Claraboia

Samara Paiva



Samara Paiva
(Maués, AM, Brazil, 1995)

Samara Paiva investigates, through painting, the possibilities of the body in relation to certain emotional states and to intimate, domestic spaces. Her paintings depict figures in moments of withdrawal and vulnerability, in compositions that evoke both emotional and subjective dimensions as well as broader social reflections. While rooted in figuration, her work constructs distinct atmospheres — marked by low contrast, shadows, haze, and a subtle flickering of the image — that imbue each scene with narrative density and a magnetic presence. In this oscillation between the tangible and the unseen, between the figure and suggestion, the artist's work opens space for forms of fabulation that expand the experience of the bodies it portrays.

Working from figuration, Paiva has developed a painterly language defined by restrained contrasts and a palette of earthy, darkened tones that draws the body and its surroundings into close proximity, dissolving the boundaries between them. The materiality of paint functions less as a means of describing reality than as a sensorial structure capable of sustaining atmospheres of suspension and permanence, shifting the image away from the logic of the event toward a realm in which duration becomes the primary experience. Rather than directing the viewer's gaze, her paintings hold it, inviting the spectator to inhabit a slowed sense of time in which presence, memory, and space are mutually constituted.

Intimacy is one of the central axes of her practice, understood not as withdrawal but as a space for self-making, care, and self-preservation. In her paintings, the domestic environment ceases to function as a mere backdrop and instead becomes an extension of the inner states of the bodies it shelters. This same interest runs through her still lifes, in which everyday objects, traces of consumption, and personal habits operate as indices of subjectivity, suggesting identities revealed less through the presence of a figure than through the marks that figure leaves behind in space.



Photo: Roger Luz

Claraboia



Hiato, 2026
Oil on canvas
50 × 40 cm (19 3/4 × 15 3/4 in)

Photo: Julia Thompson

Claraboia



Olhos d'água, 2026
Oil on canvas
32 × 35 cm (12 5/8 × 13 3/4 in)

Photo: Julia Thompson


OLHOS D'ÁGUA
C. EVARISTO

Claraboia



Para Oxum I
Para Oxum II
Para Oxum III
2026
Oil on canvas
22 × 16 cm (8 5/8 × 6 1/4 in)

Photo: Julia Thompson

Claraboia



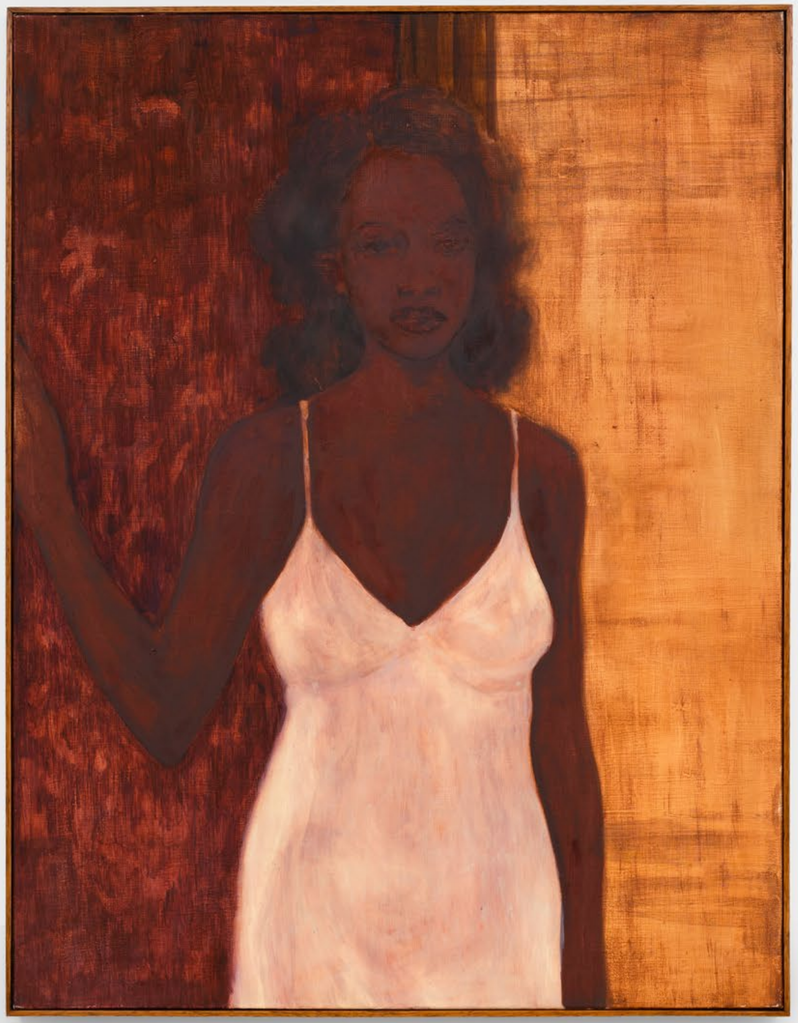
Colo II, 2026
Oil on canvas
75 × 96.5 cm (29 1/2 × 38 in)

Photo: Ana Pigosso

“As an artist, Paiva constantly calls for representation of Black women and their beauty. For her, a celebratory moment occurred in the 1970s, when the rebirth and triumph of Black divas emerged. Paiva draws inspiration from the essence emanating from actresses from the Blaxploitation movement, femininity, mystery, and beauty in dark-toned bodies and faces.”

Gaby Vera Galeria,
Excerpt from the text of the exhibition *Dark In Darkness*

Claraboia



Negra, noturna, 2026
Oil on canvas
90 × 70 cm (35 3/8 × 27 1/2 in)

Photo: Julia Thompson







Scene
Group show curated by Ethan James Green
New York Life Gallery, New York, USA, 2026

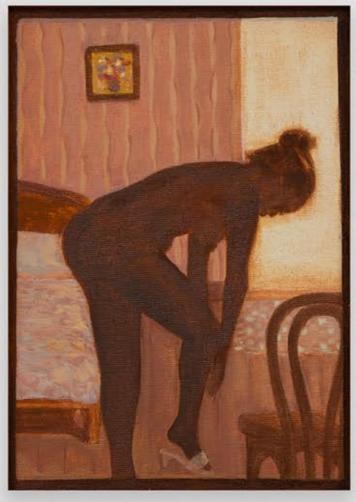
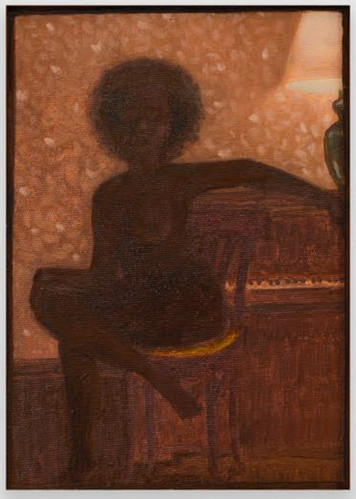
Photo: On White Wall

