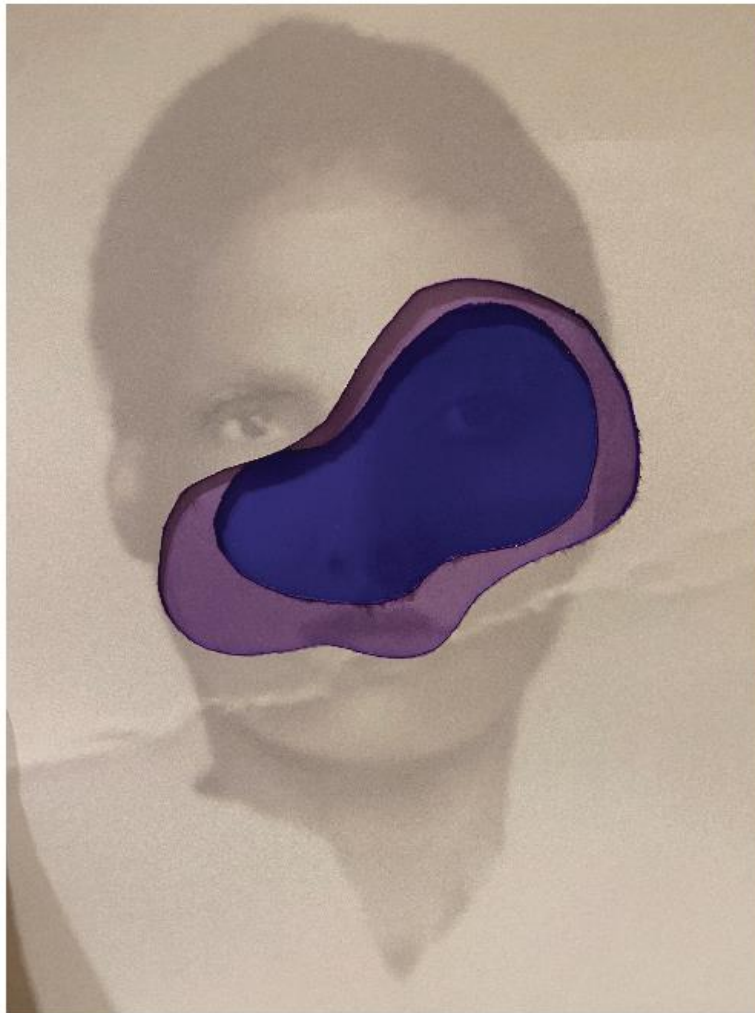


Juliana Sícoli STILL I SPEAK



Curator
Ioana Mello

Scenography
Ioana Mello
Juliana Sícoli
Ricardo Fernandes

132 – 140 rue des Rosiers
Marché Dauphine (galerie 95)
93400 Saint Ouen
France

www.ricardofernandes.biz

Opening
June 24 (from 2pm to 6pm)

Exhibition
June 24 to August 28, 2023

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The Concept

We are happy to present Juliana Sícoli's first solo show in Paris as witness of her progressive artistic process and upcoming career. Taking photography as the basis of her creation in art, Juliana Sícoli uses a variety of media to make her point and establish between her research and her art practice a common language.

"The work of Brazilian artist Juliana Sícoli is part of the historical movement of women's resistance to patriarchy. For her first exhibition in France, entitled "Still I speak", the artist presents works that mix her own intimacy with other women's stories, aesthetic references but also evocations of feminist literature or psychology. It is in the strength of the collective that Juliana draws her artistic approach: that of the struggle of women throughout our history. She uses photography, collage, sewing, and painting in performing movements that reflect on the representation of women. Works that engage in a dialogue with the past and affirm that we are still here, present, shouting our strength." - says curator Ioana Mello.

It's important to note that the vast history of female resistance through art practice in the Western world comes from Renaissance and Baroque period and women have employed various artistic forms, styles, and techniques to defy societal constraints, advocate for change, and contribute to the broader discourse on gender, identity, and social justice through history.

