

Alexander Gray Associates

New York
510 West 26 Street
New York NY 10001
United States
Tel: +1 212 399 2636
www.alexandergray.com

Germantown
224 Main Street, Garden Level
Germantown NY 12526
United States
Tel: +1 518 537 2100



Valeska Soares: *Broken Year*, January 13 – February 26, 2022, Alexander Gray Associates, New York

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Alexander Gray Associates is pleased to announce *Broken Year*, Valeska Soares's third one-person presentation with the Gallery.

Conceived as a broken calendar that marks the artist's experience of the passage of time, *Broken Year* is Soares's response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. The work takes the shape of a gallery-wide installation organized as a physical calendar: Stretched linen-canvas panels are grouped in the familiar grid of a traditional calendar. For each panel, Soares selects pages from books with particularly meaningful or evocative phrases, which are applied to the canvas to mark the calendar days. The work is bookended by two significant dates: March 1, 2020, when she began self-isolating, and March 29, 2021, when she received her second dose of the vaccine.

Soares is renowned for her deft deployment of minimalist and conceptualist strategies that lend poetics to memory, emotion, and loss. Here the restrained formality of the grid, amplified by quantity and repetition, transmits the ways in which the pandemic transformed our relationship to time. Simultaneously, its scale and materiality evoke a sense of mourning for all the time and lives that have been lost. Many of Soares's series themselves evolve over time: The artist will establish a thread and return to it later, framing it through different contexts and emotions. *Broken Year* is one such evolution, a reconsideration of a project begun in 2014 and now utterly transformed by the pandemic.

Installed near the Gallery's entrance, Soares's 2014 work *Ouroboros* is the artist's counterpoint to the stretches of time and meaning mapped in *Broken Year*. The installation's title refers to an allegorical serpent swallowing its own tail, a symbol of infinity in which time is circular and suspended. Soares replaces the serpent with a golden pocket watch (in Portuguese, the word for gold is ouro) that is suspended from the ceiling by a delicate chain. The watch executes an almost imperceptible rotation in space, turning at the speed of one revolution per hour. Deprived of its hour hand, which Soares removed, the clock loses its function of offering a reference to a specific moment in the day, attesting instead to the inexorable passing of continuous time.

While the glacial pace of *Ouroboros* marks the passage of time on an epochal scale, gesturing to what geologists call "deep time," *Broken Year* reflects discrete personal, daily moments. Between them, the two works evoke a collective human experience which, while demarcated in specific dates, transcends a unique period to touch on our shared experiences of time, memory, and loss.

In 2017, Soares was the subject of the major mid-career survey Valeska Soares: *Any Moment Now* at the The Santa Barbara Museum of Art, CA, in conjunction with the J. Paul Getty Museum as part of the multi-venue initiative *Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA*. Previous surveys of Soares's work have been presented by the Museum de arte da Pampulha, Belo Horizonte, Brazil (2002) and the Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York (2003). She has participated in numerous international exhibitions, including two Venice Biennales (2011, 2005); several São Paulo Biennials (2009, 1998, 1994); the Sharjah Biennial (2009); and the Havana Biennial (1991). Other group exhibitions include: *Permission to be Global: Latin American Art from the Ella Fontanals-Cisneros Collection*, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (2014); *Seduções: Valeska Soares, Cildo Meireles, Ernesto Neto*, Daros Collection, Zurich (2006); *Puro Teatro* at Museo Rufino Tamayo, Mexico City (2002); *Virgin Territory: Women, Gender, and History in Contemporary Brazilian Art*, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC (2001); and the landmark Latin American exhibition, *Ultra Baroque: Aspects of Post Latin American Art*, Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego (traveled) (2000-03). Soares's artwork is included in many private and public collections, including the Bronx Museum of the Arts, New York; Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, PA; Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, DC; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles; Museum d'Art Contemporany de Barcelona, Spain; Solomon R. Guggenheim, New York; Tate Modern, London; Fundacion "la Caixa," Barcelona; The National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.; Museu de Arte Contemporânea-MAC in São Paulo; Museu de Arte Moderna-MAM in Rio de Janeiro; Inhotim-Centro de Arte Contemporânea in Brumadinho, Brazil; Museu de Arte Contemporânea-MARCO in Monterrey, and others. Soares was the recipient of multiple grants and awards including the Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior (CAPES) fellowship, Brazil's Ministry of Education; Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA, The Getty Foundation, Los Angeles; Ida Ely Rubin Artist in Residence Program, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge; Anonymous Was a Woman Award, New York; and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship, New York. Valeska Soares is also represented by Fortes d'Aloia & Gabriel in São Paulo, Brazil.

Alexander Gray Associates is a contemporary art gallery in New York City and Germantown, NY. Through exhibitions, research, and artist representation, the Gallery spotlights artistic movements and artists active in the twentieth and twenty-first century. Influential in cultural, social, and political spheres, these artists are notable for creating work that crosses geographic borders, generational contexts, and artistic disciplines. Alexander Gray Associates is an organization committed to anti-racist and feminist principles.

Alexander Gray Associates is a member of the Art Dealers Association of America.

New York: Tuesday-Saturday, 10:30 AM - 6:00 PM
Germantown: Saturday-Sunday, 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM