

Paulo Monteiro

1961, São Paulo, Brazil

Lives and works in São Paulo



Paulo Monteiro continues his ongoing reconciliation of the dual forms of painting and sculpture by constructing a narrative between them. Continuously exploring the margins and limits of shape, Monteiro utilizes negative space as a medium in order to make his paintings feel like sculptures, and his sculptures feel like paintings. His palette oscillates between predominantly cool and warm tones, dark blues and a variety of reds that at once create an interlocking depth and almost strident contrast; his whites and greys offer a tactility akin to that of his drawings.

Monteiro began his artistic practice in the 1980's by precariously assembling found wood into compositions that simultaneously suggest motion and collapse, focusing on the expression of the material. In the last decade Monteiro has turned to pieces of rope, scraps of wood, cardboard, aluminum strips, and clay for the foundations of his sculptures. When using clay, he splays clay slabs open, dissects, and squeezes them with his hand until an animated interior reveals itself. The same conceptual unfolding process is applied to his painting technique, with inversions and constructions operating from the center of the painting. Paint is pushed to the edges of the canvas, creating forceful, physical borders. It is common that two paintings made with the same strokes appear different, dependent on the canvas's color, shape, and scale which he varies greatly.

While a malleable physicality suffuses through his works, Monteiro has also been preoccupied with exploring the possibility of the line for most of his career, manifested as strokes in his work on paper, relief in his paintings, and cuts in his sculptures. His lines are never completely straight nor do they follow a logic, in a Deleuzeian sense they are pulling in both directions at once, existing in a space between the affirmation and negation of space.

This radical plasticity in relation to the viewer led Monteiro to his "constellations"—configurations of his paintings and sculptures— which deal with the physicality of the object in relation to the artist and viewer, much like one of Willys de Castro's Active Objects. It is through the careful positioning of the negative space that these "constellations" take on form. Monteiro also achieves this through his sculptures formed by the negative imprint of his hand and fingers molded in clay and later cast in bronze or lead. His subject here is the interior life and inner drive of objects and in his words aims to "bring life to something lifeless."



The background is a textured composition of colors. The top half is a solid, vibrant orange. The bottom half is a lighter, pinkish-orange color, which appears to be a layer of paper that has been torn away from the top orange layer. The torn edges are irregular and jagged. Two large, semi-circular shapes are cut out from the bottom layer, revealing the darker orange color underneath. The overall effect is layered and tactile.

SELECTED
EXHIBITIONS



Paulo Monteiro

Archipelago, Germantown, USA

2023

In a new series of paintings on linen, painted partially in São Paulo, Brazil, and in residency in Germantown, Monteiro's shapes become more rounded and colors more vibrant, continuing the artist's signature research into the materiality of paint and the delimitations of the canvas – painting as sculpture, sculpture as painting.













Paulo Monteiro

Undefined Inclusions

Pace Gallery, New York, USA

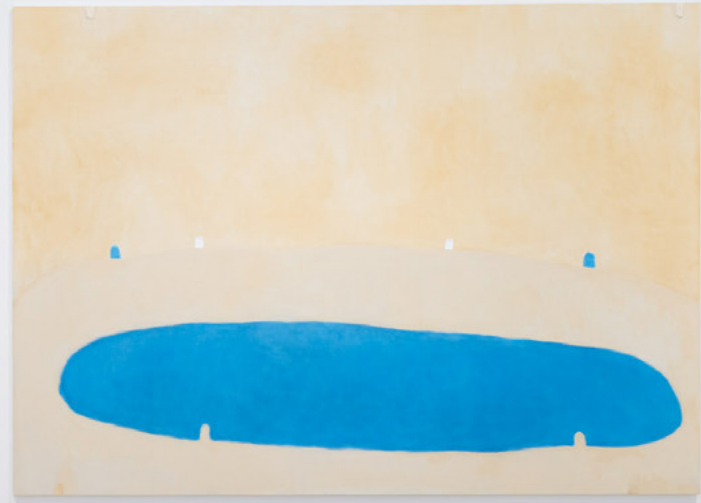
2023

In this exhibition with Pace in New York, Monteiro presented new oil paintings on linen and wood alongside bronze sculptures he created in 2022 and 2023. The shapes and sizes of the paintings in the show vary widely, with the largest measuring nine-feet-long and some six-feet-tall and the smallest approximately one-inch- wide and tall. As such, these paintings reflect Monteiro's longstanding interest in the edges, or borders, of the picture plane as well as his distinctive ability to work across monumental and diminutive scales.













Paulo Monteiro

Linha do Corpo

Instituto Ling, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

2023

This exhibition features works from a decisive segment in Paulo Monteiro's work, following a period of immersion in painting, in the extreme sense of Abstract Expressionism and Transvanguardism, which he joined in the 1980s-90s with the Casa 7 group, which stirred up those decades. . Even then, the affinity with the "pictorial caricatures" of Philip Guston and his comic production denounced the passion for the line. This series of graffiti drawings, gouaches, wall pieces, sculptures and recent "little paintings" mark a displacement, departing from that urgency and expressive excess towards a graphic meditation: an abrupt retreat to the silence of the line.





Small informational labels on the wall.







Paulo Monteiro

At The Luss House: Blum & Poe, Mendes Wood DM and Object & Thing

Gerald Luss House, New York, USA

2021

The exhibition features works from 18 international artists in response to the house's environment, including Alma Allen, Lucas Arruda, Cecily Brown, Green River Project LLC, Eddie Martinez, Ritsue Mishima, Johnny Ortiz, Frances Palmer, Paulo Monteiro, and Marina Perez Simão among others. In addition to the organizing galleries, Blum & Poe and Mendes Wood DM, Object & Thing is presenting works contributed by Alison Bradley Projects (New York City) and GALLERY crossing (Minokamo, Japan).





Paulo Monteiro

The Middle Distance

Zeno X, Antwerp, Belgium

2022

Paulo Monteiro's oeuvre consists of drawings, paintings and sculptures. The artist's main theme is the line. He has a penchant for flowing lines that seek out the edges of the canvas. In his paintings, he pushes the paint forward with his fingers, causing it to accumulate and create borders. In this respect, he treats paint as a material rather than a colour. His sculptures are placed on the ground without a plinth. They lean against or hang on the wall and can be read as the three-dimensional contours of a painting. He moulds his sculptures like lines. They are folded, connected and cut, and he lets gravity do its work. The use of colour plays a major role in this: the light, sweet colours seem to strip the bronze sculptures of their weight.













Paulo Monteiro

Paulo Monteiro: The Two Sides of An Empty Line

Lévy Gorvy, New York, USA

2021

Lévy Gorvy will presented The Two Sides of an Empty Line, an exhibition of new paintings and sculptures by Paulo Monteiro. Monteiro rejects monumentality and grand statements in his art in favor of expressive immediacy and intimacy, and an embrace of contingency, subtle humor, and gesture, stating: “I’m more connected to the expression, to the poetic, instead of sticking to a technique that favors me.”









Paulo Monteiro
The Empty Side
Zeno X, Antwerp, Belgium
2018







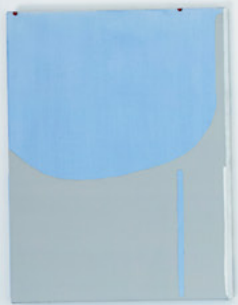
Paulo Monteiro

The inside of distance

Office Baroque, Brussels Belgium

2016

For his solo at Office Baroque, Monteiro has questioned the differences and similarities between inside and outside, bringing together his abstract paintings, wall objects and sculptures in spatial arrangements throughout the gallery. The oil paintings are at once reductive and expressive, composed with subtle, interacting arrangements of color and trace, which Paulo applies with meticulous attention to the physical qualities of paint. Each mark, line or curve holds a wealth of references, yet the work's elegance lies in its apparent simplicity. His sculptures, raw materials altered by intuitive gestures, relate to organic forms and shapes and have a special intimacy that derives from the physical characteristics of the medium itself. The visual themes of water, the horizon and the body run through Paulo's work.

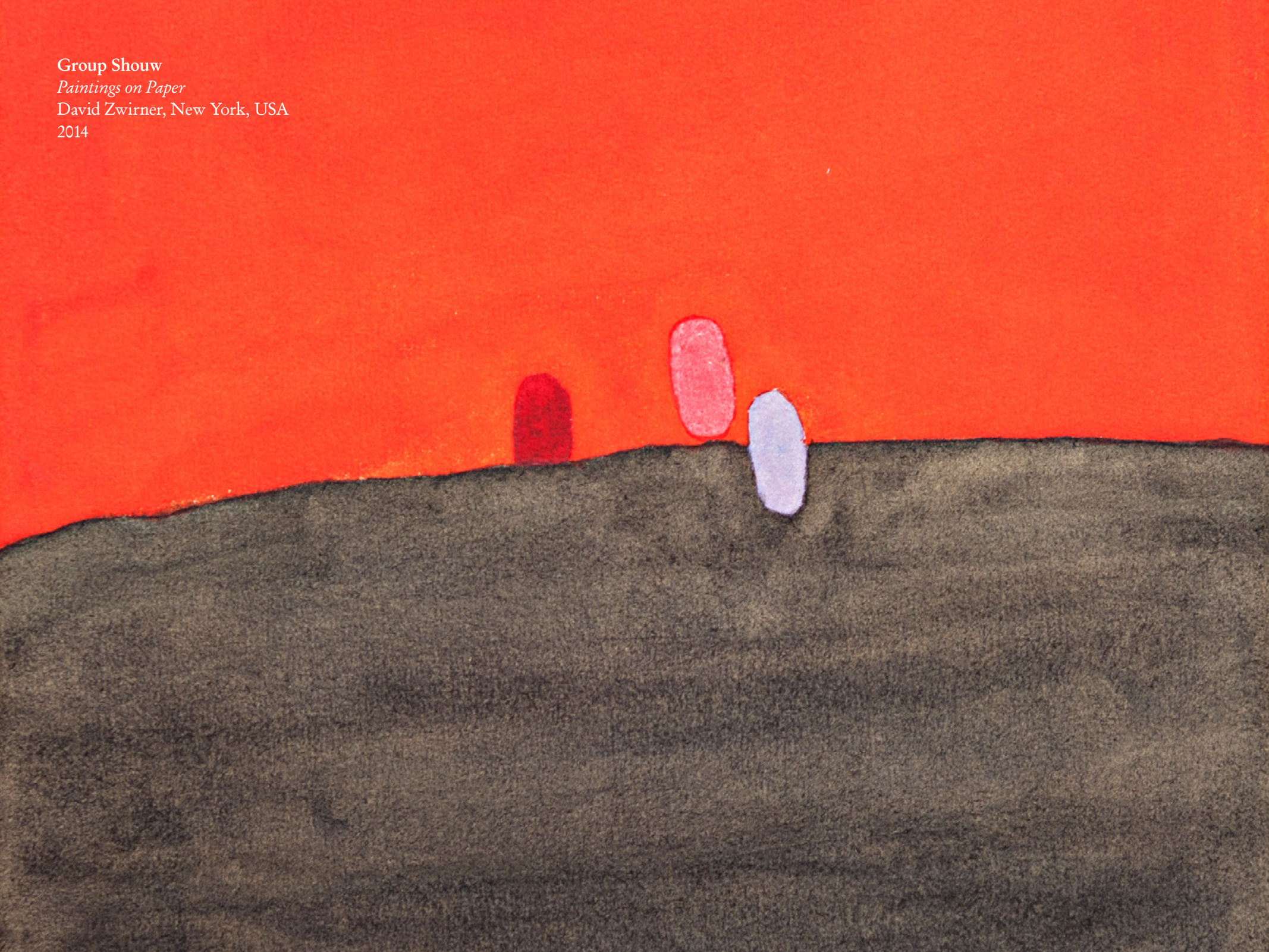








Group Show
Paintings on Paper
David Zwirner, New York, USA
2014





Group Show

Where Were You

Lisson Gallery, London, United Kingdom

2014





A photograph of a man standing in an art studio. He is wearing a bright orange long-sleeved sweater and blue jeans, with his arms crossed. He is positioned to the right of a large, abstract painting. The painting features thick, textured brushstrokes in shades of white, grey, and dark blue, with some black outlines. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The text "STUDIO VISIT" is overlaid in the center of the image.

STUDIO VISIT



















SELECTED
WORKS



Paulo Monteiro

Miolo de fora

2012

aluminum and aluminum
tape

16 x 15 x 4 cm

Edition of 3 plus 1 artist's
proof (AP 1/1)

(MW.PMT.S.538)



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

2000

chumbo

39.5 x 26 x 40 cm

(MW.PMT.1775)



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

2000

chumbo

30 x 19.5 x 53 cm

(MW.PMT.1773)



Detail of *Untitled*, 2000



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

graphite on paper

50 x 32.5 cm

(MW.PMT.1761)



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

graphite on paper

48 x 33 cm

(MW.PMT.1760)



Paulo Monteiro

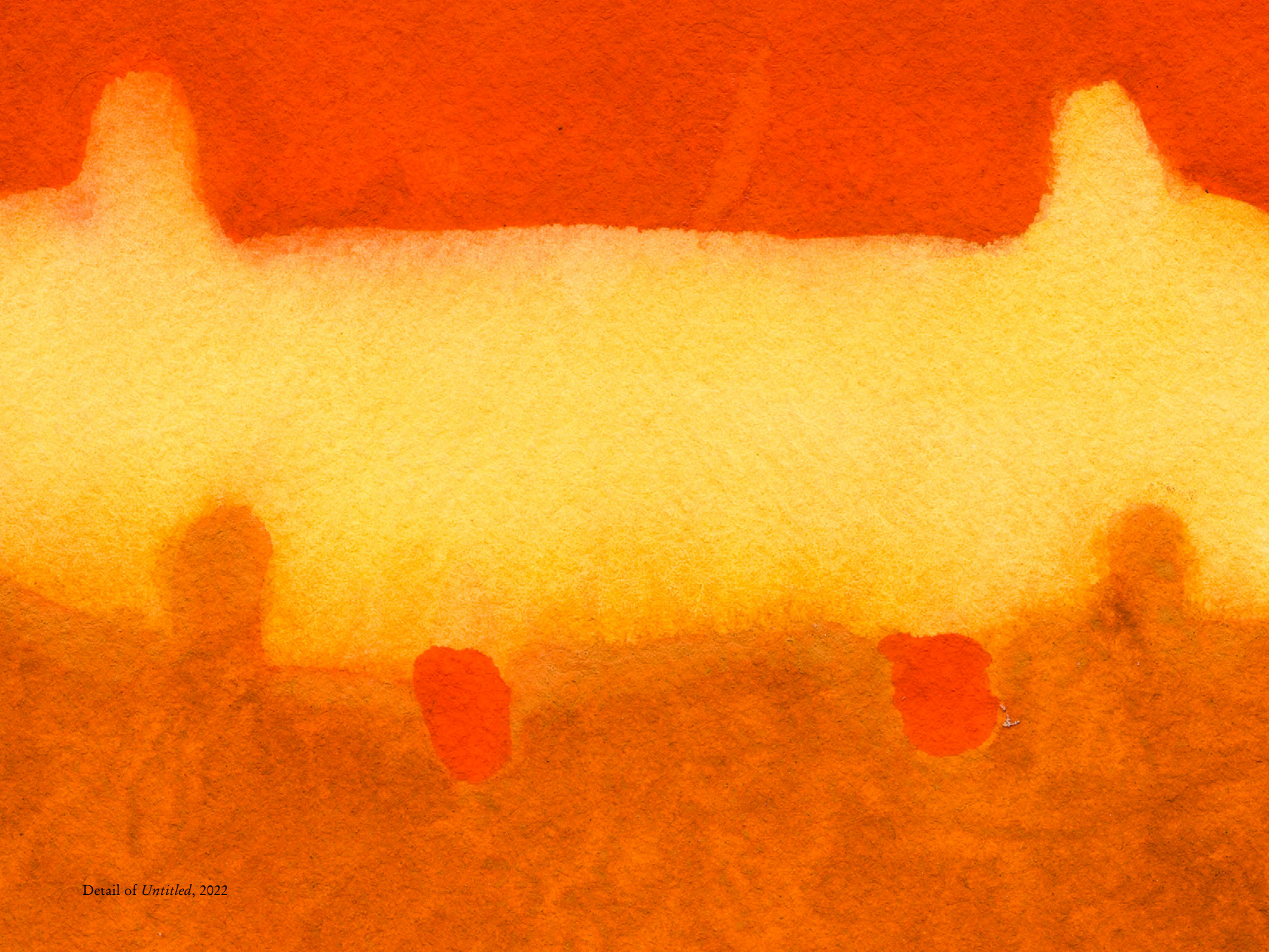
Untitled

2022

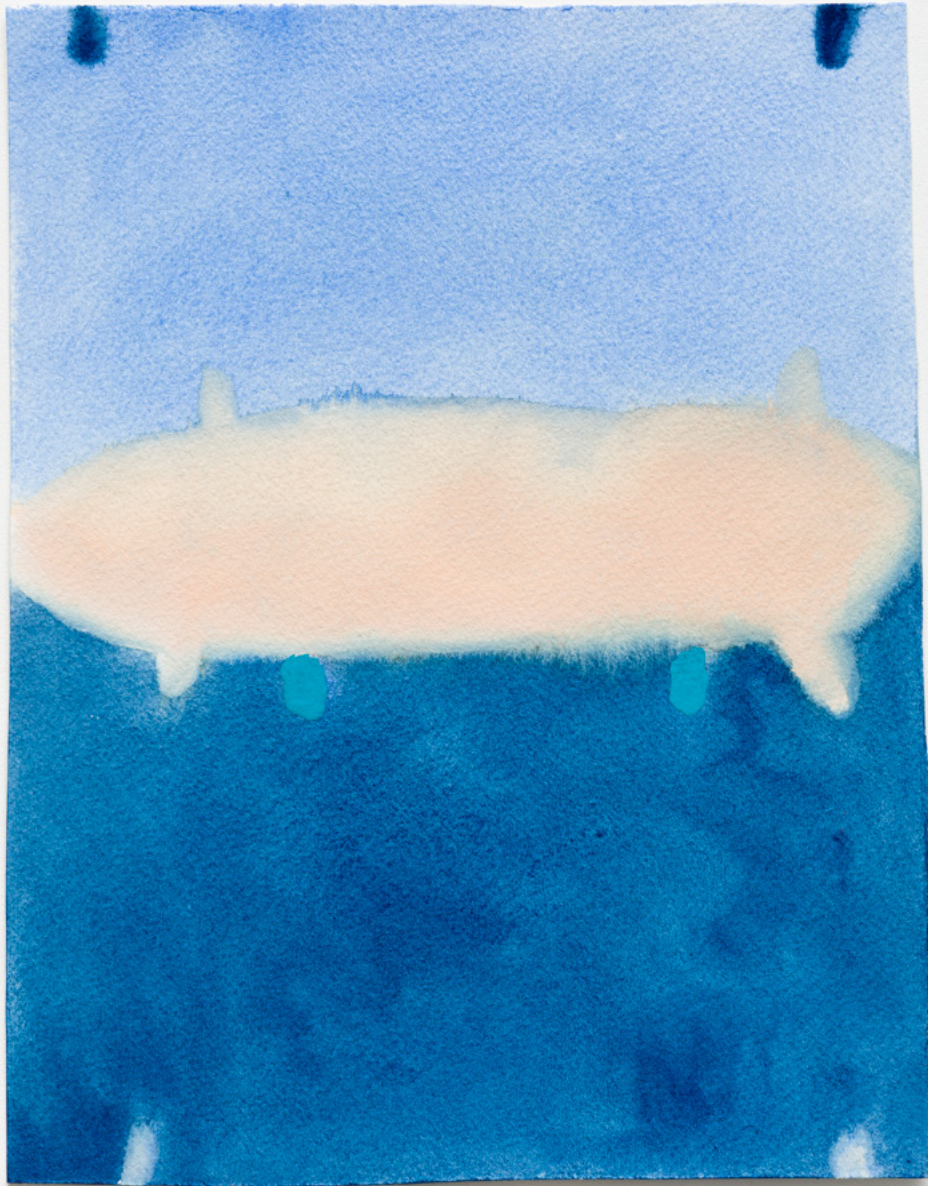
gouache on paper

20.3 x 16.3 cm

(MW.PMT.1740)



Detail of *Untitled*, 2022



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

2022

gouache on paper

25.5 x 16.2 cm

(MW.PMT.1722)



Detail of *Untitled*, 2022



Marina Perez Simão

Untitled

2022

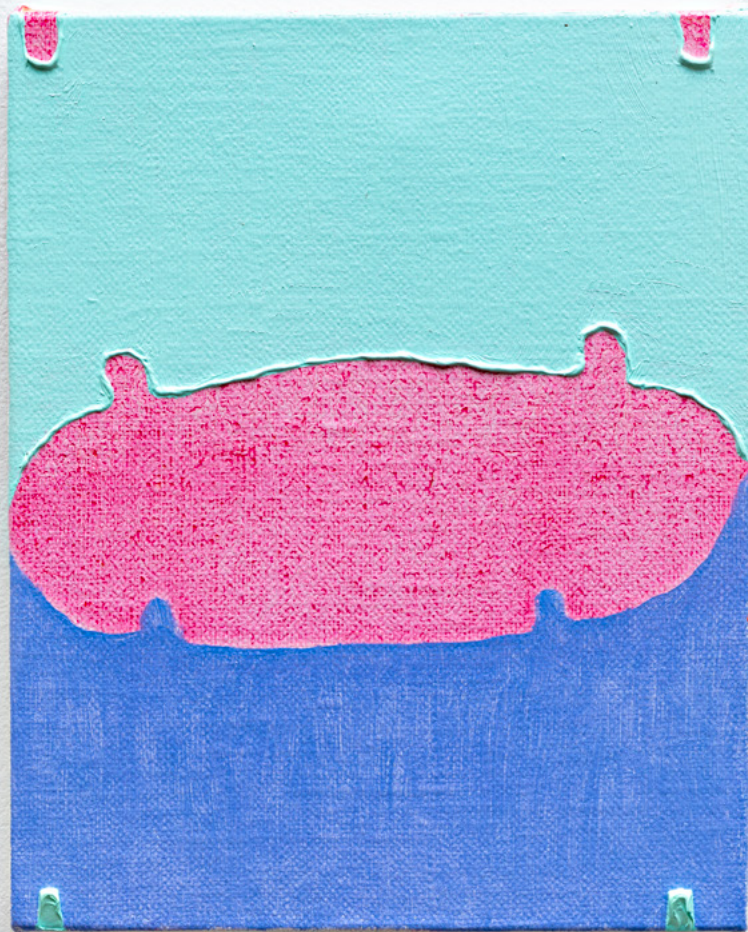
gouache on paper

22.5 x 16.4 cm

(MW.PMT.1721)



Detail of *Untitled*, 2022



Paulo Monteiro

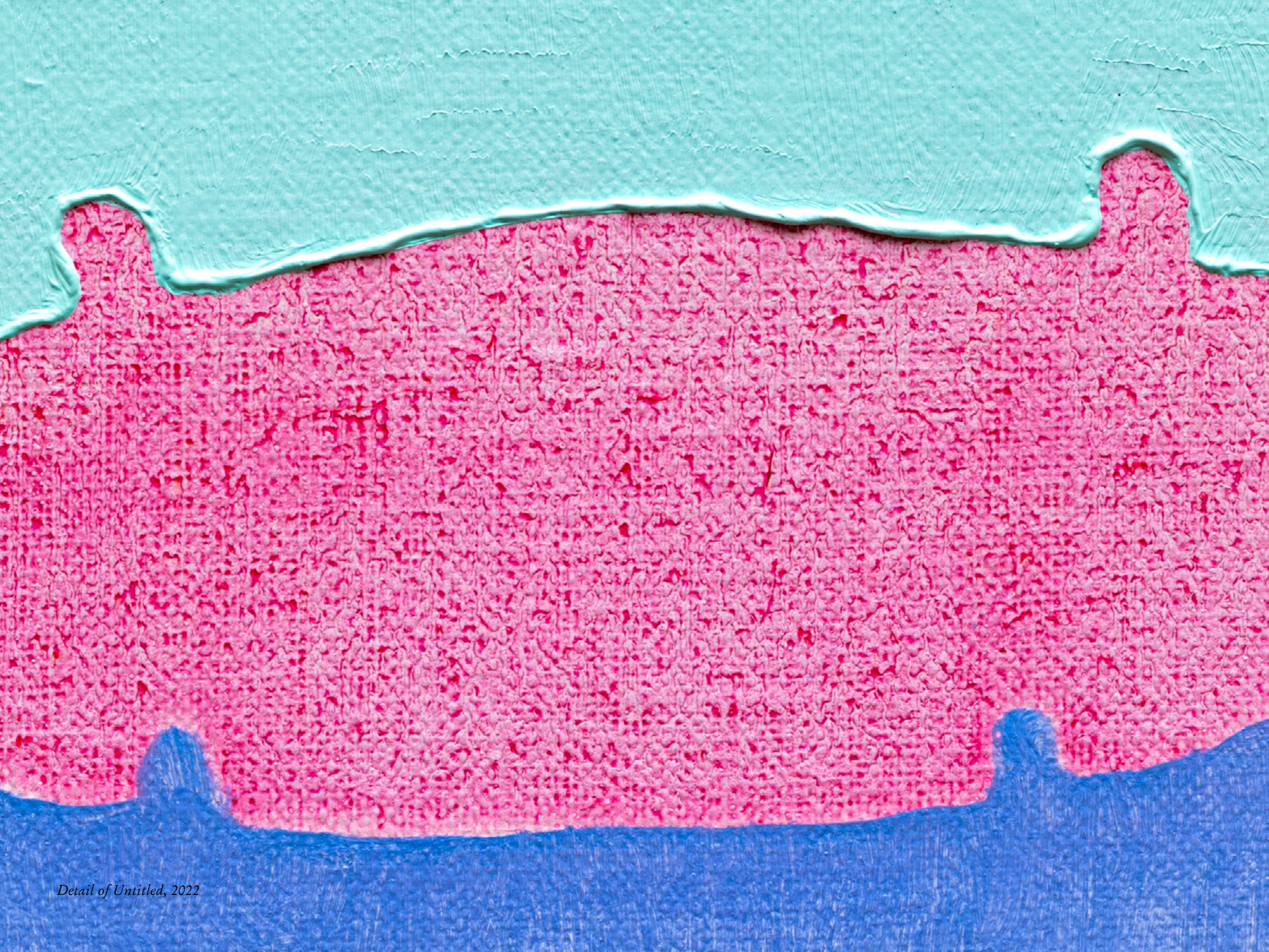
Untitled

2022

oil on linen

20 x 17 cm

(MW.PMT.1705)



Detail of Untitled, 2022



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

2022

oil on linen

170 x 150 cm

(MW.PMT.1709)



