

ART SY

10 Latin American Artists at the Forefront of Abstraction

By Salomé Gómez-Upegui
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Laís Amaral

B. 1993, São Gonçalo, Brazil. Lives and works in Rio de Janeiro.

Co-founder of the Trovoa group, a Brazilian women’s collective that honors artistic production beyond the confines of specialized training and academic degrees, Laís Amaral creates works that investigate environmental collapse and its effects on modern society. In particular, she sees the widespread desertification of Brazilian land as a metaphor for the “whitening” of its population, which severely affects the country’s social fabric. In response to this phenomenon, water arises as a central theme in her works, which, she says, seek to “wet the ways of existing.”

A self-defined “artist-artisan,” Amaral paints with acrylic on canvas, though she also incorporates craft and manual labor into her pieces by adding materials such as beads and straw to the surface of her canvases. In this way, she enhances the texture and depth of her spirited works.



Portrait of Laís Amaral. Courtesy of the artist and M+B, Los Angeles.



Laís Amaral
Untitled, 2023
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