Claraboia



Altar II, 2026
Oil on canvas
165 × 130 cm (65 × 51 1/8 in)

Photo: Julia Thompson



Devagar
Piano
Não trabalho aqui
Em repouso

2026
Oil on canvas
22 × 16 cm (8 5/8 × 6 1/4 in)

Photos: Julia Thompson



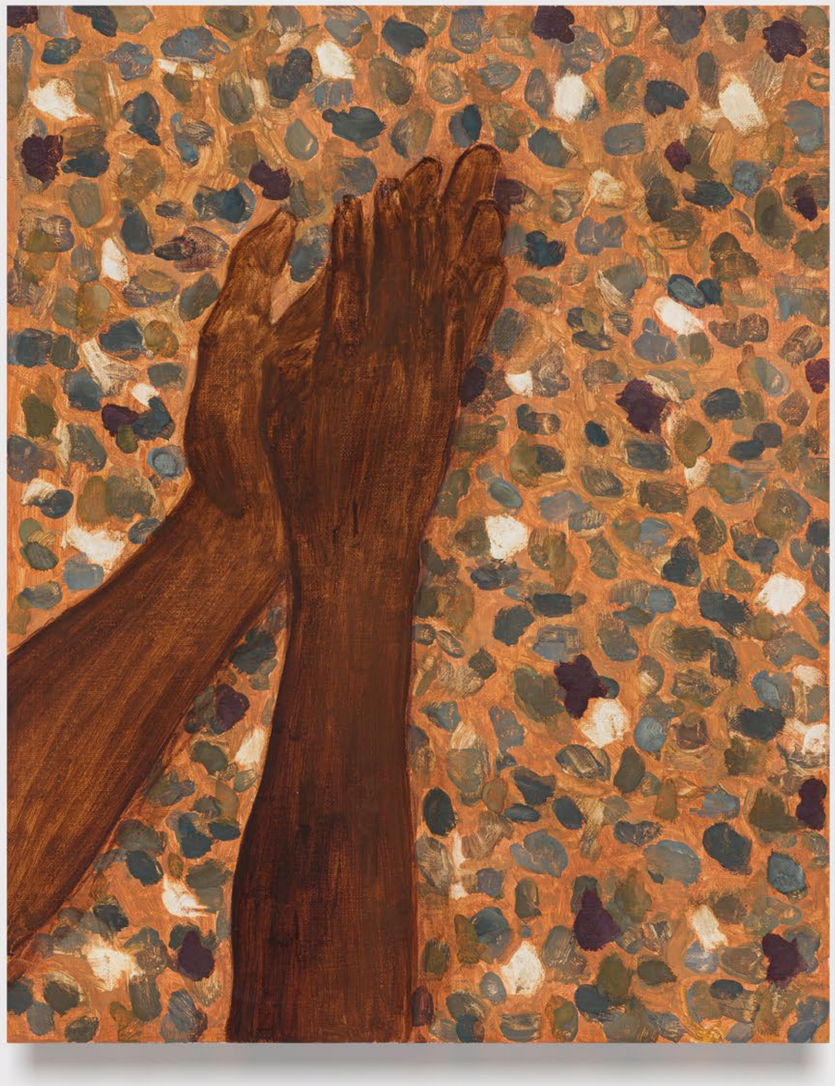
Claraboia



Desvestir sob a luz quente, da série *Janela*
2026
Oil on canvas
22 × 16 cm (8 5/8 × 6 1/4 in)

Photo: Ana Pigosso

Claraboia



Gosto de lençóis brancos mas escolhi coloridos por você, 2026
Oil on canvas
43.5 × 34.5 cm (17 1/8 × 13 5/8 in)

Photo: Ana Pigosso

Claraboia



Altar, 2026
Oil on canvas
50 × 65 cm (19 3/4 × 25 5/8 in)

Photo: Julia Thompson



Claraboia

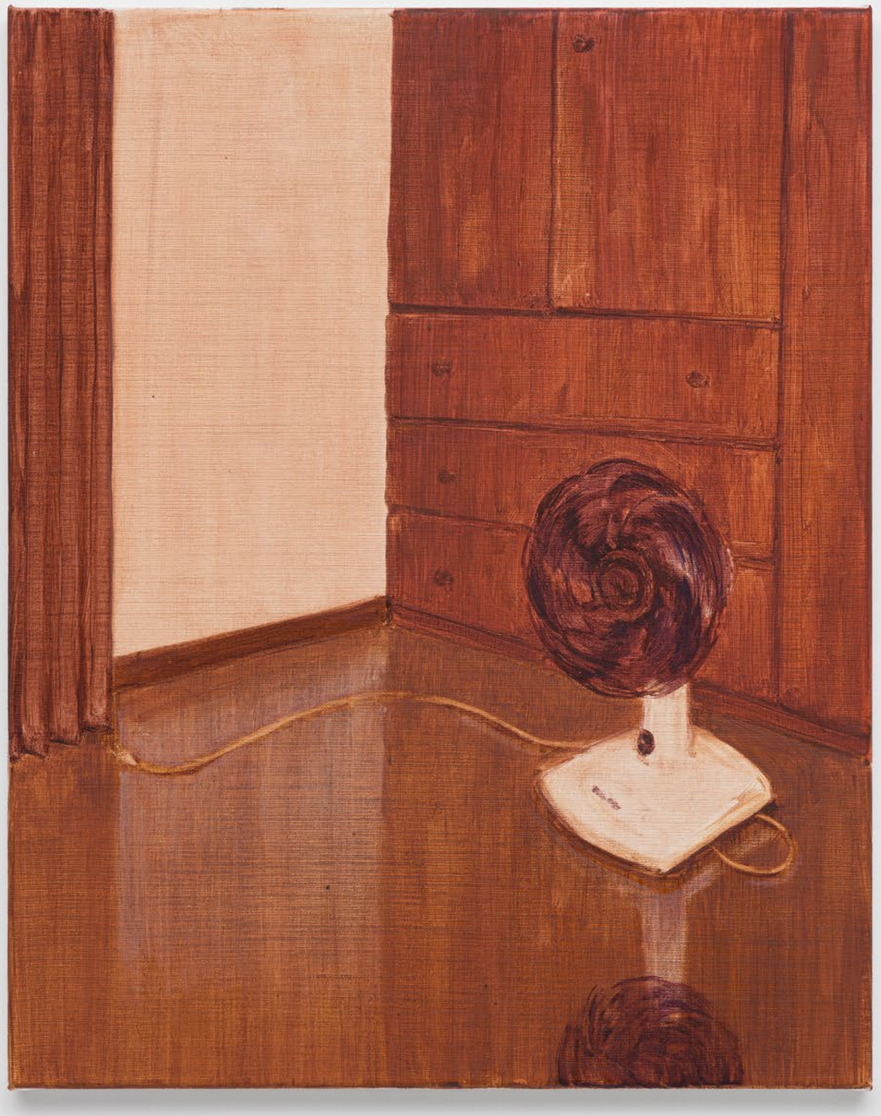


Ritual, 2025-2026
Oil on canvas
89 × 71.4 cm (35 × 28 1/8 in)