Detail of *Untitled*, 2022



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

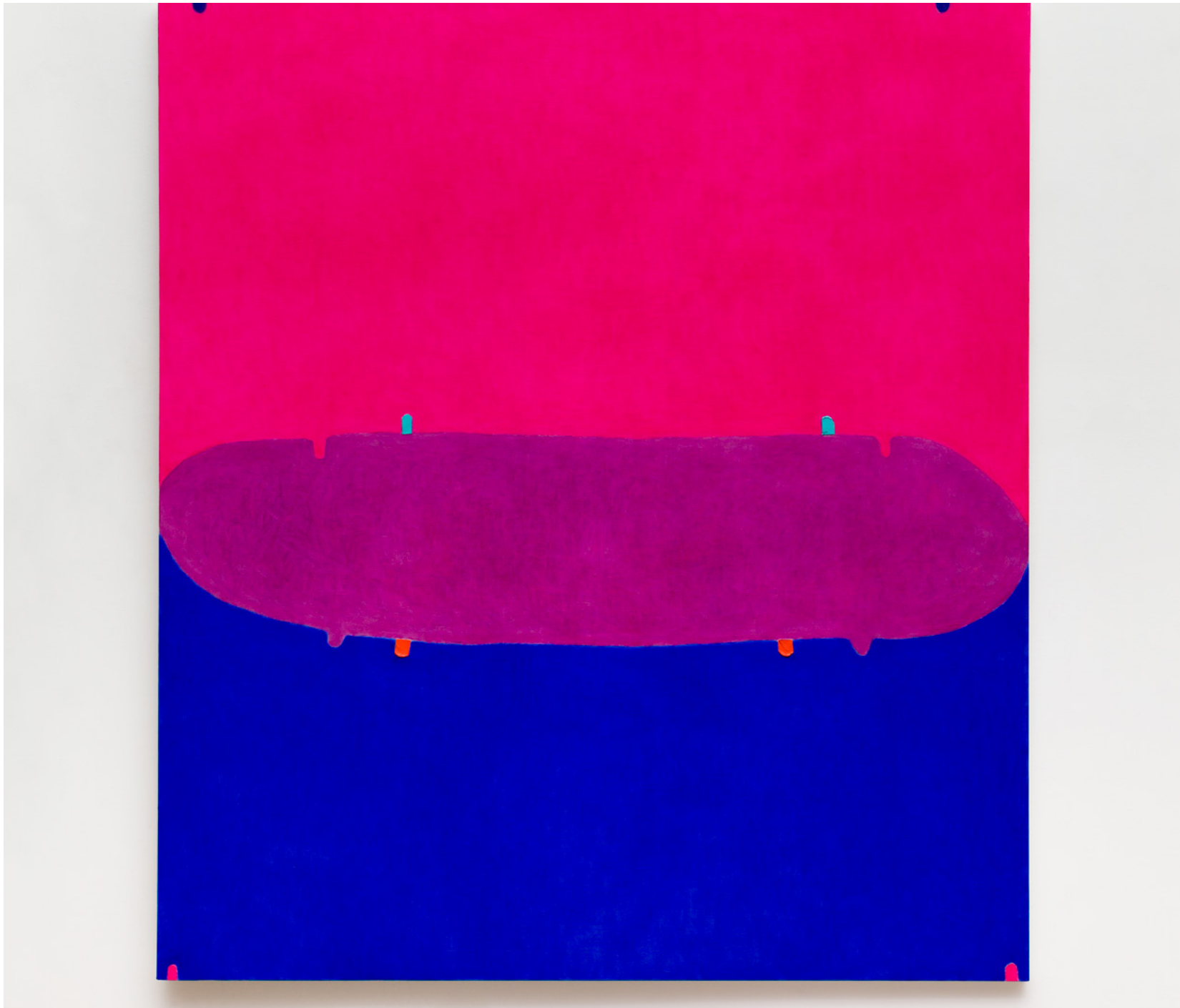
2022

oil on linen

150 x 170 cm

(MW.PMT.1707)





Paulo Monteiro

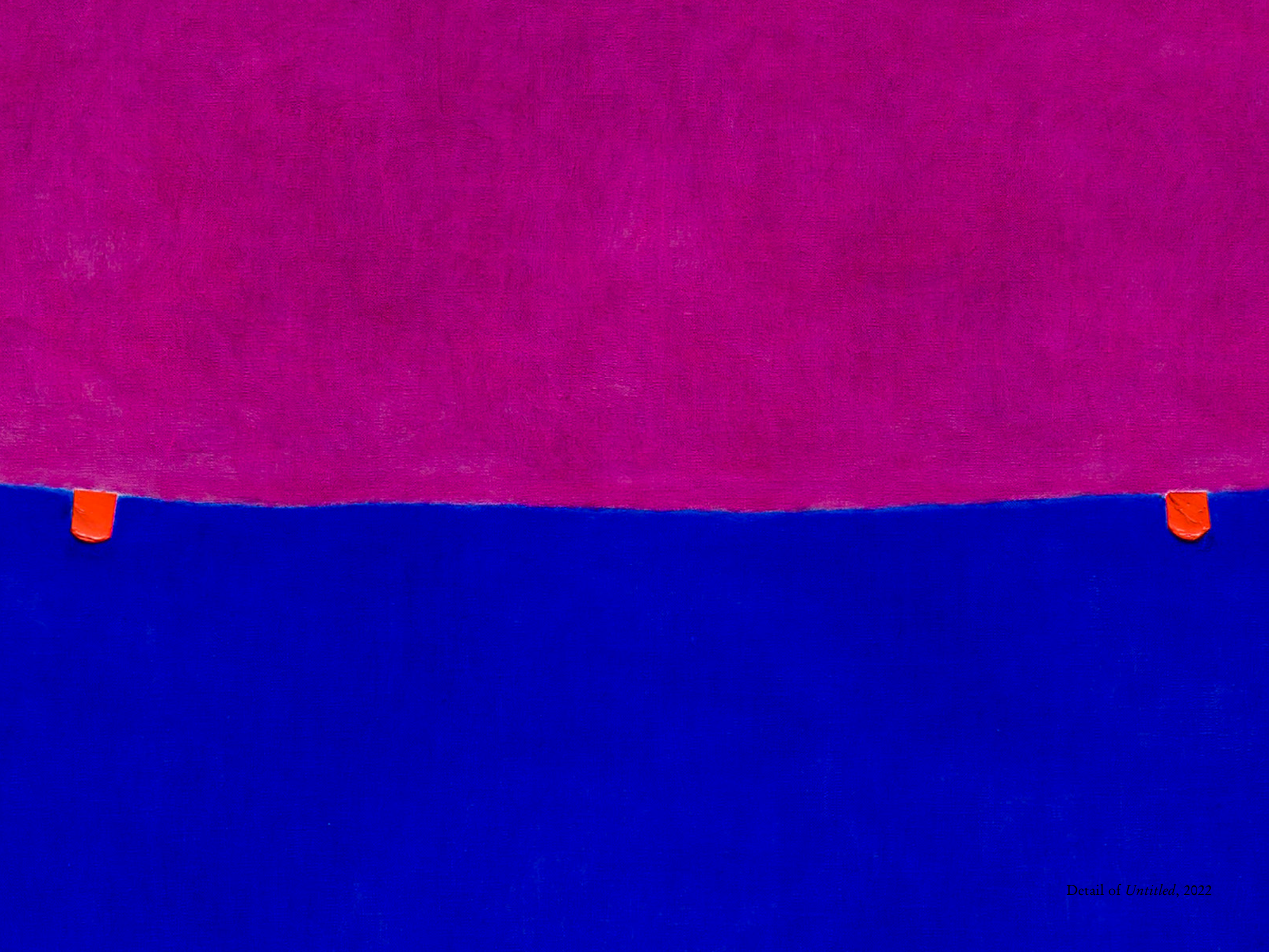
Untitled

2022

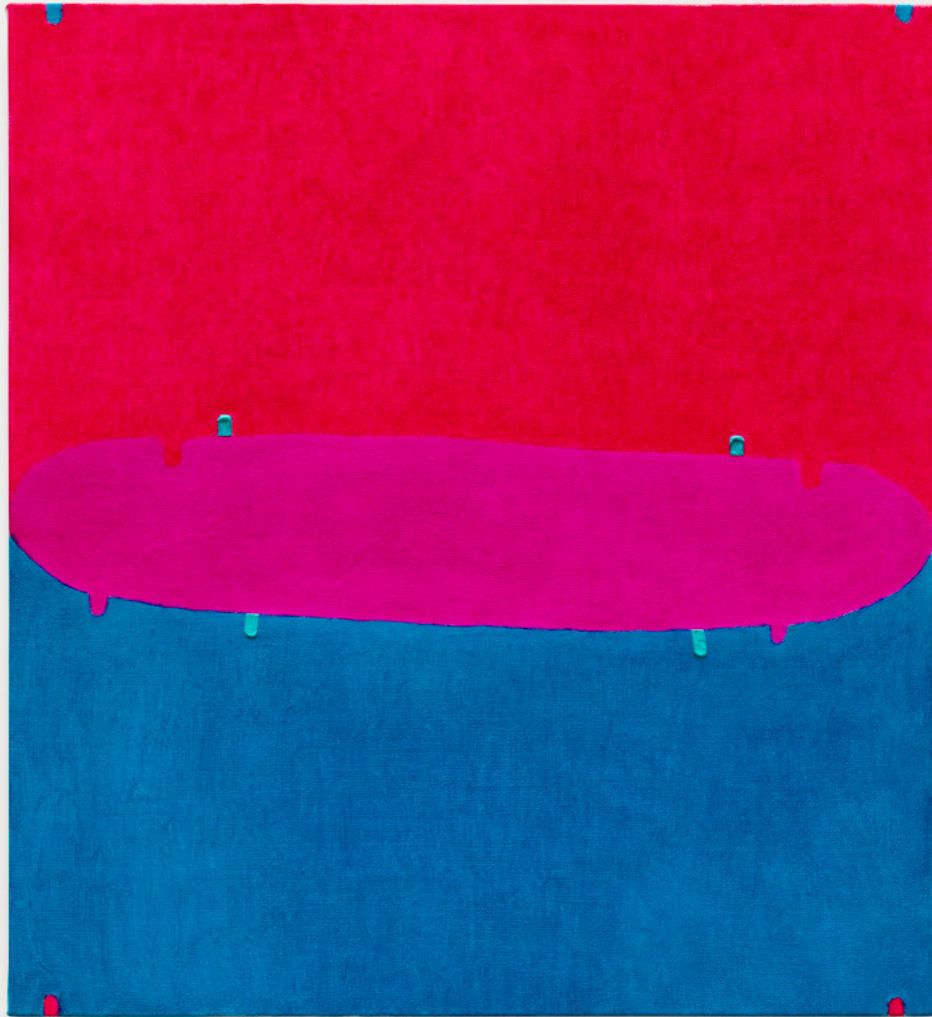
oil on linen

170 x 150 cm

(MW.PMT.1690)