During the last Century the Feminist Art Movement emerged as a response to the male-dominated art world and it introduced us to artists like Judy Chicago, Cindy Sherman, and Barbara Kruger who challenged traditional notions of gender and power, exploring female identity, and critiqued patriarchal structures through various mediums. Also formed in the 1980s, the Guerrilla Girls were a group of anonymous female artists who wore gorilla masks and adopted pseudonyms. They exposed gender and racial inequalities in the art world through provocative posters, performances, and public interventions.

In South America artists have also fought for resistance and have made significant contributions throughout history. Their works have challenged colonialism, oppressive regimes, gender inequalities, and societal norms: Frida Kahlo, Tarsila do Amaral, Violeta Parra, Ana Mendieta, Marta Minujín, Graciela Iturbide are just some examples. Their art practices have challenged dominant narratives, addressed social issues, and celebrated the rich cultural heritage of the region, making a lasting impact on the art world and beyond.

Ricardo Fernandes, 2023

The Artist

A native of Belo Horizonte, Brazil, Juliana Sícoli was born in 1983.

From her early childhood she nurtured an interest in the arts. The daughter of psychologists, from the very start, she was motivated by questionings related to human behaviour. In 2008, she decided to follow her vocation of expressing herself through images and launched her career as a professional photographer, seeking to communicate with the world through photography as art. In dialogue with references in paintings and literature, the artist developed a visual aesthetic of movement, the introduction of light and dichotomies while dealing with reflections coming from research and questionings on positioning oneself, principally about women, to be able to exert the right to choose and to build one's own path in a society still guided by great challenges regarding power and gender.



Education

- 2022 Master's Degree in Photography and Visual Arts, PUC/MG, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
- 2021 Training in Psychoanalysis, IEPSI/MG, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Photography study group with Eder Chiodetto, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2020 "Shared Readings – Body e Politics" with Ronaldo Entler, São Paulo, Brazil
Contemporary art with Agnaldo Farias, São Paulo, Brazil
Creation processes with Anna Bella Geiger, SESC, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2019 Art History, MAM, São Paulo, Brazil
Contemporary Art with Felipe Martinez, MASP, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2018 Art History with André Dorigo, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2016 Author Photography with Gui Machala, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
- 2013 Paintings with Carlos Passos, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
- 2010 Art Direction with Vinicius Matos, Brumadinho, Brazil

2009 Unusual Look with Marcia Charnizon, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

2007 - 2008 Photography, School of Image, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Main Solo Shows

2021 Still I speak, Babel Gallery, São Paulo, Brazil

2020 Resistências, São Paulo, Brazil

2018 Magmaluz, GWS Gallery, São Paulo, Brazil

Silent Giants, Mineirão Stadium, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

2017 Passages, Galeria Orlando Lemos, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Main Collective Exhibitions

2022 Exhibition Program of Ribeirão Preto Art Museum - MARP (19th edition),
Ribeirão Preto, Brazil

2020 ComVida70, Galeria Casa 70, Lisbon, Portugal

2019 Circuito 10 Contemporâneo, Orlando Lemos Gallery, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

2018 Poetry state, Orlando Lemos Gallery, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

2017 Summer Miami, Miami, USA

2016 Be and Feel, Guilherme Machala, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Art Fairs

2022 SP-Arte, Babel Gallery, São Paulo, Brazil

2021 SP-Arte, Babel Gallery, São Paulo, Brazil

2020 SP-Arte Photo, AM Gallery, São Paulo, Brazil

SP-Arte, AM Gallery, São Paulo, Brazil

2018 SP-Arte, GWS Gallery, São Paulo, Brazil
SP-Arte Photo, GWS Gallery, São Paulo, Brazil
BH Art Fair, Orlando Lemos Gallery, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Fera Photo Festival, Salvador, Brazil

