

CASA

VICÊNCIA

Amadeo Carvalho

Fragments d'identité

Circulations lusophones, géographies sensibles

AKAA – Also Known As Africa

Carreau du Temple, Paris, 23–25 October 2026, Stand C7

PRESS KIT

Press release

Casa Vicência presents Amadeo Carvalho at AKA 2026

Casa Vicência, a curatorial platform dedicated to contemporary scenes from Lusophone spaces, presents a monographic booth devoted to Cape Verdean artist Amadeo Carvalho.

Founded in Paris by Émilie Silva, a lawyer admitted to the Paris and Lisbon bars, Casa Vicência takes its name from a first name, a mother's, within which lies an island. Between the intimate and the geographic, the platform builds lasting bridges between Africa, Europe and their diasporas, in support of artists whose trajectories remain underrepresented in the international art market.

Fragments d'identité brings together a body of new works from Retratos de Ausência / Portraits of Absence (2025–2026), an ongoing body of work. Born in 1985 in São Vicente and based in London, Amadeo Carvalho composes layered works: acrylic, charcoal, screen printing, handmade paper and volcanic material personally collected on the islands of Fogo, Santiago and São Vicente, in which poetry is embedded into the very surface of the canvas. The fragment is understood here in its double nature: loss and generative force, birthplace of new forms of belonging at the crossing of languages and shores, in the wake of creolité.

At the centre of the presentation, sixteen small works from Retratos de Ausência, framed and hung together, open the series into a collective field of presences, where repetition, difference and fragmentation allow each portrait to retain its individuality within a wider visual constellation. They are drawn from an ensemble of fifty first shown at MED.25 in 2025, the year of the fiftieth anniversary of Cape Verdean independence; the complete ensemble is available on the booth.

The presentation is accompanied by a public programme dedicated to the music of Cape Verde and its imprint on contemporary creation.

The artist will be present at the booth throughout the fair.

AKA – Also Known As Africa, Carreau du Temple, Paris, 23–25 October 2026. Stand C7.

Communiqué de presse

Casa Vicência présente Amadeo Carvalho à AKAA 2026

Casa Vicência, plateforme curatoriale dédiée aux scènes contemporaines des espaces lusophones, présente une exposition monographique consacrée à l'artiste capverdien Amadeo Carvalho.

Fondée à Paris par Émilie Silva, avocate aux barreaux de Paris et de Lisbonne, Casa Vicência tire son nom d'un prénom, celui d'une mère, au cœur duquel se loge une île. Entre l'intime et la géographie, la plateforme construit des ponts durables entre l'Afrique, l'Europe et leurs diasporas, au service d'artistes dont les trajectoires demeurent sous-représentées sur le marché international.

Fragments d'identité réunit un ensemble d'œuvres inédites issues de Retratos de Ausência / Portraits of Absence (2025-2026), ensemble en cours. Né en 1985 à São Vicente et installé à Londres, Amadeo Carvalho compose des œuvres stratifiées : acrylique, fusain, sérigraphie, papier fait main et matériau volcanique collecté personnellement sur les îles de Fogo, Santiago et de São Vicente, où la poésie s'incorpore à la surface même de la toile. Le fragment y est entendu dans sa double nature : perte et force générative, lieu de naissance de nouvelles formes d'appartenance au croisement des langues et des rives, dans le sillage de la créolité.

Au centre de la présentation, seize petits formats issus de Retratos de Ausência, encadrés et accrochés ensemble, déploient la série en un champ collectif de présences, où répétition, différence et fragmentation permettent à chaque portrait de conserver son individualité au sein d'une constellation visuelle plus large. Ils sont extraits d'un ensemble de cinquante présenté pour la première fois à MED.25 en 2025, année du cinquantenaire de l'indépendance du Cap-Vert ; l'ensemble complet est disponible sur le stand.

La présentation s'accompagne d'un temps de programmation publique consacré aux musiques du Cap-Vert et à leur empreinte sur la création contemporaine.

L'artiste sera présent sur le stand pendant toute la durée de la foire.

AKAA – Also Known As Africa, Carreau du Temple, Paris, 23-25 octobre 2026. Stand C7.

The artist



Amadeo Carvalho, portrait.
Courtesy of the artist and Casa Vicência.

Amadeo Carvalho (b. 1985, São Vicente, Cape Verde) is a contemporary visual artist based in London, working across painting, poetry and photography. He holds a BA in Design from IADE (Lisbon) and develops an international practice rooted in the African diaspora, presented across Cape Verde, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe, Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Working through layered processes, charcoal, screen printing, acrylic, volcanic pigments from Fogo, handmade paper and photographic transfers, he creates tactile compositions in which poetry is embedded directly into the surface of the work. Drawing from his own photographic archive, his practice unfolds as a space where text and image merge, forming visual and poetic cartographies.