Photo: Ana Pigosso



Claraboia



Quarto de dormir, 2026
Oil on linen
50 × 40 cm (19 3/4 × 15 3/4 in)

Photo: Ana Pigosso

“Nothing in these paintings is arranged to be quickly understood. The eye enters as if arriving late to a scene that was already unfolding and will continue afterward. Without a clear beginning, without resolution — what asserts itself is a sustained presence, held by its own rhythm. What is constructed escapes the idea of an interior or of a figure at rest; it is a field where time thickens. The images, taken together, operate in a kind of continuous slow motion, as if each gesture had been decelerated to the point of nearly losing its narrative function. Rather than a stilled moment, an inhabited duration emerges.
(...)
Rest assumes the status of a condition. It carries density, weight, and duration. It demands support. This support is conveyed through the materiality of painting. Tones no longer organize depth or guide the gaze; instead, they begin to structure space. Ambers, darkened reds, saturated browns — surfaces that evoke wood, resin, something between the organic and the crafted. Rather than immediate brightness, there is a balsamic quality, as if color were operating through preservation, keeping something alive in suspension.”

Ariana Nuala,
Excerpt from the text of the exhibition *Habitual*



Samara Paiva
Habitual

Habitual
Solo show curated by Ariana Nuala
Claraboia, São Paulo, Brazil, 2026

Photo: Julia Thompson



Habitual
Solo show curated by Ariana Nuala
Claraboia, São Paulo, Brazil, 2026

Photo: Julia Thompson







Habitual
Solo show curated by Ariana Nuala
Claraboia, São Paulo, Brazil, 2026

Photo: Julia Thompson

Claraboia



Verão, 2026
Oil on canvas
90 × 70 cm (35 3/8 × 27 1/2 in)

Photo: Julia Thompson

Claraboia



Banho, 2025
Oil on canvas
40 × 30 cm (11 3/4 × 15 3/4 in)

Photo: Ding Musa

Claraboia



Orange Moon, 2025
Oil on canvas
146 × 114 cm (57 1/2 × 44 7/8 in)

Photo: Samara Paiva

Claraboia



Olhe para mim antes do pôr do sol, 2024-2025
Oil on canvas
100 × 150 cm (39 1/4 × 59 in)

Photo: Samara Paiva



Claraboia



Sheila, 2025
Oil on canvas
90 × 80 cm (35 3/8 × 31 1/2 in)

Photo: Samara Paiva

Claraboia



Wura, 2025
Oil on canvas
22 × 27 cm (8 5/8 × 10 5/8 in)



Dois espelhos, 2026
Oil on canvas
22 × 30 cm (8 5/8 × 11 3/4 in)

Photo 1: Ding Musa
Photo 2: Ana Pigosso

Claraboia



Autorretrato em verde, 2025
Oil on canvas
27 × 22 cm (10 5/8 × 8 5/8 in)

Photo: Ding Musa

Claraboia



The Hug, 2025
Charcoal on paper
111 × 81 cm (43 3/4 × 31 7/8 in)