Detail of *Untitled*, 2022



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

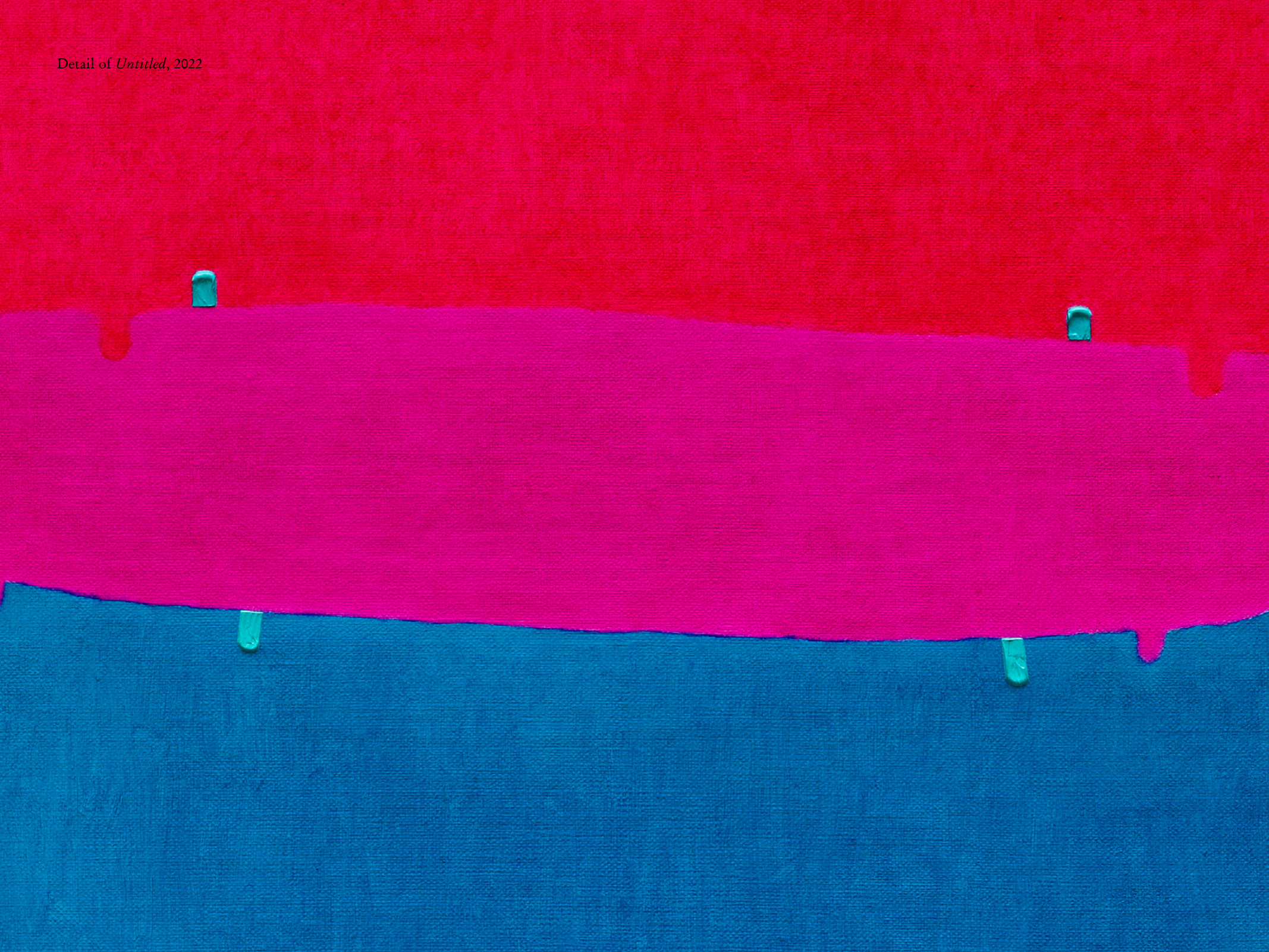
2022

oil on linen

55 x 50 cm

(MW.PMT.1665)

Detail of *Untitled*, 2022





Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

2022

oil on linen

170.5 x 151 cm

(MW.PMT.1663)



Detail of *Untitled*, 2022



Paulo Monteiro

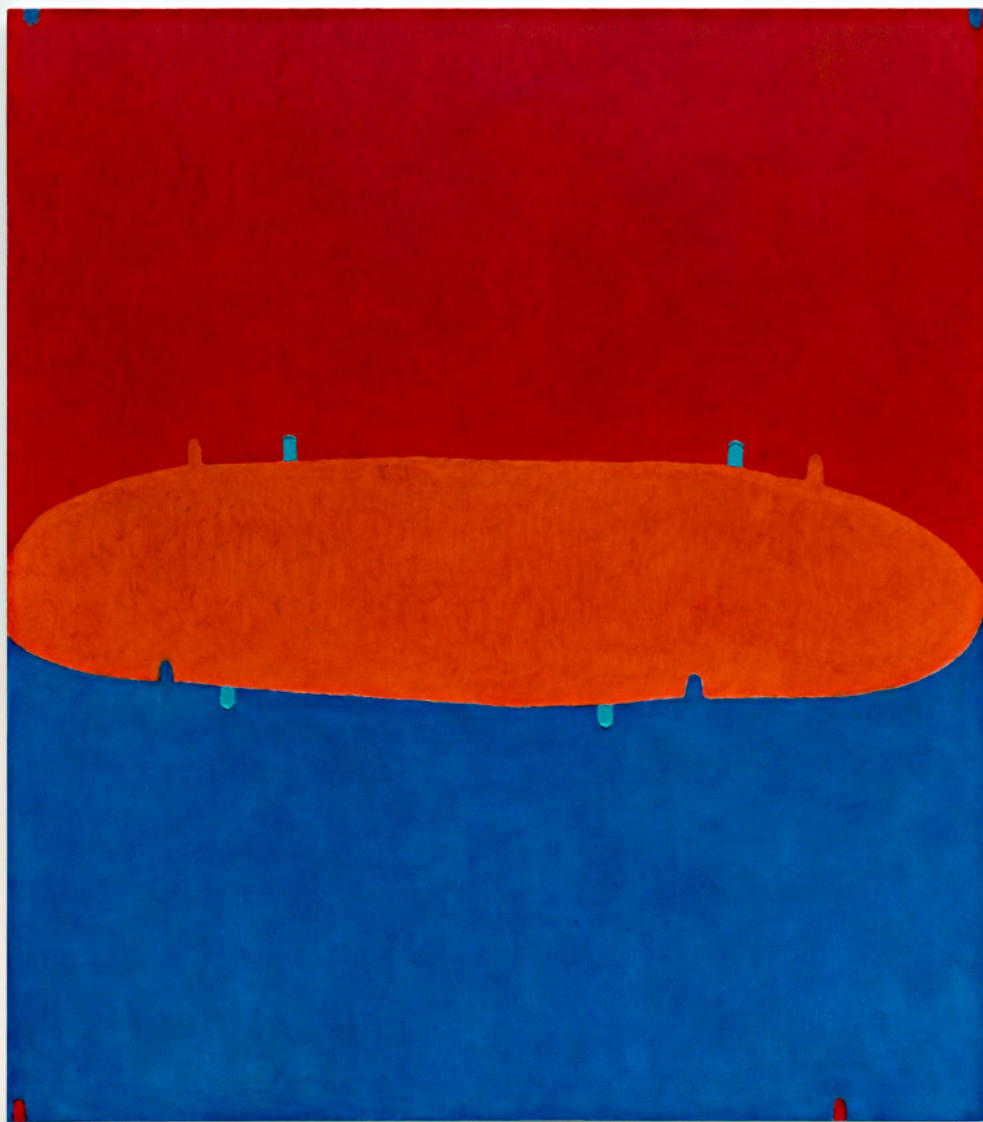
Untitled

2020

oil on linen

40 x 30 cm

(MW.PMT.1447)



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

2022

oil on canvas

170 x 150cm

(MW.PMT.1660)



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

2020

oil on canvas

50 x 40 cm

(MW.PMT.1495)



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

2021

oil on linen

90 x 85 cm

(MW.PMT.1529)



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

2019

aluminum

13 x 10 x 6.5 cm

Unique in a serie of 2 (1/3)