Rooted in Atlantic memory and lived experience, his work explores Black identity, belonging and kinship, with particular attention to the social and affective centrality of Black women. Alongside his studio practice, he engages in public and educational programmes, including a painting workshop at King's College London and Arquipélagos em Diálogo, and has produced mural works in Cape Verde and Lisbon.

In 2024 he was recognised in Bantumen's Powerlist100, which distinguishes influential Black figures in the Lusophone world.

In the artist's words

« I often begin with the portrait, but I do not understand it merely as the representation of a figure. For me, the face is a sensitive territory.

Matter is a central part of my process. More recently I have been working with volcanic pigments, creating surfaces that are moulded, pressed and excavated. This gesture interests me because it brings painting close to a search: I do not feel that I am simply constructing an image, I feel that I am opening a path for something to appear.

My work seeks to create images that carry presence, even when they speak of absence. Painting is, for me, a way of excavating these presences and giving them body without closing them into a single definition. »

Amadeo Carvalho, artist statement, 2026 (excerpts)

ORIGINAL, PORTUGUÊS

« Parto muitas vezes do retrato, mas não o entendo apenas como representação de uma figura. Para mim, o rosto é um território sensível. [...]

A matéria é uma parte central do meu processo. [...] Tenho trabalhado com pigmentos vulcânicos, criando superfícies que são moldadas, pressionadas e escavadas. Esse gesto interessa-me porque aproxima a pintura de uma procura. Não sinto que esteja simplesmente a construir uma imagem; sinto que estou a abrir caminho para que algo apareça. [...]

O meu trabalho procura criar imagens que carregam presença, mesmo quando falam de ausência. [...] A pintura é, para mim, uma forma de escavar essas presenças e de lhes dar corpo sem as fechar numa definição única. »

Trajectory

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2025 – Cartografia Humana, Tech Park, Praia
2023 – Mandinga – A Misguided Parody, Cabo Verde Cultural Centre, Lisbon
2023 – A Negrura em Mim Mancha, Mindelo Cultural Centre, São Vicente
2022 – Solo exhibition, W Hotel, London

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS / ART FAIRS

2026 – As If, NUMA.SALA, Lisbon
2026 – FNB Art Joburg, Decolonial Perspectives, presented by THIS IS NOT A WHITE CUBE, Johannesburg (ZA)
2026 – Let's Play, Elizabeth Leach Gallery, Portland, Oregon
2026 – GLOW Exhibition, Candid Arts Trust, London
2026 – Le Chant des matières, ABLAKASSA, Somian Design Showroom, Grand-Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire (curated by Roger Niyigena Karera)
2026 – ROOTS, LAC – CAAA, Guimarães (PT)
2026 – ROOTS, LAC – Arts Center, Caldas da Rainha (PT)
2025 – Laboratório do Atlântico, UCCLA, Lisbon
2025 – ROOTS, LAC – Creative Activities Laboratory, Lagos (PT)
2025 – Afro Renaissance, Afrikanizm Art, Seixal
2025 – Beyond Boundaries – A Collective Odyssey, Lisbon
2025 – Cartografias Transatlânticas, Loulé
2025 – Atlântico Negro (with Cida Lima), Praia
2024 – 10th Biennial of Arts and Culture of São Tomé and Príncipe
2024 – With Yuran Henrique, CACAU, São Tomé
2024 – Estudo de Cores – Atlântico Negro, IILP, Praia

RESIDENCIES

2026 – Pacific Northwest College of Art (with Modou Dieng Yacine), Portland
2026 – ATCHA Residency, Praia City Council, Praia
2025 – ROOTS Residency, LAC, Lagos (PT)
2025 – Tech Park, Praia
2024 – São Tomé Biennial Residency

COMMISSIONS

2026 – Commissioned artwork for Dino d'Santiago, Criolo and AMARO, Rock in Rio Lisboa, shown on the main stage screen during the live performance
2025 – Cover artwork for Dino d'Santiago, Cicatrizes
2025 – Work for Dino d'Santiago's opera, Centro Cultural de Belém, Lisbon
2025 – Two murals, Tech Park building, Praia
2024 – Mural, 8 Marvila, Lisbon

COLLECTIONS

Ministry of Finance of Cape Verde · Ministry of Culture of Cape Verde · Embassy of Brazil in Cape Verde · Municipality of Loulé · CACAU Museum, São Tomé · Associação Mundu Nobu · private collections

EDUCATION & PUBLIC PROGRAMMES

BA in Design, IADE, Lisbon · Painting workshop, King's College London (2025) · Arquipélago em Diálogo, Praia – Lisbon School of Architecture (2025) · ROOTS Conference, Lagos Museum (PT), 2025

Fragments d'identité

Lusophone circulations, sensitive geographies

The Lusophone space is not a fixed geography. It is a territory in motion, between Africa, Europe and the Atlantic diasporas, where language, history and displacement shape identities in constant recomposition.