Photo: Mitsi Moulson

Claraboia

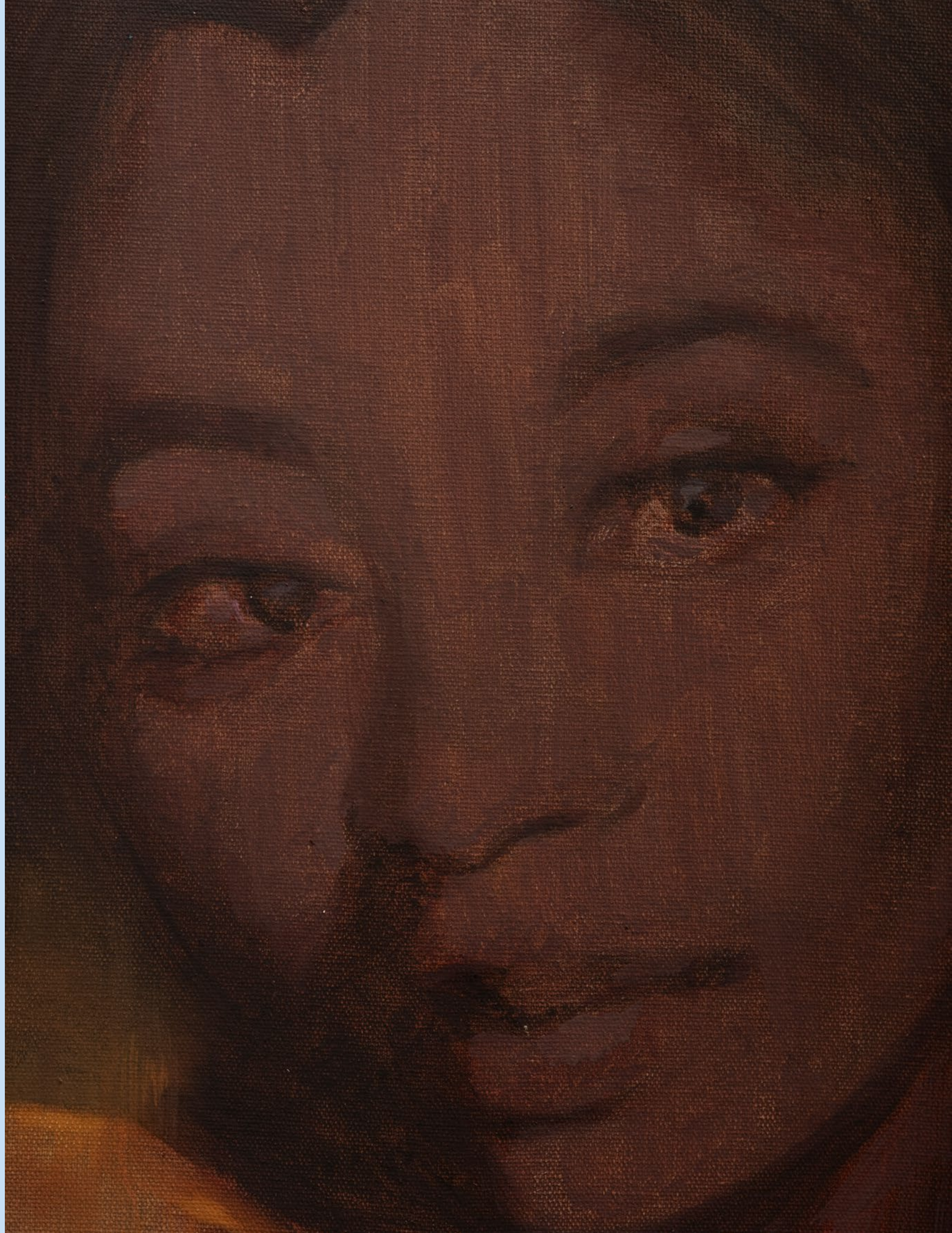


Yedemaria I, 2025
Oil on canvas
30 × 24 cm (11 3/4 × 9 1/2 in)

Photo: Julia Thompson

“There is a subtlety, almost a secret, shared among Black people — especially among us Black women. When we are the only ones in certain spaces and our eyes meet, we smile at one another. I don’t know if it happens in every encounter or every situation, but it is something I experience often. Sometimes this sense of kinship arrives as a smile; at other times, it takes the form of other quiet expressions of tenderness and mutual recognition.”

Lorraine Mendes,
Excerpt from the text of the exhibition
Retrato de um espaço tempo



Claraboia



Ébano, 2025
Oil on canvas
82 × 60 cm (32 1/4 × 23 5/8 in)

Photo: Julia Thompson

Claraboia



Você chegou como sol, 2024
Oil on canvas
42 × 33.8 cm (16 1/2 × 13 1/4 in)

Photo: Jonas Araújo

Claraboia



Alba ao levantar, 2024
Oil on canvas
90 × 120 cm (35 3/8 × 47 1/4 in)

Photo: Jonas Araújo



Claraboia



Lilly, 2022-2024
Oil on canvas
40 × 30 cm (15 3/4 × 11 3/4 in)

Photo: Jonas Araújo

Claraboia



Olympia on My Mind, 2024
Oil on canvas
156 × 240 cm (61 3/8 × 94 1/2 in)

Photo: Samara Paiva

“The reddish hues and desaturated colors of Samara Paiva’s paintings create an atmosphere of recognition and care in relation to the viewer. Each canvas, even the less figurative ones, gradually reveals itself through calm and delicate gestures. The eye moves across the painted surface with the gentleness of a secret exchange of glances. We can trace the path of the brush and the paint as they form routes, textures, skin, fabric, and time.

A different kind of time — where slow music plays, where one does not rush from one task to the next, where simply existing and being present, breathing and feeling, matters more than the hours of the day. It is a time of freedom. In this sense, painting is not merely a checklist to be completed, nor a discovery born of chance, where colors come together at random or according to the rhythms of the market. Painting is a political act, one that gives form and visibility to questions of faith, beauty, desire, invention, and the exorcism of enduring ways of seeing inherited from the past yet still present today.”

Lorraine Mendes,
Excerpt from the text of the exhibition
Retrato de um espaço tempo

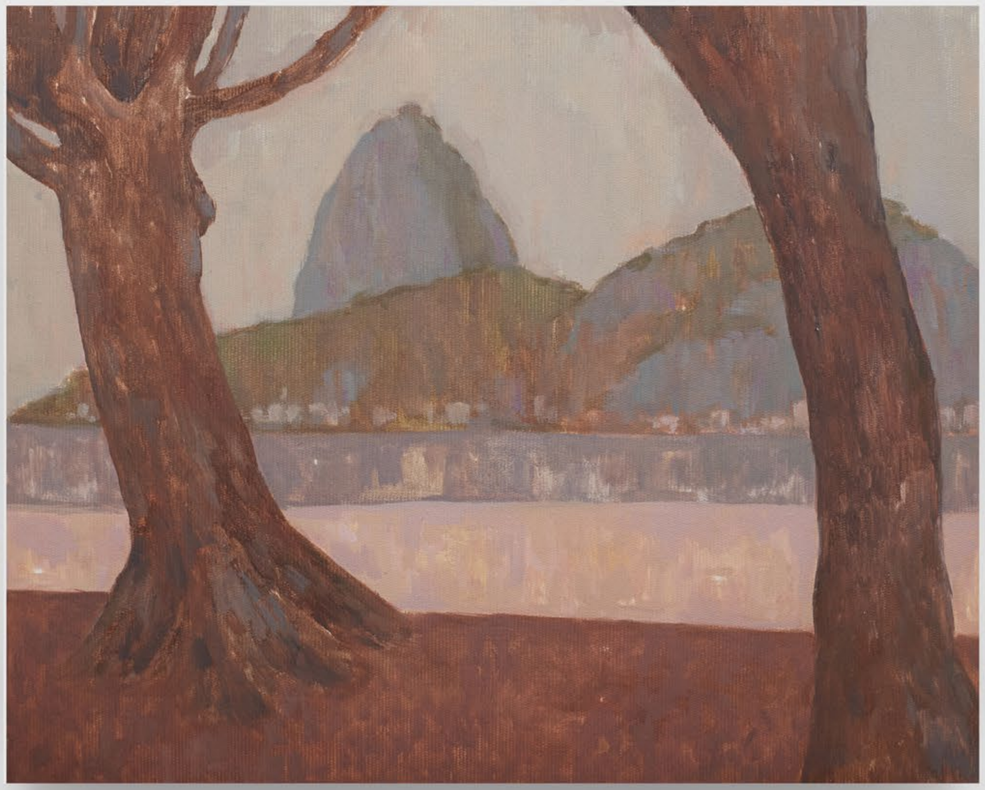


Photo: Samara Paiva

Retrato de um espaço tempo
Solo show
Casa do Benin, Salvador, Brazil, 2024

Photo: Samara Paiva

Claraboia



Rio, 2024
Oil on canvas
26.4 × 32.4 cm (10 3/8 × 12 3/4 in)

Photo: Samara Paiva



Ori, 2024
Oil on canvas
27 × 22 cm (10 5/8 × 8 5/8 in)

Photo: Jonas Araújo

Photo 1: Samara Paiva
Photos 2, 3: Jonas Araújo



Descansar na lua, 2024
Oil on canvas
30.2 × 39.5 cm (11 7/8 × 15 1/2 in)



Dançar no sol, 2023-2024
Oil on canvas
37 × 50 cm (14 5/8 × 19 5/8 in)



Iris, 2024
Oil on canvas
26,5 × 32.5 cm (12 5/8 × 10 3/8 in)



“Conflicts are virtually absent from the images composed by Samara. Tranquility lulls our eyes like a driving force, unfolding like a movie scene where characters cross paths and observe one another unhurriedly, in a blurred setting where only their presences matter, warmed by the light. (...)