(MW.PMT.1318)



Detail of *Untitled*, 2019



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

2011

oil on canvas

40 x 24 cm

(MW.PMT.1533)



Detail of *Untitled*, 2011



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

2020

patinated bronze

41 x 96 x 26 cm

Unique in a serie of 2 (1/2)

(MW.PMT.1483)



Detail of *Untitled*, 2020



Detail of *Untitled*, 2020



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

2017-2018

felt / feltro

39.5 x 19 x 4.5 cm

(MW.PMT.1486)



Detail of *Untitled*, 2017-2018



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

2020

oil on linen

40 x 30 cm

(MW.PMT.1443)



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

2020

oil on linen

170 x 230 cm

(MW.PMT.1451)



Paulo Monteiro
Untitled
2016 - 2017
oil on wood and oil on
aluminium
variable dimensions
(MW.PMT.1501)

Detail of *Untitled*, 2016 - 2017





Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

2020

oil on canvas

25 x 17 cm

(MW.PMT.1493)



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

2020

oil on linen

146 x 200 cm

(MW.PMT.1452)



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

1986

curtain ribbon and
aluminium

40 x 13 x 3 cm

Edition of 3 (#1/3)

(MW.PMT.S.974)



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

2020

gouache on paper

16.25 x 11 cm

(MW.PMT.1408)



Paulo Monteiro

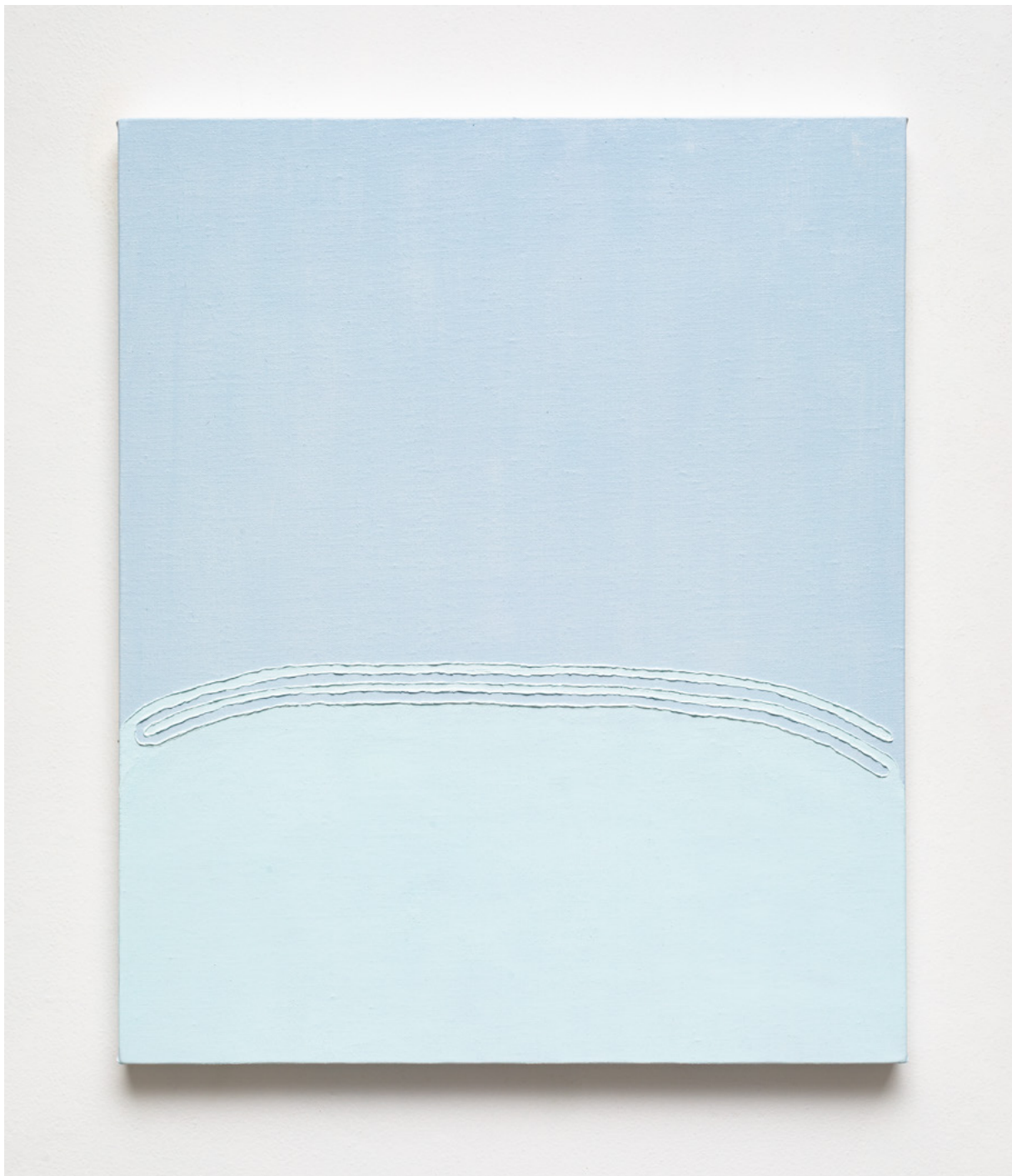
Untitled

2020

gouache on paper

19 x 14 cm

(MW.PMT.1414)



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

2019

oil on linen

60 x 50 cm

(MW.PMT.1264)