Main Awards and Nominations

2022 Selected for the FestFoto's collective exhibition at Fundação Ibero Camargo, Brazil
Portfolio show at Foto em Pauta Tiradentes, Brazil
2020 Honourable mention in Paris Photo Prize – State of World 2020, Bienal BlackBrazil,
São Paulo, Brazil

Main Galleries and Institutional Collections

Babel Gallery, New York, USA
Babel Gallery, São Paulo, Brazil
Bibliothèque Nationale de France, BnF, Paris, France
Estádio Governador Magalhães Pinto, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Ricardo Fernandes Gallery, Paris (France)

Main Publications

2020 (R)EXISTÊNCIAS – Brazil
Art XXI, Women in action – Collective publication, Brazil
2019 Pop-se Magazine – Interview, Brazil

The Curator

Ioana Mello is a Brazilian female curator who works between Europe and Latin America.

She has participated in the Rencontres d'Arles 2019 with the exhibition "What's going on in Brazil?", at the Manuel Rivera Ortiz Foundation, and in 2022 with the "GH" project of Masina Pinheiro and Gal Marinelli, she was a Roederer Prize finalist. She then returned to the festival with an exhibition by photographer José Diniz.

In Portugal, she participated, with the collective landé, from the Diafragma 2021 Festival, in Covilhã, and at Imago Lisboa 2022, in addition to curating the opening exhibition at TryZy Lisboa gallery. She was part of the jury of Cali Fotofest 2022 and of the Sony World Professional Photography Award 2023.

Based in Paris, she writes about photography for magazines, collaborates with the photography course La.ima and organises, with Alexandre Arminjon, the Ithaque Residency for Latin American artists. In Brazil, she is one of the 5 artistic directors of the FotoRio Festival, and was a professor at PUC-Rio de Janeiro.

The Curator's Review

In her first exhibition in France, entitled *Still I Speak*, at Ricardo Fernandes Gallery, Brazilian artist Juliana Sícoli presents works from different moments of her career.

From Minas Gerais, daughter of psychologists and student of psychoanalysis, Juliana works on the theme of female representation in our patriarchal society. All her works think about the role and the place of women in our society throughout history. And this reflection takes different paths that intersect, whether through the intimacy of the artist herself, the narrative of other women, aesthetic references, mythologies, as well as feminist literature and psychology.

The photographic work *Carcerem*, from 2017, the beginning of the artist's career, already carried the restlessness that runs through the artist until today. It attracts us by the strength of its white color and its symmetry. Big mistake! Behind the beauty, and the apparent calmness, lies the torment of mental prisons. The artist does not let the public off the hook, and places us in the discomfort of the fears and restrictions instilled in women throughout history.

Juliana Sícoli's work goes through painful stories, sad accounts, considered crazy and muffled by the patriarchal society. She exposes us to those stories in her series *Janelas (Windows)*, from 2023, which cuts small openings to see through. Or in her series *Dez Amores (Ten Lovers)*, from 2022, where she portrays, through the iconic Barbie doll, symbol of an unattainable standard of female beauty, the victims of marital violence. What we see is a heavy and constant domination against women, which shapes our society until today. To encompass this complex fabric of struggles and construct an almost non-existent representation of matriarchy, the artist works with various media: drawing, painting, collage, cutting, sewing, literature, archive, photography, and installation.

Photography for a long time rejected the feminine gaze. To women, men granted the role of muses, assistants, or at most, photographers of subjects considered secondary, such as the home and the family. The few women artists who did get at the top, ended up following the masculine rules of the game. As we can see in the delicate pieces of paper nailed in the work *Cartografias (Cartographies)*, from the series *No vazio fez se mar (In the emptiness it became sea)*, where the artist eternalizes society's immutable gesture of wanting to paralyse women.