The people depicted by Samara seem to express their differences through the simple, everyday things — a right once again championed by Maria Firmina when she wrote freely about a bouquet of flowers she wished to give. This reminder of a Black woman who wrote more than 100 years ago is reflected in this small archive of gestures, in which these faces belong to no specific time, but are like memories that hold and blend images from the streets, photographs, films, and many other sources, which continue to nourish us.”

Ariana Nuala,
Excerpt from the text of the exhibition
Dançar no sol e descansar na lua

Claraboia



Ainda tem aquele brilho no olhar, 2024
Oil on canvas
30 × 24 cm (11 3/4 × 9 1/2 in)

Photo: Jonas Araújo

Claraboia

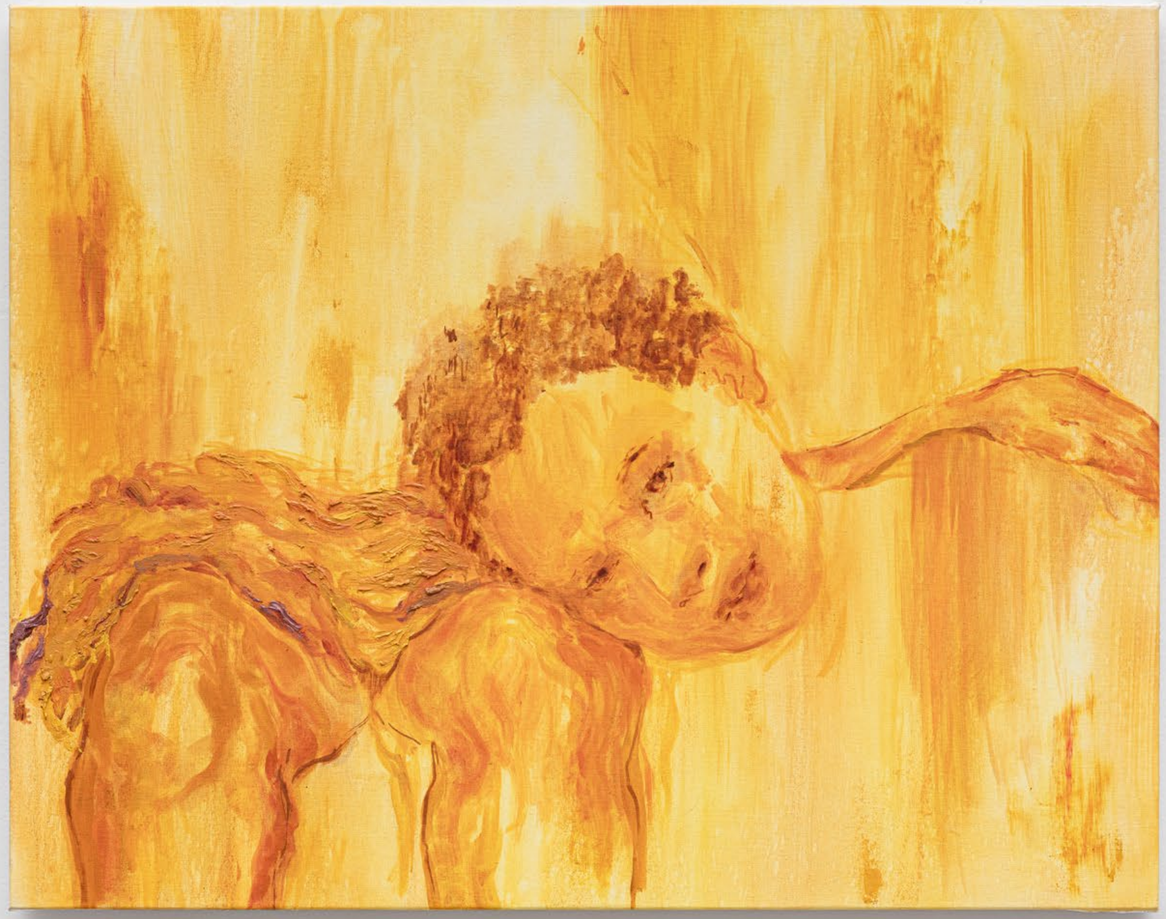


Posso te olhar enquanto dorme?, 2024
Oil on canvas
40.7 × 31.1 cm (16 × 12 1/4 in)

Photo: Samara Paiva



Claraboia



Guarde minha ternura para você (Como nosso pequeno segredo), 2023
Oil and beewax on canvas
55 × 70 cm (21 5/8 x 27 1/2 in)

Photo: Ana Pigosso



Claraboia



Cartas para minha tarde de domingo, 2023
Charcoal on canvas
25.5 × 34 cm (10 × 13 3/8 in)