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

2019

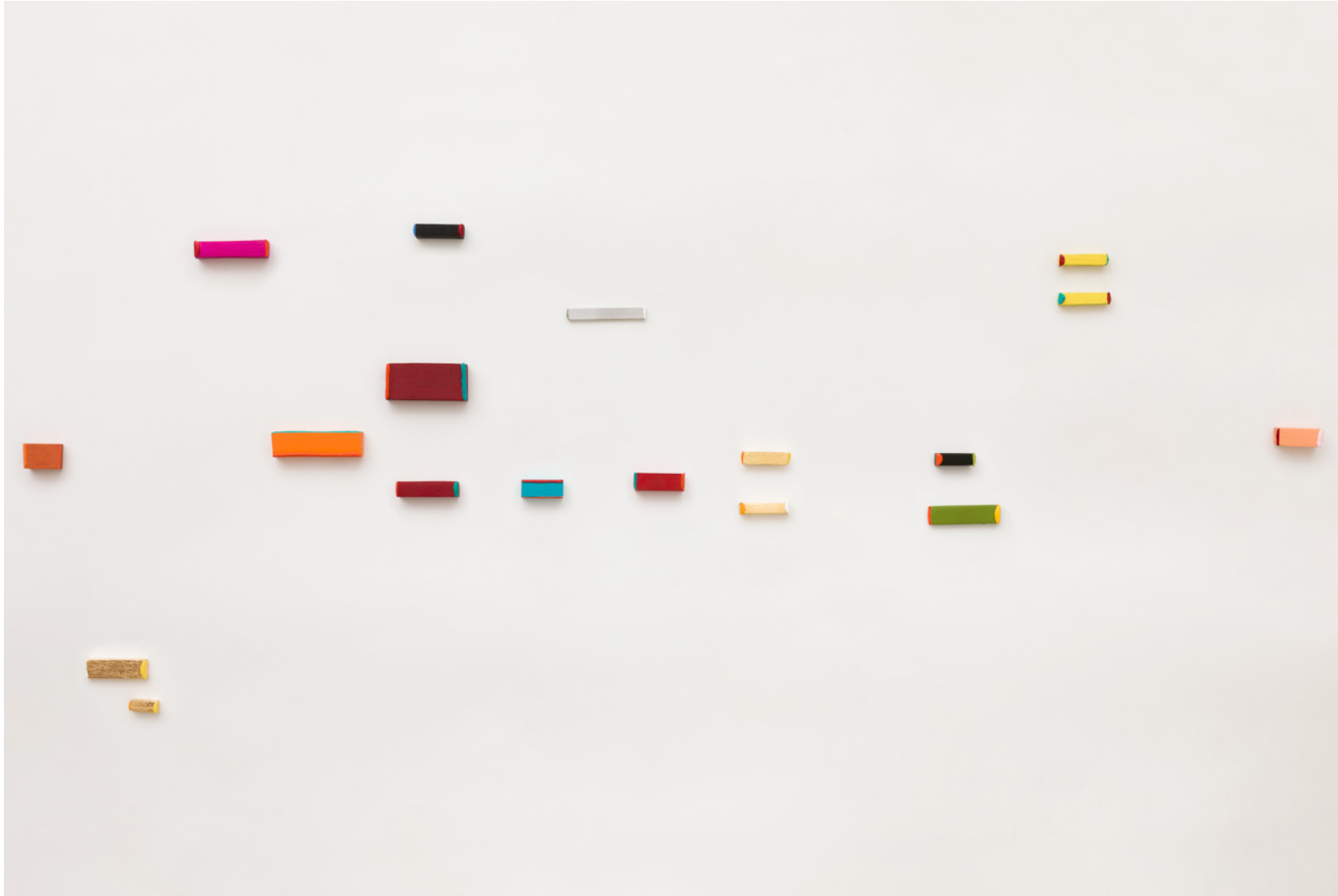
bronze

28 x 10 x 5.5 cm

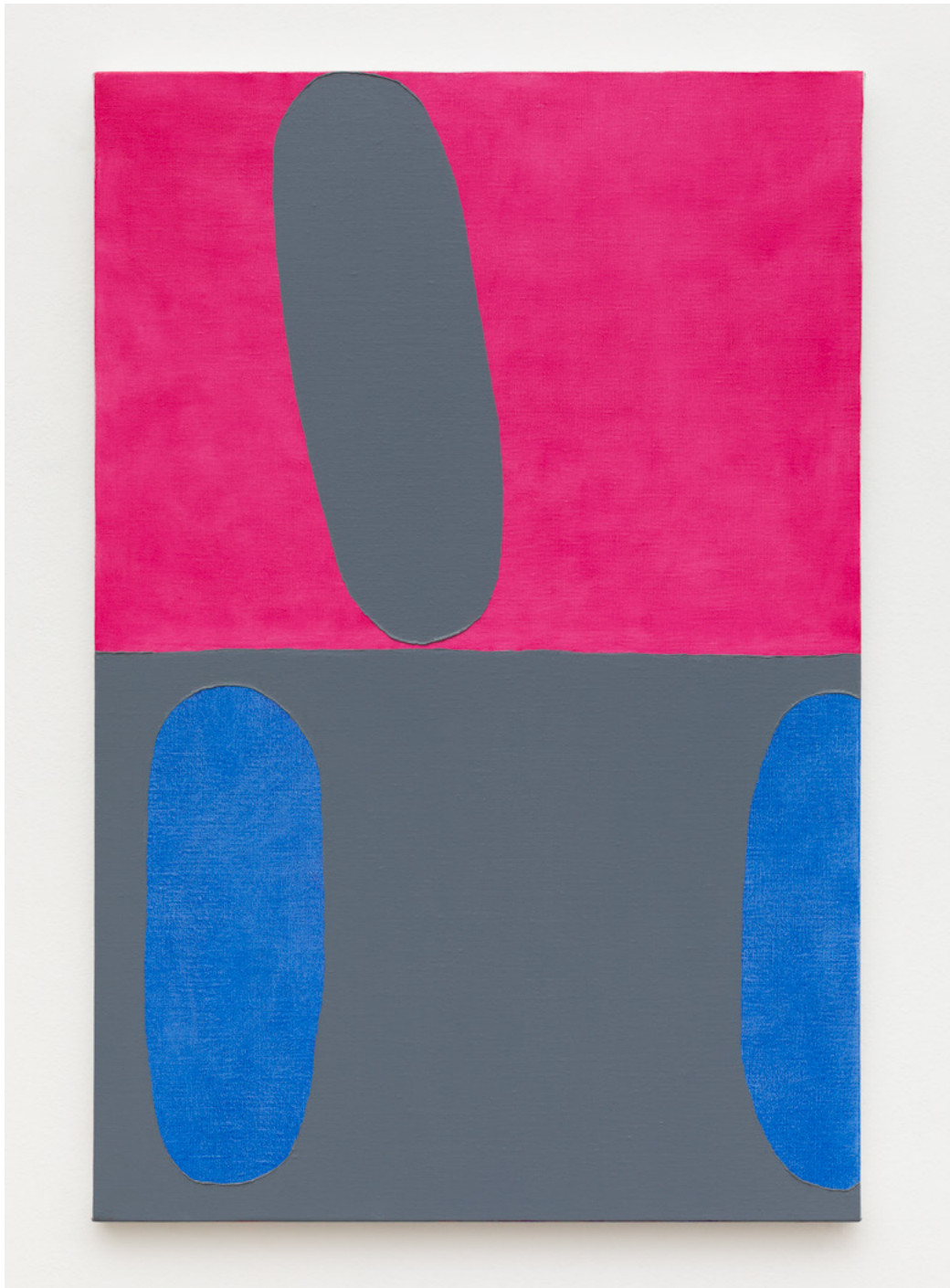
Unique in a serie of 2 (2/2)

(MW.PMT.1325)





Paulo Monteiro
Untitled
2017-2018
oil on wood
variable dimensions
(MW.PMT.1254)



Paulo Monteiro

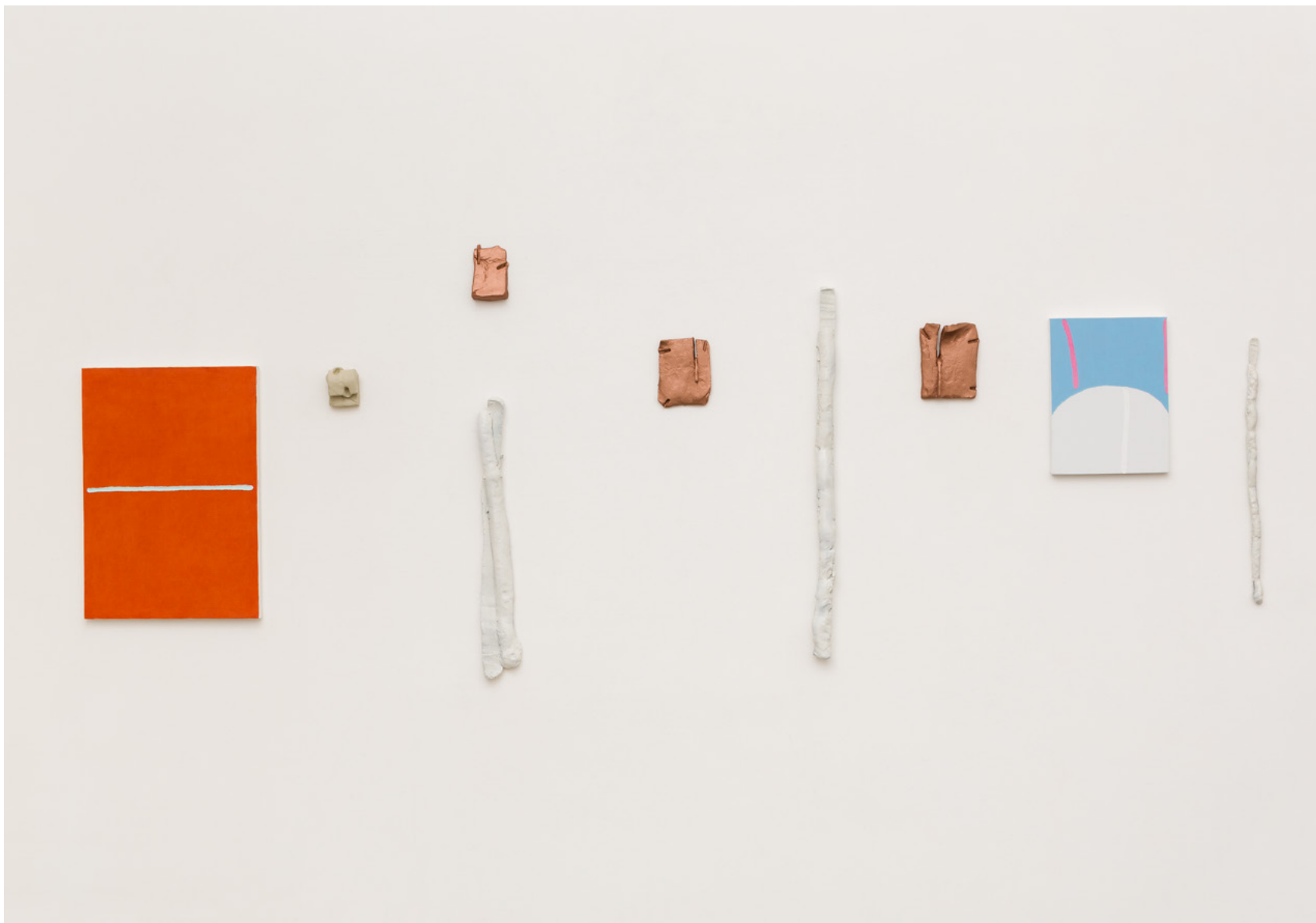
Untitled

2018

oil on linen

90 x 60 cm

(MW.PMT.1252)



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

2017-2018

oil on canvas, oil on
bronze, bronze and
patinated bronze

variable dimensions

(MW.PMT.1223)



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

2015

painted bronze

71 x 10 x 1 cm

AP/3 + AP (AP 1/1)

(MW.PMT.S.893)



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

2014

oil on linen

24 x 18 cm

(MW.PMT.P.387)



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

2011

oil on canvas

50 x 40 cm

(MW.PMT.P.169)



Paulo Monteiro

Untitled

1986 / 2017

curtain ribbon, wood and
aluminium

60 x 50 x 12 cm

(MW.PMT.S.971)





Paulo Monteiro in his house, São Paulo, 2023

It if were up to Euclidean geometry, the world would be settled, accounted for, predictable, irrefutable. In Euclid's scheme, formulated in his treatise *Elements*, space is geometric, symmetrical and unchanging; the point, that which has no parts or magnitude of any kind; the line, that which has length and no width. But that is not how things work, how the world presents itself to us. As shown by Paulo Monteiro, the world is founded on ambiguities. It is enough to touch things, handle them, and draw them towards you or, what amounts to the same, leave your marks on them, for the enigma to emerge on the surface of the most familiar objects, making them dissociate themselves. Where does this enigma originate, from the material that we handle, or from our own enigma that gradually impregnates it? Or is the enigma an intersection between these two distinct territories? Be that as it may, this is an insight that applies to everything, a landscape being produced by history, the fragment of a brick, a piece of string