At the threshold of figuration and abstraction, Amadeo Carvalho's painting brings forth fragmented bodies, suggested faces, presences that surge and then fade, almost as traces excavated from the surface. These forms do not impose themselves, they emerge. Layers overlap, dissolve and reactivate: each work becomes a surface of memory, where the visible remains inhabited by what has disappeared, and where absence itself leaves a material trace. The portrait becomes less a fixed image than a space of searching, where presence is never entirely revealed nor entirely erased.

The aim is not to represent, but to evoke. More than an exhibition, Fragments d'identité proposes a space of perception where forms circulate, where inheritances transform, and where memory, silent yet persistent, continues to inhabit contemporary gestures.

Casa Vicência, AKA 2026

The matter, the volcanic ground

The painting begins in the ground of the archipelago.

Amadeo Carvalho personally gathers volcanic material on the islands of Fogo, Santiago and São Vicente and incorporates it into the matter of his paintings. The territory is not depicted: it is physically present in the work. Each painting carries, in its blacks and its grain, a fragment of the archipelago itself.

Around this mineral base, the artist builds through layers: charcoal, screen printing, acrylic, handmade paper, photographic transfers and hand-drawn elements. Poetry is embedded directly into the surface, text and image merging into tactile, stratified compositions anchored in his own photographic archive.

The volcanic origin of the pigment gives the blacks their depth: a matter that absorbs light rather than reflecting it. Each layer carries a territory; each surface is a sedimentation of memory.

Two works in this presentation stand apart from that process. Sentinela do Fogo and O Pico em mim are made with acrylic and charcoal alone, without volcanic pigment, and their blacks are drawn rather than sedimented.

The platform and the founder

Casa Vicência

A curatorial platform dedicated to contemporary scenes from Lusophone spaces: Africa, Europe and their diasporas. Casa Vicência conceives, produces and curates projects with strong narrative depth, and accompanies artists engaged in dynamics of circulation, memory and transformation.

Its name carries a double inheritance: a mother's first name, Vicência, within which lies an island, between the intimate and the Atlantic imaginary.

Émilie Silva

Founder of Casa Vicência, Émilie Silva is a lawyer admitted to the Paris and Lisbon bars, born to Cape Verdean parents and engaged in building cultural bridges between Europe and the Afro-diasporic world.

She is the author and director of the project Cesária Évora, Portraits of an Icon, presented along the Seine riverbanks in Paris in 2025 with the City of Paris and the Théâtre de la Ville. Her practice is rooted in cultural and heritage diplomacy, where art becomes a space of transmission, legacy and circulation across continents.

Selected works



Fifty portraits, multiple presences.

At AKA, sixteen portraits are framed and hung as a grid, extending the serial logic of the series into a collective field: individual faces emerge through colour and volcanic matter, each retaining its own presence while entering into dialogue with the others. Repetition does not produce uniformity; instead, the ensemble reveals variation, fragmentation and the unstable space between appearance and disappearance. The complete ensemble of fifty, first shown at MED.25 in 2025, the year of the fiftieth anniversary of Cape Verdean independence, is available on the booth.

Amadeo Carvalho

Retratos de Ausência, 2025, ensemble of fifty portraits

Acrylic & volcanic pigments from the Fogo volcano, island of Fogo, Cape Verde, on Fabriano paper.

21 x 29,7 cm each, sixteen framed and hung, thirty-four available unframed



Amadeo Carvalho

Retratos de Ausência – Herança do silêncio*, 2026

Acrylic & volcanic pigments from the Fogo volcano, island of Fogo, Cape Verde, on canvas.

