

## “PASSENGERS”

Curated by Eglė Ambrasaitė

The group exhibition “PASSENGERS” gathers three emerging Portuguese artists: **Mariana Malheiro**, **Vera Matias**, and **Beatriz Manteigas**. Together, they explore the notion of passage by tucking the human figure into a state of dormancy, displaced beyond the frames of their canvases. Guided by feminist new materialism and eco-critical thought, the artists unsettle human-centered perspectives and situate the viewer within the more-than-human realm - one composed of non-human and inanimate. Passages emerge here as “events” - in the sense proposed by philosopher Jean-Luc Nancy - encounters that interrupt what appears settled and open onto other possible relations. The exhibition, hence, holds open a mode of witnessing attuned to transformation - toward dreaming, listening, hoping, and acting. In doing so, **Mariana Malheiro’s** paintings attend to what remains after moments of intimacy and social gathering have passed. Rather than depicting human bodies, her works focus on inanimate yet affectively charged remnants - a half-full wine glass, a still-warm book cover, a fading mirror reflection - sites where presence is felt through absence. In other words, Mariana makes one engulfed in a Barthesian way. Similarly, **Vera Matias’s** works depict presence through the tension between the abstraction and form. Her ghostlike subjects, whether animate or inanimate, are eerie and yet uncannily familiar. These phantomic and phantasmatic bodies gesture a shifting out of identity - one’s raw and visceral more-than-human becoming. Finally, drawing on dark ecology, **Beatriz Manteigas** explores how both human and non-human bodies are entangled in relations of commodification and desire. Questioning what it means to-be-looked-at, her sculptures and drawings propose a shift from sensational obsession toward mutual, complex entanglement - a more reciprocal way of placing one’s gaze and touch.

**Mariana Malheiro** is a Portuguese visual artist working with drawing and oil painting. She holds a BA and MA in Painting from the Faculty of Fine Arts in Lisbon, having spent a semester at Kunsthochschule Kassel. Her work has been exhibited widely in Portugal and she has participated in international residencies including in New York and Barcelona. Her work is represented in public and private collections in Portugal, the United States, and Brazil.

**Vera Matias** is a Portuguese visual artist based in Porto, currently focused on painting. She holds a degree in Set Design and an MA in Art Theory and Criticism, and co-founded a multidisciplinary collective shortlisted for the Novo Banco Revelation Award. Her work has been shown nationally and internationally and is included in the Porto Municipal Collection of Contemporary Art.

**Beatriz Manteigas** is a Portuguese visual artist and researcher who holds a PhD in Drawing from the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Lisbon, where she currently teaches. Her practice spans painting, drawing, and eco-critical research. She is the director and co-founder of Associação Quinta das Relvas, an NGO based on a farm committed to increasingly sustainable practices and dedicated to art and ecology through non-formal education. Manteigas has exhibited extensively in Portugal and internationally, and her work is held in public and private collections worldwide.

**Eglė Ambrasaitė** is a Lithuanian independent curator, artist, and researcher based between Berlin, Budapest, Žeimiai, and New York. Her practice weaves (crip) materialities, decolonial and more-than-human thought, affect theory, and dark ecology through exhibitions, public programmes, and research-based projects. Her interdisciplinary work circulates across Europe and the United States, with curated exhibitions, workshops, and talks presented in countries including Lithuania, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Hungary, North Macedonia, and Croatia, as well as in New York. Her writing has been published internationally, including by Mousse Publishing, and in journals such as *Deleuzine* and *Kajet*.

1. **Mariana Malheiro**, *Veil*, 2026  
Oil on canvas  
40 x 30 cm
2. **Mariana Malheiro**, *Girl Mess*, 2026  
Oil on canvas  
40 x 30 cm
3. **Mariana Malheiro**, *Secret*, 2026  
Oil on canvas  
40 x 30 cm
4. **Mariana Malheiro**, *Notebook*, 2026  
Oil on canvas  
30 x 24 cm
5. **Mariana Malheiro**, *Letters For Those Who Have Passed Through Me*, 2026  
Oil on different sheets of canvas  
Variable dimensions
6. **Mariana Malheiro**, *Mini Drunk Canvas*, 2024  
Oil on canvas  
15x10 cm each
7. **Vera Matias**, *Dinner is Served*, 2026  
Fabric, glue, enamel paint, steel cable  
20 x 17 x 7 cm
8. **Vera Matias**, *Flight*, 2026  
Clothing, tape, glue and staples on mdf board  
55 x 57 cm
9. **Vera Matias**, *Compressed*, 2026  
Acrylics, ink and paper on mdf board  
65 x 38.5 cm
10. **Vera Matias**, *Flip-flops*, 2026  
Acrylics and oil paint on mdf board  
32 x 24 cm
11. **Vera Matias**, *The Revelation*, 2026  
Permanent marker on paper mounted on mdf boards, water spray  
22.5x21 cm, 20x10 cm, 20x10 cm (3 panels)  
You are welcome to use the spray bottle.
12. **Vera Matias**, *Smashed*, 2024  
Ink on canvas.  
110 x 140 cm
13. **Vera Matias**, *The Sky is Outside*, 2026  
Cardboard, fabric, glue, enamel paint, mirror  
27 x 20 x 22 cm  
You are welcome to take a peek through the little hole in the rooftop.
14. **Beatriz Manteigas**, *Untitled (Single Cards)*, 2026  
Papiermache/white clay  
8 x 5 cm each
15. **Beatriz Manteigas**, *Gish Gallop*, 2026  
Glow in the dark vinyl  
Approx 20 x 200 cm
16. **Beatriz Manteigas**, *Libido*, 2026  
Thermal prints, paper tape on paper  
120 x 100 cm
17. **Beatriz Manteigas**, *Teresa II*, 2025  
Thermal prints, graphite and paper tape on paper  
41 x 41 cm
18. **Beatriz Manteigas**, *Teresa III*, 2025  
Thermal prints, graphite and paper tape on paper  
41 x 41 cm

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| BAR | <u>4</u>  | <u>12</u> | <u>15</u> | <u>16</u> | <u>10</u> | <u>6a</u> | <u>6b</u> |
|     | <u>17</u> |           |           | <u>13</u> |           |           |           |
|     | <u>18</u> |           |           | <u>7</u>  |           | <u>8</u>  |           |
|     |           |           | <u>5</u>  |           |           | <u>2</u>  |           |
|     | <u>11</u> |           | <u>3</u>  | <u>1</u>  | <u>9</u>  | <u>14</u> |           |