

Artist Resources – Sonia Gomes (Brazilian, b. 1948)



Gomes, ca. 2020
Photograph: Gabriela Portilho

[Gomes at Pace Gallery](#)

[Gomes at Blum and Poe](#)

[Gomes at Mendes Wood DM](#)

Gomes was the only Brazilian artist included in the [56th Venice Biennale](#) in 2015, curated by the late Okwui Enwezor.

In 2012 and 2016, Gomes was nominated for the [PIPA Prize](#), the most prestigious award for contemporary art in Brazil.

Sonia Gomes: Still I Rise was on display at the [Museu de Arte de São Paulo](#) before traveling to [Museo de Arte Contemporânea de Niterói](#) in 2018.

Read a 2019 [interview](#) with the artist in SP-ARTE on the occasion of Black Awareness Month in Brazil.

The artist's first solo exhibition in Europe, [I Rise: I'm a Black Ocean, Leaping and Wide](#) was on display at Germany's Museum Frieder Burda, Salon Berlin and Museum Frieder Burda in Baden-Baden.

In 2020, [New City Brasil](#) published an interview with Gomes about how she turns Afro-Brazilian traditions into modern sculpture.

Gomes [joined both Blum & Poe and Pace Gallery](#) in 2020, with plans to exhibit work internationally. Her first solo exhibition with this representation, [Life Doesn't Frighten Me](#), is available virtually through both Blum & Poe and Mendes Wood DM.

Watch or read a [Pace Live Series](#) panel conversation about Sonia Gomes and her work, "Of Seams and Stories: The Art of Sonia Gomes," recorded in 2020.

Read Jill Langlois' New York Times article, ["Fabrics With Powerful Stories to Tell"](#) in anticipation of her debut exhibition with Pace Gallery.

Artland Magazine's Lost (and Found) Artist Series, which highlights the work of artists omitted from the mainstream art world for the majority of their careers, wrote an [article](#) on Gomes in 2021.

Read an [Artnews article](#) by Maximiliano Durón, "Artist Sonia Gomes Creates Poetry from Found Fabric and Materials That She Makes Her Own."

Gomes' first solo exhibition in the United States, [When the Sun Rises in Blue](#), was installed at Blum & Poe in 2021.



Gomes, ca. 2020
Photograph: Ana Pigosso



Sonia Gomes (Brazilian, b. 1948)

Untitled, from Raízes series, 2021

Tree trunk, different fabrics, leather and cotton thread

Private Collection, Los Angeles; L2021:165.1

“My work is black, it is feminine, and it is marginal. I am a rebel. I never worried about masking or stifling anything that might or might not fit standards of what is called art.” Sonia Gomes was born in Caetanópolis, the birthplace of Brazil’s textile industry. Using found and gifted textiles, driftwood, wire, thread, and other scavenged materials, Gomes creates assemblages that celebrate Afro-Brazilian craft movements. **Untitled, from Raízes series** (Roots series) features colorful bulbous fabric tied around a twisted tree trunk. The abstract sculpture is almost biomorphic; its organic form is inspired by Gomes’ childhood experiences watching her benzedeira (folk-medicine healer) grandmother perform Afro-Brazilian rites. The sculpture was recently included in *When the Sun Rises in Blue* at Blum & Poe Los Angeles, the artist’s first solo exhibition in the United States.

On view April 13 – July 31, 2022