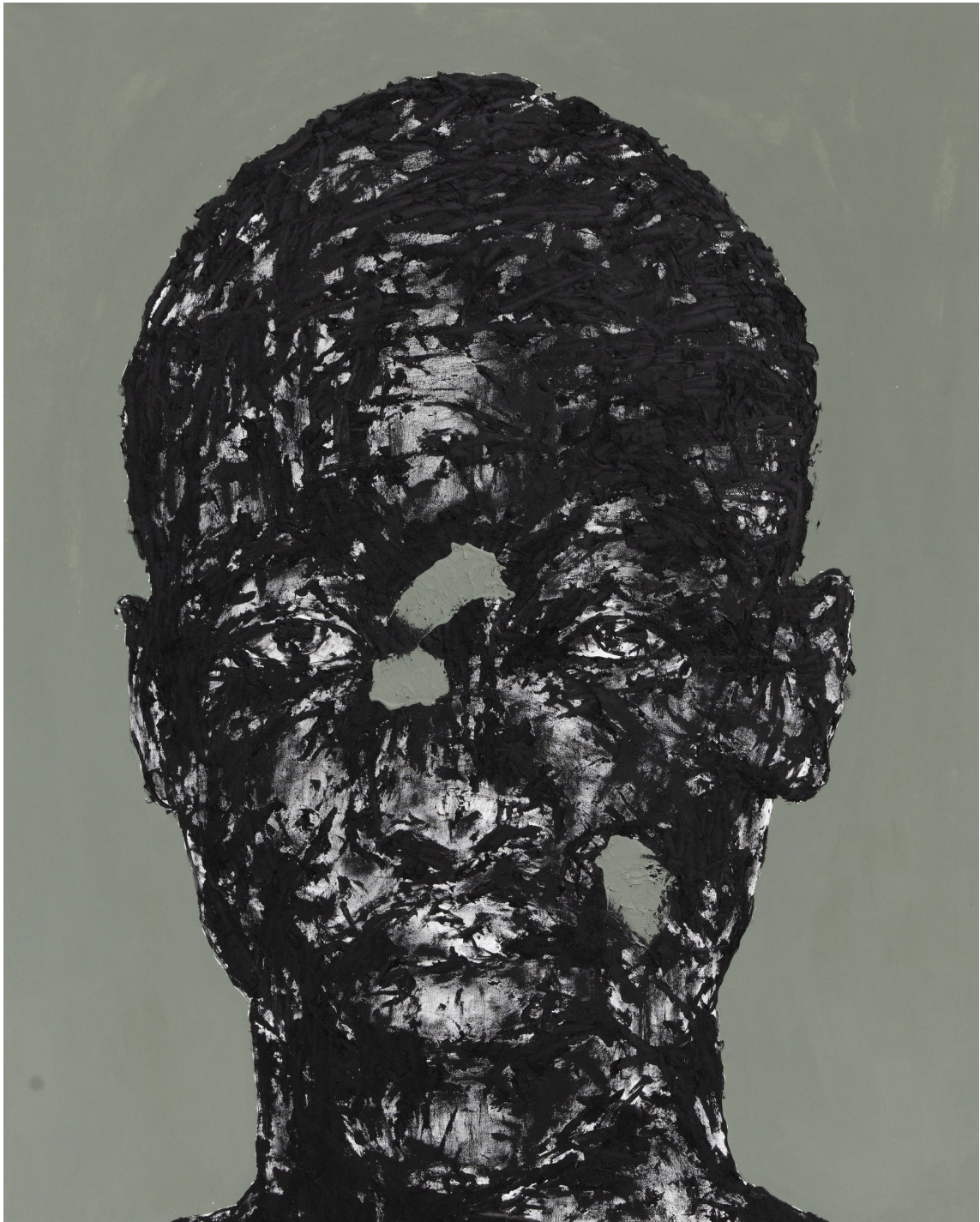
110 x 150 cm

* Inheritance of silence



Amadeo Carvalho
Retratos de Ausência – Sentinela do Fogo*, 2026
Acrylic and charcoal on canvas.
110 x 150 cm

* Sentinel of Fogo



Amadeo Carvalho

Retratos de Ausência – Mininu di onti*, 2026

Acrylic & volcanic pigments from the Fogo volcano, island of Fogo, Cape Verde, on canvas.

100 x 120 cm

* Child of yesterday



Amadeo Carvalho

Retratos de Ausência – O lado que falta*, 2026

Acrylic & volcanic pigments from the Fogo volcano, island of Fogo, Cape Verde, on canvas.

100 x 120 cm

* The missing side



Amadeo Carvalho

Retratos de Ausência – Ansiedade branca*, 2025

Acrylic & volcanic pigments from the Fogo volcano, island of Fogo, Cape Verde, on canvas.