— Agnaldo Farias, *Journey to the core of the center*, 2011

Education

BA, Faculdade de Belas Artes de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

Solo Shows

2024

The Color of Distance, Mendes Wood DM Brussels, Belgium

2023

Paulo Monteiro, Archipelago, Germantown, USA

Undefined Inclusions, Pace Gallery, New York, USA

Paulo Monteiro: Linha do Corpo, Instituto Ling, São Paulo, Brazil

2022

The Middle Distance, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium

Colors without a place, Tomio Koyama, Tokyo, Japan

2021

Paulo Monteiro: The Two Sides of An Empty Line, Lévy Gorvy, New York, USA

2019

Paulo Monteiro, Mendes Wood DM, New York, USA

2018

The Empty Side, Zeno X, Antwerp, Belgium

2017

Mendes Wood DM São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

The outside of distance, MISAKO & ROSEN and Tomio Koyama Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2016

The inside of distance, Office Baroque, Brussels, Belgium

2015

The inside of distance, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil

2013

Paulo Monteiro, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil

2012

Coisa Superfície, Centro Universitário Mariantonia, São Paulo, Brazil

2011

Viagem ao miolo do meio, Galeria Marília Razuk, São Paulo, Brazil

2010

Misturado, Carlos Carvalho Galeria de Arte, Lisbon, Portugal

2008

Marília Razuk Galeria de Arte, São Paulo, Brazil

Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

2005

Marília Razuk Galeria de Arte, São Paulo, Brazil

2003

Gravuras, Marília Razuk Galeria de Arte, São Paulo, Brazil

Lisboa 20 Arte Contemporânea, Lisbon, Portugal

2002

Galeria 10,20 × 3,60, São Paulo, Brazil

2003

Alpendre, Fortaleza, Brazil

2000

Marília Razuk Galeria de Arte, São Paulo, Brazil

1998

Marília Razuk Galeria de Arte, São Paulo, Brazil

1994

Marília Razuk Galeria de Arte, São Paulo, Brazil

Pinturas, Paulo Figueiredo Galeria de Arte, São Paulo, Brazil

1993

Desenhos, Pinturas e Esculturas, Paulo Figueiredo Galeria de Arte, São Paulo, Brazil

1990

Esculturas e Desenhos, Paulo Figueiredo Galeria de Arte, São Paulo, Brazil

1989

Desenhos, Galeria Macunaíma, Funarte, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

1987

Esculturas, Gabinete de Arte Raquel Arnaud, São Paulo, Brazil

1982

Gravuras em metal, SESC São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

Group Shows

2023

Linhas Tortas, Mendes Wood DM S.o Paulo, Brazil

Esfíngico Frontal, Mendes Wood DM S.o Paulo, Brazil

Thus spoke the moment, Start Museum, Shanghai, China

Square, Zeno X Gallery, Antwerp South, Antwerp, Belgium

2022

Pequenas pinturas II, auroras, S.o Paulo, Brazil

40 Years Zeno X Gallery - The Two-Thousands, Zeno X Gallery Antwerp South, Antwerp, Belgium

Calor Universal, Pace Gallery, New York, USA

2021

De Terra e Gás, Casa de Cultura do Parque, São Paulo, Brazil

Antwerp Universal, Leienpaleis, Antwerp, Belgium
Horizons, L.vy Gorvy, New York, USA
At the Luss House, Mendes Wood DM, Blum & Poe and Object and thing, Ossining, NY, USA
2020
Paloma Bosquê | Cristiano Lenhardt | Paulo Monteiro | Nuno Ramos, Fortes d'Aloia & Gabriel, Lisbon, Portugal
2019
A hora instável, Galeria Bruno Múrias, Lisboa, Portugal
2017
Coleção MAC Niterói: arte contemporânea no Brasil, MAC Niterói, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
FORMASOBREFONDO, Proyectos Monclova, Mexico City, Mexico
A Bela e a Fera, Central Galeria, São Paulo, Brazil
Building Material: Process And Form In Brazilian Art, Hauser & Wirth, Los Angeles, USA
2016
Toda janela é um projétil, é um projeto, é uma paisagem, Sim Galeria, Curitiba, Brazil
The Many and the One: Brazilian Contemporary Art, Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo
2015
Paint.Specific, Grieder Contemporary, Zürich, Switzerland
Uma Coleção Particular – Arte Contemporânea No Acervo da Pinacoteca, Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
Deserto-Modelo, as above, so below, Herald ST, London, United Kingdom
Empty House Casa Vazia, Luhring Augustine, New York, USA
Casa 7, Pivô, São Paulo, Brazil
2014
Paintings on Paper, David Zwirner, New York, UUSA
Where Were You, Lisson Gallery, London, United Kingdom
Arbeit Und Freundschaft, Pivô, São Paulo, Brazil
2013
30 × Bienal – Transformations in Brazilian Art from the 1st to 30th Edition, Bienal Pavilion, São Paulo, Brazil
Betão a vista, Museu Brasileiro de escultura, São Paulo, Brazil
2012
Princípios Flexor, Galeria Gramatura, São Paulo, Brazil
Coleção Dario Zito, Central Galeria de Arte, São Paulo, Brazil
Alguns de Nós, Galeria Marília Razuk, São Paulo, Brazil

Muito além da Pintura, Galeria Transversal São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
2011
Nova escultura Brasileira, Caixa Cultural, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Chez Toi Artcontemporain Brésilien, 5, Place Du Marche Sainte-Catherine Marais, Paris, France
2008
MAM 60, Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
2007
Coleção Itaú Contemporâneo, Centro Cultural Itaú, São Paulo, Brazil
80/90, Instituto Cultural Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo, Brazil
2006
//Paralela, São Paulo, Brazil
Projeto Parede, Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
Singular e Plural, Marília Razuk Galeria de Arte, São Paulo, Brazil
2004
Onde Está Você Geração 80? Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
//Paralela, São Paulo, Brazil
2003
2080, Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
2002
Tangenciando Amílcar, Espaço Cultural Santander, Porto Alegre, Brazil
Lucio Fontana: A Ótica do Invisível, Fundação Lucio Fontana, Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, São Paulo, Brazil
10 Anos, Marília Razuk Galeria de Arte, São Paulo, Brazil
2001
O Espírito da Nossa Época, Museu de Arte Moderna, São Paulo, Brazil
Museu de Arte Moderna, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
O Espelho Cego, coleção Marcantonio Villaça, Museu de Arte Moderna, São Paulo, Brazil
Lucio Fontana: A Ótica do Invisível, Fundação Lucio Fontana, Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
2000
Em Torno do Desenho, Centro Cultural Maria Antonia, São Paulo, Brazil
Brasil 500 Anos– Mostra do Redescobrimento, São Paulo, Brazil
Itinerante Brasil 500 Anos-Mostra do Redescobrimento, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon, Portugal
1999
Galeria Casa da Imagem, Curitiba, Brazil
United Artists V – Viagem de Identidades, Casa das Rosas, São Paulo, Brazil

1997

V Bienal de Cuenca, Equador
La Galeria, Quito, Equador

1995

Arte Brasileira: confronto e contrastes, Pavilhão Internacional Octávio Cesário
Pereira Júnior, Londrina, Brazil

1995

Entre o Desenho e a Escultura, Museu de Arte Moderna, São Paulo, Brazil
Anos 80 – O Palco da Diversidade, Museu de Arte Moderna, Rio de Janeiro;
Galeria do Sesi, São Paulo, Brazil

1994

Do Brasil, Richard Levy Gallery, Albuquerque, USA
Desenho Brasileiro Contemporâneo, Karmelieterkloster, Frankfurt, Germany
Bienal Brasil Século XX, Fundação Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
22ª Bienal Internacional de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

1993

IV Bienal de Santos: Artes Visuais, Santos, Brazil
Brésil, Le souffle d'un pays Créatif, Studio Kostel, Paris, France

1990

13 Artistas, Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Prêmio Brasília de Artes Plásticas, Museu de Arte de Brasília, Distrito Federal,
Brazil

Panorama de Arte Atual Brasileira – Papel, Museu de Arte Moderna de São
Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

1989

Brasil, La Nueva Generación, Fundação Museu de Belas Artes, Caracas, Vene-
zuela

1988

10 Artistas, Rua Fortunato, São Paulo, Brazil

1987

Modernité, Musée d'Art Moderne de La Ville de Paris, France; Museu de Arte
Moderna de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

1986

II Bienal de Cuba, Havana, Cuba

1985–1986

VIII Salão Nacional de Artes Plásticas, Funarte, Museu de Arte Moderna do
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

1985

Casa 7, Museu de Arte Contemporânea de São Paulo; Museu de Arte Moderna
do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

18ª Bienal Internacional de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

1984

II Salão Paulista de Arte Contemporânea, São Paulo, Brazil
Painéis, Paço das Artes, São Paulo, Brazil

1982

V Mostra Nacional de Gravura da Cidade de Curitiba, Curitiba, Brazil

Collections

Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA
Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
Pinacoteca Municipal de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
Museu de Arte de Brasília, Distrito Federal, Brazil
Biblioteca Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Museu de Arte Contemporânea, São Paulo, Brazil
Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Niterói, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Mendes
Wood
DM

São Paulo
Brussels
Paris
New York

www.mendeswooddm.com
[@mendeswooddm](https://www.instagram.com/mendeswooddm)