Little has been represented and exposed about women's struggles and anguish. Juliana Sícoli knows her place in this long history, and her responsibility. She is not a mere observer and forges her artistic process in the strength of the collective - in the struggle of women throughout history - aware of what she shows and what is at stake.

But how do we represent years of female silencing? In her series that entitles the exhibition, *Ainda Falo (Still I Speak)*, from 2021, the artist works with archives of female patients from the Juqueri Psychiatric Hospital in São Paulo. Juqueri was one of the oldest and largest psychiatric colonies in Brazil, deactivated only in 2021. There were sent women that didn't fit the norms, that is, single mothers, women who did not accept marriage, or who exercised their sexual freedom, as well as

lesbians. They were all considered "hysterical", "aggressive", or "disobedient". In this series we see extracts from the letters of these patients, found by Juliana and never delivered to their senders: traces of a forgetfulness that the artist brings to light through speech and image. In their faces, superimposed and cut out by the artist in the series *Existo Entre o Céu e esta Dormência Calada* (I exist between the sky and this silent sleep), the figure of so many stories untold, surgically erased.

In *Existo Demasiadamente* (I Exist Too Much), another work where the title adds another layer of reflection, the artist sews small abstract watercolours. With such a traditionally feminine gesture, she stitches the wounds of each one of us, patching in the best way she can the many mistakes perpetrated throughout history, and still present in every home, every family, every society. Just like the history of the patriarchy, the exhibition is not presented chronologically, but as a visual journey to be heard: in the silences, the mumbles, and the screams of so many muted women.

All the symbolism of the images, and the power that comes with it, is used to collectively tell the story of women, rethink their identity, and build their representation. Juliana weaves her threads, tears her cracks, open fissures, in a liberating process for the artist, the women represented, and the audience. Art as resilience and struggle, strength and vulnerability. A cycle of incarceration that is broken through art.

Ioana Mello, 2023

The Gallery

Ricardo Fernandes Gallery opens the doors of the international Contemporary Art market to talented artists. It is a continuation of a work of more than twenty-five years which began with the inauguration of a first gallery in Brazil and gave birth to an international career during which Ricardo Fernandes was actively involved. attached to the promotion of its artists.

The gallery is part of a movement of Parisian contemporary art galleries, extremely dynamic and resolutely cosmopolitan, which assert with each exhibition their international and artistic values.

The gallery offers contemporary art exhibitions related to the most diverse media (painting, sculpture, photography, installations ...) and opens up to a wide variety of contemporary artistic expressions.

Through its constant support for international artists and its involvement in the development of a rapidly expanding international market, Ricardo Fernandes gallery participates in the diverse and cultural art interactions of the city of Paris.



Individual Exhibition Amilcar de Castro, Paris, 2015, curator Ricardo Fernandes. Photos SK

General Information

Title	Still I Speak
Artists	Juliana Sícoli
Description	Individual exhibition with a selection of contemporary artworks around the concept of the artists.
Curator	Ioana Mello
Scenography	Ioana Mello, Juliana Sícoli, Ricardo Fernandes
Opening	June 24, 2023 (from 2pm to 6pm)
Exhibition Horaires	From June 24 to August 28, 2023 www.ricardofernandes.biz/contact-us/
Adresse	Ricardo Fernandes Marché Dauphine (galerie 95) 132 - 140 rue des Rosiers 93400 Saint Ouen France
Access	Metro : M4 (Porte de Clignancourt station), M13 (Garibaldi station), et M14 (Mairie de Saint Ouen station) Bus : 85 (Marché aux Puces station) Parking : 142 rue des Rosiers 93400 Saint Ouen
Information	www.ricardofernandes.biz
Email	contact@ricardofernandes.biz
WhatsApp / Tel	+ 33 6 81 35 12 87
WeChat	RFernandesGallery
Twitter	rf_artgallery

Press Kit

For further information and high definition photos for the press, please contact us:

contact@ricardofernandes.biz

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Acknowledgments

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who helped us to make this exhibition possible.