

# LECA ARAUJO

## SELECTED PRESS, INSTITUTIONAL STATEMENTS & CRITICAL REVIEWS

### INSTITUTIONAL STATEMENTS

"In this installation, Leca Araujo invites the visitor to move beyond the role of spectator and to become an active participant in the creation of the work itself.

At the heart of the experience lies something deeply intimate: the human heartbeat. Through tactile sensors, each participant's pulse is captured in real time and transformed into a luminous rosette projected onto the ceiling of the space. What emerges is a unique visual form—ephemeral, personal, and irreproducible—generated by the rhythm of each body.

Araujo's practice is rooted in the symbolism of doors, recurring elements throughout her work. Chosen as supports that have already lived a first life, these doors are given a second existence through painting, embroidery, and installation. They function as thresholds—spaces of passage, decision, and transformation.

In this environment, the visitor enters in small groups, navigating darkness and light, perception and sensation. The installation unfolds progressively, encouraging an encounter not only with the artwork, but with one's own physical and emotional presence.

Rather than presenting a static exhibition of objects, the work proposes a shared experience. The visitor's heartbeat becomes material, image, and meaning. Each pulse contributes to a collective visual composition, reinforcing the idea that perception, action, and emotion are inseparable.

Through this immersive process, Leca Araujo creates a space where art is not merely observed, but lived—where the boundaries between artist, artwork, and audience dissolve into a single, resonant moment".

Luciene Pery, art historian and curator, 2025

"Leca's work was absolutely outstanding. I chose the work called Maria Bertha, dedicated to the Brazilian Bertha Lutz, the only woman who signed the United Nations Charter in 1945, who really fought for women's rights. This painting was not only fantastic as a work of art, it was very important to us at the United Nations."

Tatiana Valovaya, Director General of the United Nations Office in Geneva about the award given to the artist in the art competition for the 75th anniversary of the UN in 2022."

"Leca was chosen as the winner of the Director General's award in 2020, and she incorporates very important elements of our identity in her art, not only the colors or the theme, but also, as the Director General mentioned, the idea of sustainability, women's empowerment, multi-ethnic society, diversity, that's what we are".

Tovar da Silva Nunes, Ambassador of Brazil to the United Nations in Geneva, during the exhibition "Between Mind and Matter" at the UN Palace Geneva, 2022.

"The exhibition to be open today is a celebration of the Brazilian women. It is also a celebration of the women all over the world. It's a celebration of their similarities, as well as their uniqueness. If we don't manage to make progress for man and women equally, we will simply not be able to achieve the strategies at all, because we would be leaving half of the human kind behind. I'd like to thank ambassador Azevêdo to add some Brazilian colors to our gender activities here in this city, with this exhibition. Thank you also to all colleagues of the permanent mission of Brazil for making this inspiring exhibition possible. Ambassador Azevêdo has been carrying forward the good tradition of strong Brazilian women in the activism of multinational affairs".

**Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, during the exhibition "As Marias" in the UN Palace in Geneva in 2018.**

"It's a great pleasure and honor, to open today, at the Geneva UN headquarters, with the presence of DG Møller, the exhibition As Marias, which display the work of the Brazilian artist Leca Araujo, here with us, who is not called Maria, but has a clear vision of the role and the importance of all Marias in Brazil and in the world. We are two Marias heading the Brazilian Mission in Geneva and we are both very happy and proud to support the work of Leca Araujo , which is committed to gender equality, social inclusion and sustainable development. And in particular, this one, dedicated to all Marias. Marias who are workers, mothers, daughters and sisters. Marias who battle daily to support their families and communities, cry and suffer, dare and care".

**Maria Luisa Escorel de Moraes, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative for the Brazilian Mission in the UN Palace in Geneva, 2018.**

"We have many Marias in Brazil. Leca Araujo depicts some of them in her art. The good, the bad, the happy, the sad, the honored and the brave Marias. Each and all of them have a role in society that is very well described in Leca's collection".