Photo: Ana Pigosso



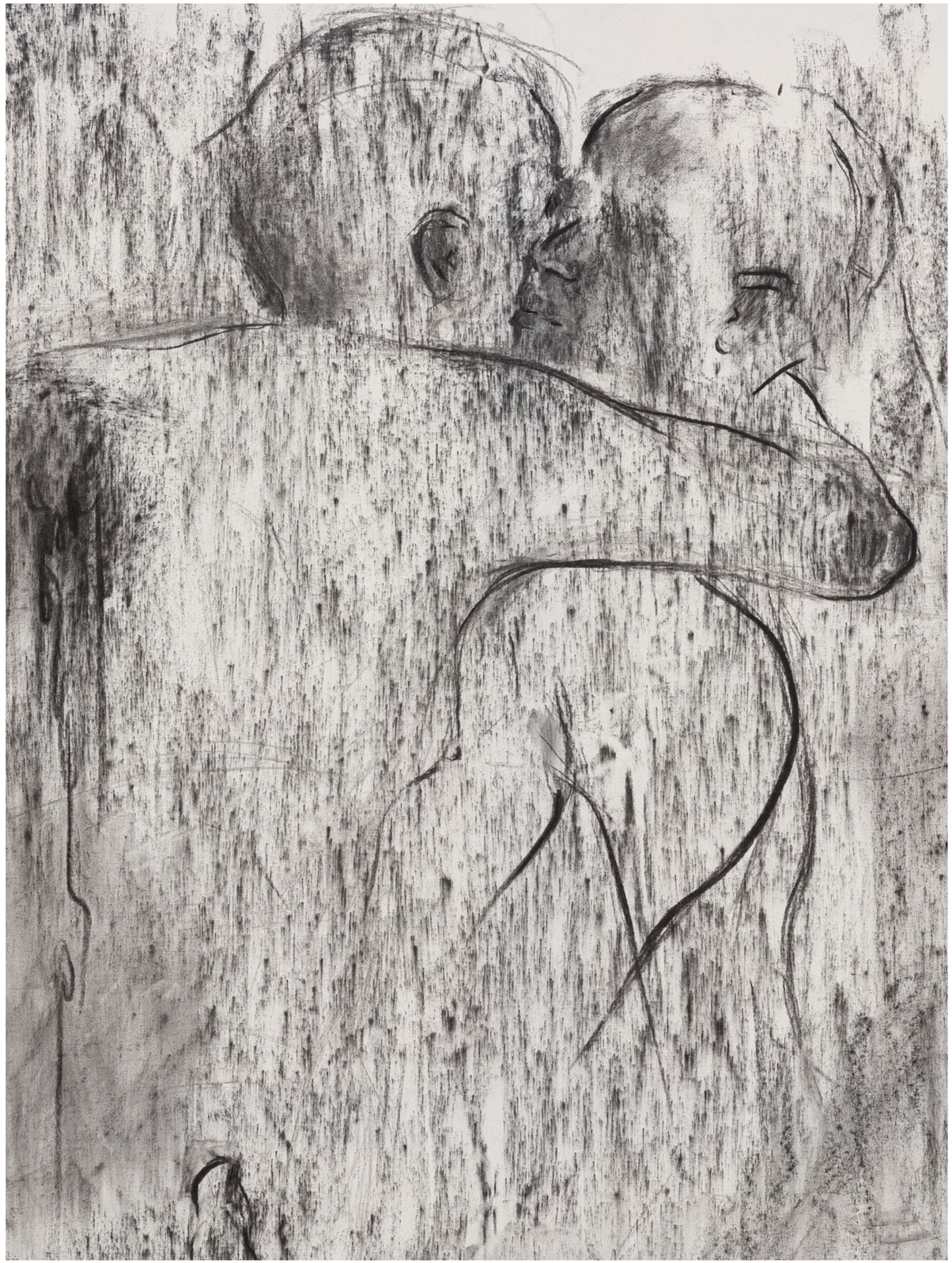
Claraboia



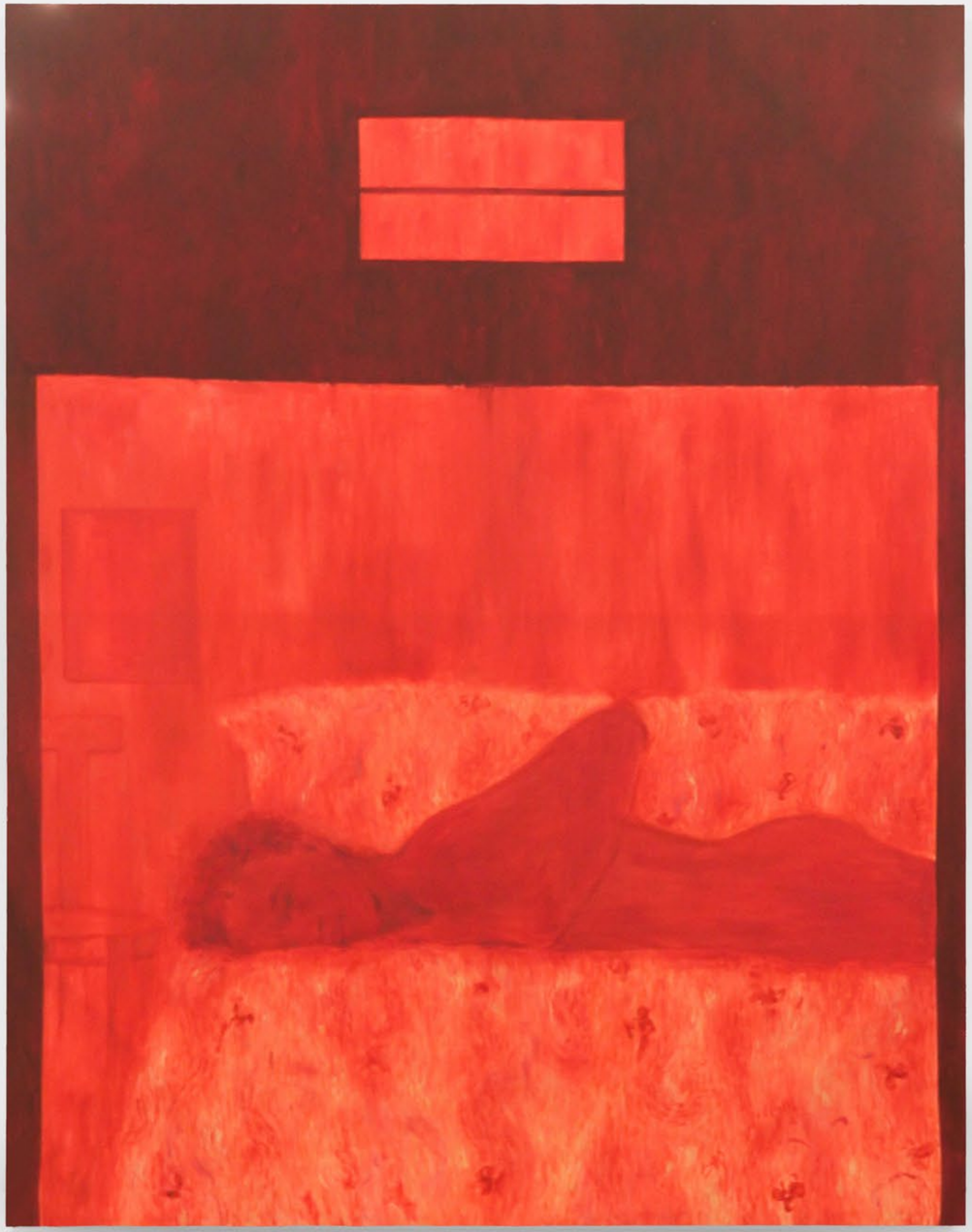
Aquelas memórias vívidas (sonhos lúcidos), 2023
Charcoal on canvas
157 × 240 cm (61 3/4 × 94 1/2 in)

Photo: Ana Pigosso





Claraboia



Jogo de cama, 2023
Oil on canvas
168 × 130 cm (66 1/8 × 51 1/8 in)

Photo: Samara Paiva

Claraboia



Depois do banho, 2023
Oil on canvas
59.4 × 42.5 cm (23 3/8 × 16 3/4 in)

Photo: Samara Paiva

“The body of work brings together a painterly quality characterized by the use of warm colors and earth tones, evoking the sensation that the work is immersed in sweltering terrain. The dark color interacts with the darkness itself, turning the ‘lack of light’ into a resource to subtly blur features and lines, achieving more enigmatic portraits that are progressively revealed through the viewer’s gaze and interpretation.”

