in the countless discussions that open up to you. So I try to balance my thoughts and direct my focus to the interests that will be in dialogue with the project I'm developing at the moment. At the same time, I am always studying, and subjects such as Philosophy, Botany, Literature, and Design are my main concerns of interest. I also read a lot about Contemporary Art, in an attempt to maintain a connection with the new forms of expression.



Time Capsules S4_02
2022
Digital Macro Photography
Archival Pigment Inkjet Print 58X42cm



Time Capsules S9_05
2022
Digital Macro Photography
Archival Pigment Inkjet Print 40X40cm



Time Capsules S9_12
Digital Macro Photography, 2022
Archival Pigment Inkjet Print 60X40cm

