

on the shoulders of giants - galeria nara roesler, são paulo, 2021

curated by raphael fonseca, the 2021 calendar inaugural exhibition of the são paulo gallery investigates the relationships and tensions present in the ideas of time and memory through the work of 14 artists.

exhibition february 27th – april 10th, 2021



Gustavo Caboco. *Pedra Sobre Movimento*, from *bananeiras* series, 2019, acrylic paint on canvas;
Courtesy of Gustavo Caboco and Nara Roesler.

Nara Roesler São Paulo is proud to inaugurate its annual exhibitions calendar with *On the Shoulders of Giants*, a group exhibition curated by Raphael Fonseca.

On the Shoulders of Giants brings together artists whose production investigates the relations and tensions around time and memory. The plurality of the group of works displayed offers different languages and approaches to the subject, allowing for expanded perspectives. The exhibition presents contemporary visions which help us understand how familiar and ancestral narratives go hand in hand with the present in the elaboration of collective memories.

The exhibition has as its premise the Latin aphorism “nanos gigantum humeris insidentes”, which, translated, generates the expression that serves as its title. According to curator Raphael Fonseca, the phrase “points to the fact that, in order to learn something in the present, we need to dialogue with the past and with the ‘giants’ that surround us.” These, in turn, are the broad inventory that constitutes our memory or traditions. By placing ourselves on the giants’ shoulders, we are able to have an expanded perspective on what was left behind and what is yet to come.

Gustavo Caboco, for example, brings out his indigenous heritage in his works, intertwining family histories and the ancestral landscape, dealing with the displacement of indigenous peoples, and the search for reconnections

with their original territories. Ancestry is also part of the poetics of Adriano Machado, who creates an iconography of everyday life images based on an Afro-inventive matrix. Andrea Hygino makes use of engraving and drawing to investigate the poetics of archival and memory, while Leila Danziger and Felipe Lippe appropriate images to create counter-narratives that seek to redefine our collective memory, operating in the limit between revelation and erasure. While the duo Amador and Jr. Patrimonial Patrimonial parody the customs of cultural institutions in provocative actions that tension the relations between what we see and how we see it, Victor Galvão offers through photography images on the edge of disappearance. In his paintings, André Griffo presents us with phantasmic spaces in which the index of a presence is perceived through the images and objects that survive and inhabit it. Randolpho Lamonier sees in the image-word complex the possibility to approach the profuse space between memory and fiction.

Ultimately, *On the Shoulders of Giants* asks us what kind of engagement we wish to have with our own individual and collective memories. Knowing that its malleable materiality is what builds our identity: if when accessing it we understand where we came from, by actively building it we can construct what we want to be. The recovery and appreciation of traditional practices and orality are fundamental to strengthen the link between generations, without neglecting anonymous and peripheral subjectivities. The exhibition allows us to identify strategies that actively create new perspectives for the future, without forgetting the past.

The exhibition is part of the *Roesler Curatorial Project*, a program under Luis Pérez-Oramas direction that, since mid 2019, reaffirms the gallery's commitment to new and experimental initiatives, stimulating dialogues between different agents in the art world. *On the Shoulders of Giants* will be open for visitation at Nara Roesler São Paulo from February 27 to April 10, 2021.

Performance of Amador e Jr. Segurança Patrimonial

Saturday, february 27th

11h, 12h, 1pm, 2pm and 3pm

service

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schedule your visit

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