Gaby Vera Galeria,
Excerpt from the text of the
exhibition *Dark In Darkness*



Dark In Darkness
Solo show
Gaby Vera Fine Arts, Madrid, Spain, 2025

Photo: Samara Paiva



Dark In Darkness
Solo show
Gaby Vera Fine Arts, Madrid, Spain, 2025

Photo: Samara Paiva

Claraboia



Nunca descansa, 2022
Oil on canvas
70 × 50 cm (27 1/2 × 19 5/8 in)

Photo: Wallace Domingues



Dos Brasis
Group show
Sesc Belenzinho, São Paulo, Brazil, 2023-2024

Photo: Franco Almada

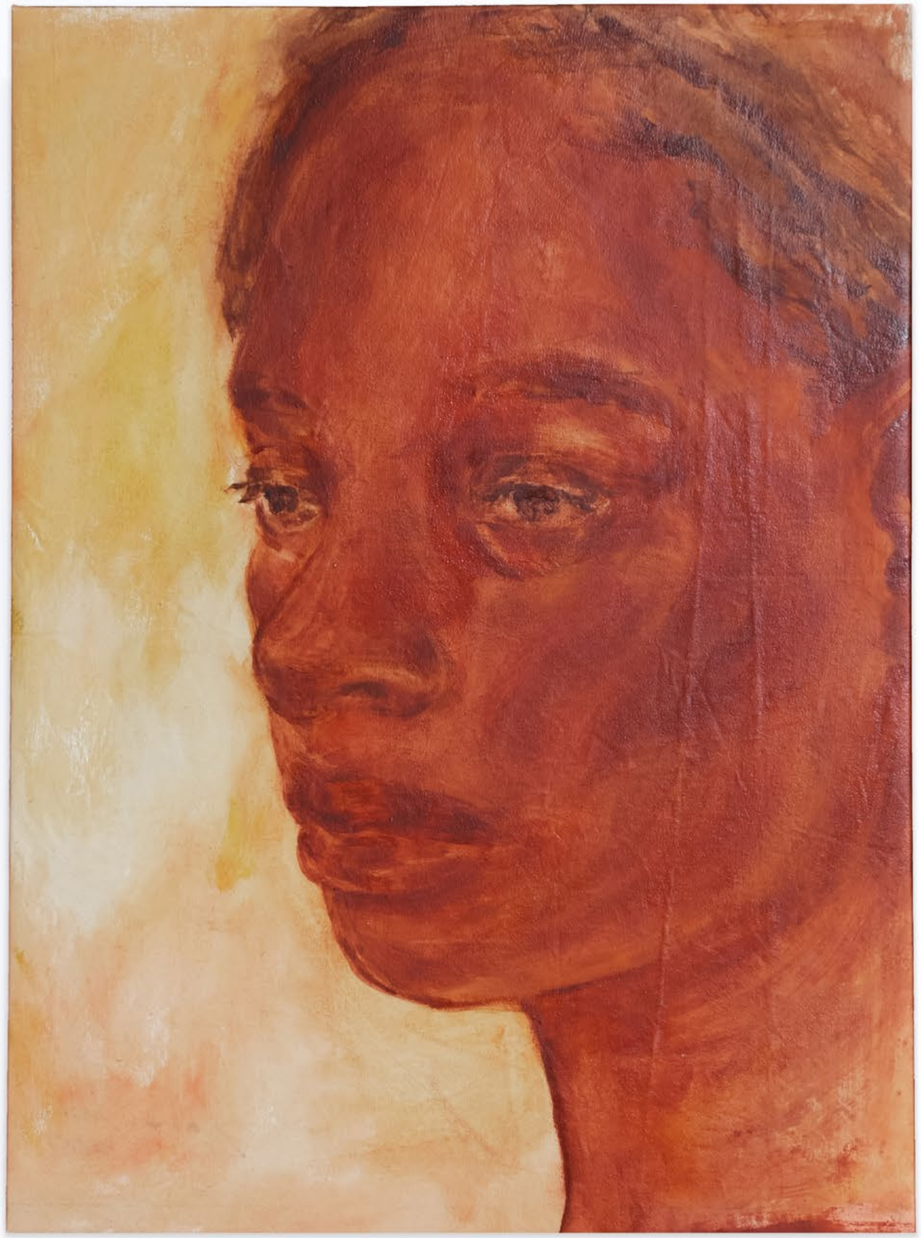
Claraboia



Túnel tempo, 2022
Oil on linen
100 × 150 cm (39 3/8 × 59 in)