**Maria Nazareth Farani Azevêdo, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations Office in Geneva, 2018**

## CURATORIAL AND CRITICAL REVIEWS

"Cinquante ans après le principal mouvement féministe, il y a toujours une certaine invisibilité des femmes. L'inégalité des sexes demeure un problème et est à l'ordre du jour des forums de l'ONU, ceci de façon plus évidente encore dans les pays en développement.

Mais, bien que les sujets principaux des études statistiques soient la pauvreté, l'éducation, la violence, l'emploi des femmes et leur participation aux décisions, c'est de l'âme que veut nous parler l'artiste ! Une égalité politique ou sociale est parfois atteinte, mais plus rarement une égalité morale. Pour tenter de faire respecter leurs sentiments et leurs aspirations en tant que femmes, nous voyons différents mouvements féministes se battre sans vraiment toucher aux points essentiels. Et de ce fait, leur but n'est jamais vraiment atteint, et ils apportent seulement un surcroit de douleur et de frustration. Mais structurer ses sentiments et s'exprimer dans cette société n'est pas simple..."

**Laurence Leroy, Curator for the projet « O Grito » of the Lyon Biennale Résonance, 2019.**

The series brings a curious perspective of Brazil, from a set of paintings and installations, gathered here. Starting from a stereotype described by a Brazilian novelist, Leca Araujo recreates different Brazilian female profiles, leading us to reflect on social and political aspects of Brazil.

The country has continental dimensions and very different and distant regions, but all inhabited by a creative, cheerful, hardworking people, united by language and solidarity, immersed in a peculiar environment characterized by its countless Marias, the basis of its social matrix.

In order to unite social themes and ecological balance, the artist uses different types of paints combined with recycled materials. And, hybridizing figure and background, especially through black-on-black, she addresses the question of similarity versus equality.

It is with this spirit that Leca recreates black, white, yellow, Marias, Clarices and Teresas as if they were all black and named Marias, purposely, to bring the Brazilian women into a common context and then speak of the beauty and differences of each one of them, which actually is not in the appearance but in the soul. The series As Marias, thus synthesizes the belief that every human being is unique"!

**Elisa Muradas, Curator for the exhibition "As Marias" at UN Geneva, 2018.**

Leca Araujo est peintre et plasticienne. Le travail présenté au Lyceum est une réflexion sur des femmes d'exception. A travers des couleurs, de la matière et de la récupération elle nous plonge dans un monde où l'âme a sa place, où le respect et l'intelligence sont prédominants.

Cette année Leca a exposé dans le cadre de la Biennale de Venise. Elle a présenté quatre femmes brésiliennes aux parcours singuliers, mais qui ont marqué l'histoire de leur pays.

A Genève, pour la Biennale de Lyon, elle présente six autres femmes. Toutes des Maria Das Dores «femmes vertueuses, capables de souffrir pour une noble cause».

**Sophie Frezza, Responsible for integration and cultural activities at Université Ouvrière de Genève, 2019.**

## **SELECTED PRESS**

### **Written Press**

- Ultima Hora (Brazil), 2024
- R7, Cartão de Visita (Brazil), 2022
- Cultura & Negócios, Arte (Brazil), 2022
- Veja, Cultura (Brazil), 2022
- Band News, Entretenimento (Brazil), 2022
- O Globo (Brazil), 2018
- Swissinfo (Switzerland), 2018
- Ahram (Egypt), 2018
- Vaterland (Liechtenstein), 2017
- Volksblatt (Liechtenstein), 2017

### **TV / Video**

- Radio Nova Brasil FM (Brazil), 2022
- TV Brasil (Brazil), 2018
- ORF III (Austria), 2017
- Radio Mec, Arte Clube (Brazil), 2017
- Art Tour TV (US), 2017

*Additional information available upon request.*