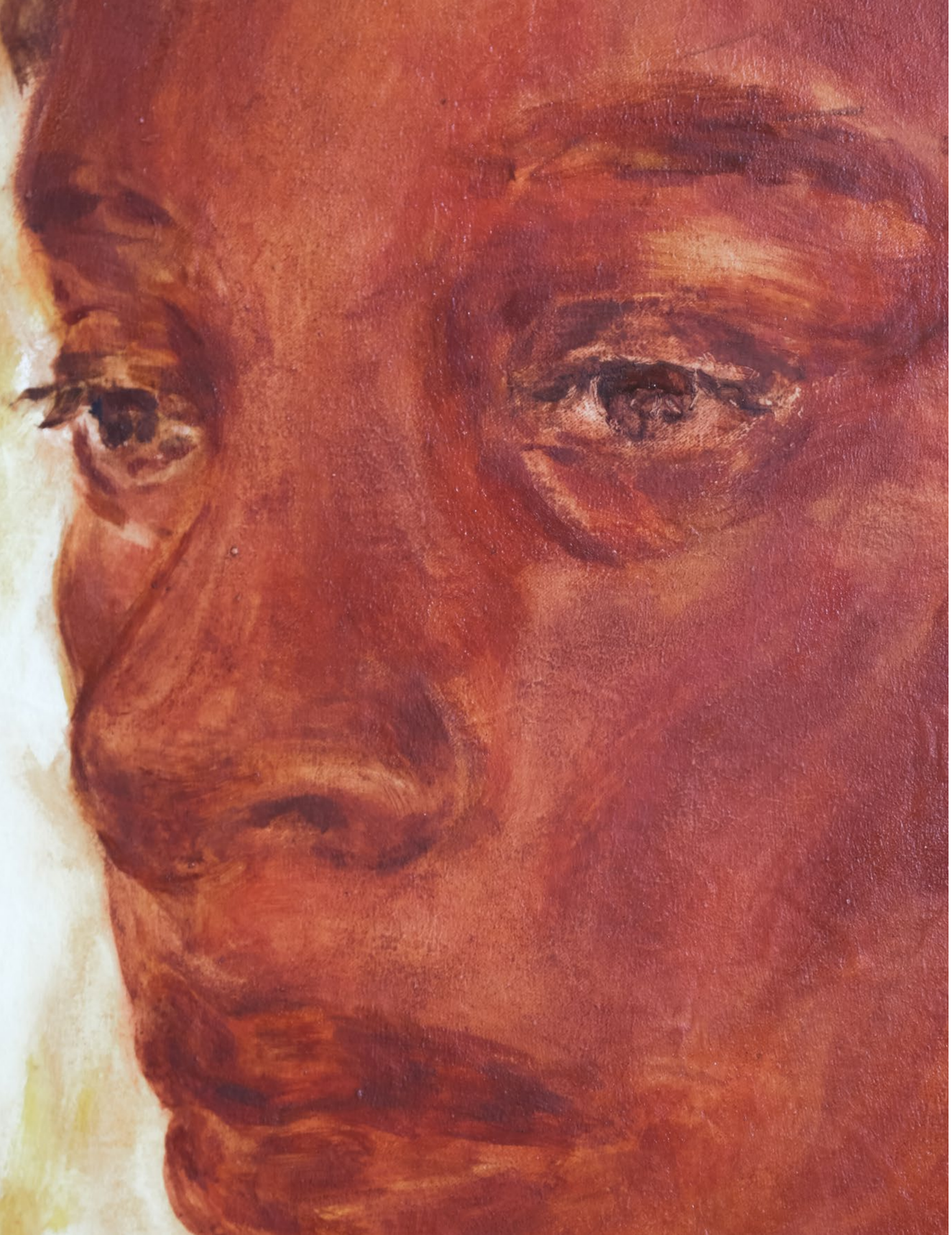
Photo: Wallace Domingues





Eu mesma contarei, 2022
Oil on canvas
68 × 50 cm (26 3/4 × 19 5/8 in)

Photo: Wallace Domingues





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Círio, 2022
Oil on canvas
70 × 58 cm (27 1/2 × 22 3/4 in)

Photo: Felipe Berndt

Claraboia



Folhas secas, 2022
Oil on canvas
60 × 98 cm (23 5/8 × 38 5/8 in)

Photo: Felipe Berndt

Claraboia



Torção, 2022
Oil on linen
59 × 70 cm (23 1/4 × 27 1/2 in)

Photo: Samara Paiva

Claraboia



Para ser cuidado, 2022
Oil on canvas
91 × 71 cm (35 7/8 × 28 in)

Photo: Samara Paiva

Claraboia



Washing Hair Day, 2022
Oil on canvas
30 × 20 cm (11 3/4 × 7 7/8 in)

Photo: Samara Paiva

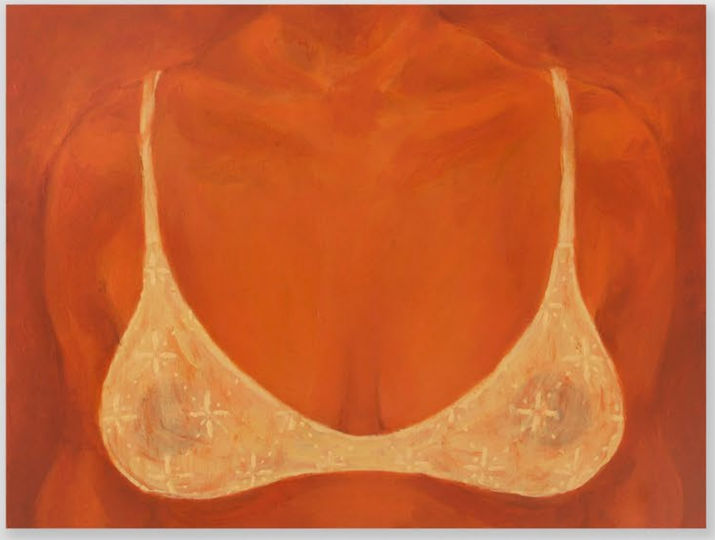


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Double Bed for One, 2022
Oil on canvas
30 × 20 cm (11 3/4 × 7 7/8 in)

Photo: Samara Paiva



The Weightlessness of Being Ordinary, 2022
Oil on canvas
30 × 40 cm (11 3/4 × 15 3/4 in)



Um poema à memória, 2022
Oil on canvas
40 × 30 cm (15 3/4 × 11 3/4 in)

Photo: Samara Paiva

Claraboia



O que compartilhamos sem palavras, 2021
Oil on canvas
30 × 30 cm (11 3/4 × 11 3/4 in)

Photo: Samara Paiva

Samara Paiva
(Maués, AM, Brazil, 1995)

Solo Shows

2026
Habitual, curated by Ariana Nuala, Claraboia, São Paulo, Brazil

2025
Dark in Darkness, Gaby Vera Fine Arts, Madrid, Spain

2024
Retratos de um espaço tempo, Casa do Benin, Salvador, Brazil

Dançar no sol e descansar na lua, Nonada, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Group Shows

2026
Scene, curated by Ethan James Green, New York Life Gallery, New York, USA

Rebu, Central Galeria, São Paulo, Brazil

2025
Dos Brasis, Sesc Quitandinha, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Wet Pain, Turf Projects, Croydon, UK

Pequenas pinturas III, Auroras, São Paulo, Brazil

2024
Caos primordial, Nonada, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Pipoca, Nonada, Salvador, Brazil

Areoporto, Castiglioni, São Paulo, Brazil

Nem só de corpo veste a alma, Tropigalpão, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2023
Do vôo às narinas respirar, braços largos, mensagens ao vento, HOA Galeria, São Paulo, Brazil

Residencies

2026
Angola Air, Luanda, Angola

2023
Pivô Arte e Pesquisa, São Paulo, Brazil

Education

2017
Arquitetura e Urbanismo, Faculdade Metropolitana de Manaus, Brazil

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