100 x 120 cm

* White anxiety



Amadeo Carvalho
Retratos de Ausência – O Pico em mim*, 2026
Acrylic and charcoal on canvas.
110 x 150 cm

* The Pico within me



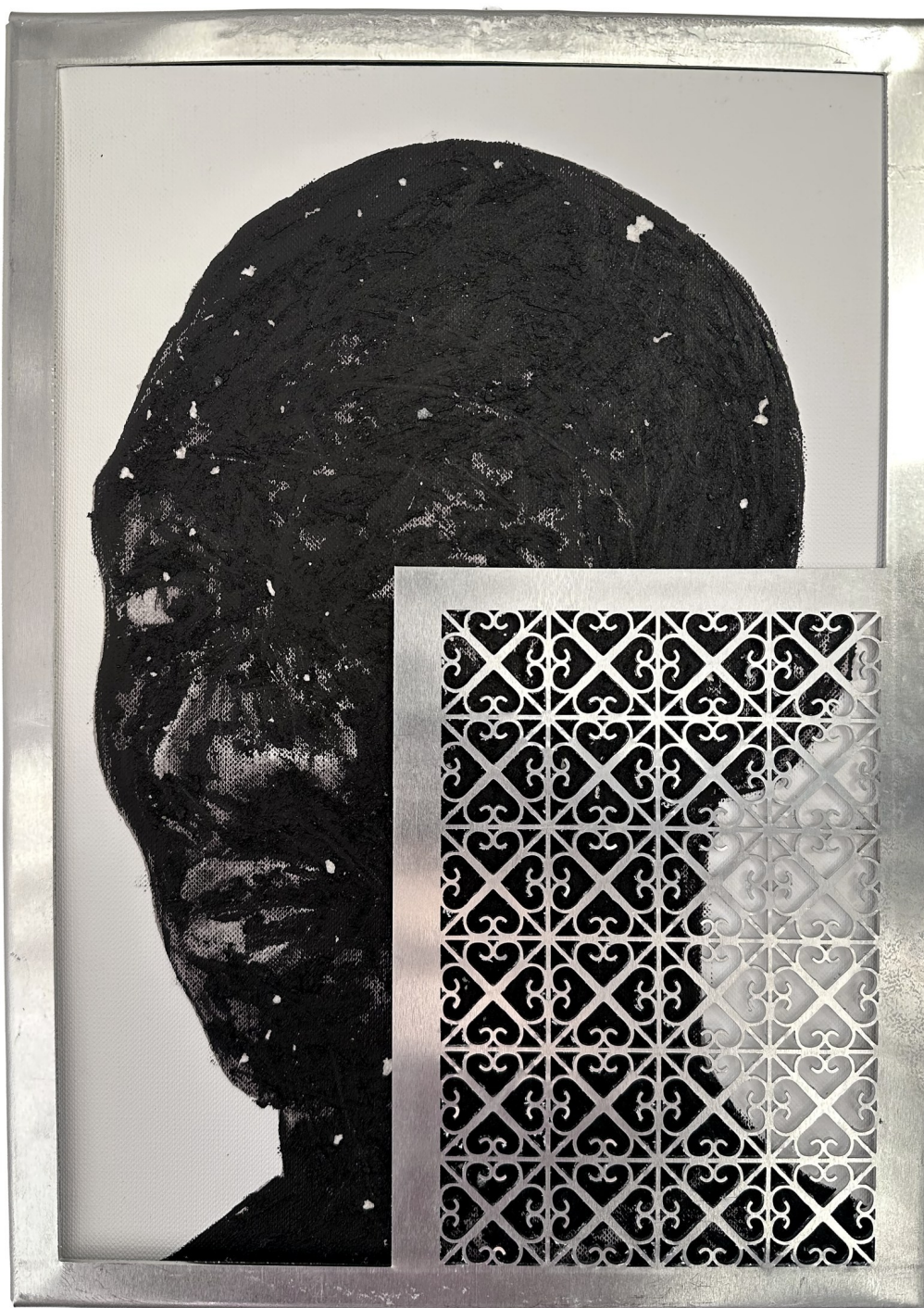
Amadeo Carvalho

Retratos de Ausência – Órfão de afeto*, 2025

Acrylic & volcanic pigments from the Fogo volcano, island of Fogo, Cape Verde, on canvas.

80 x 100 cm

* Orphan of affection



Amadeo Carvalho

Retratos de Ausência – Do lado de dentro*, 2026

Acrylic & volcanic pigments from the Fogo volcano, island of Fogo, Cape Verde, on Fabriano paper.

21 x 29,7 cm, series of four, aluminium frame

* From the inside

In the studio



Studio view, works in progress for AKA 2026.

Courtesy of the artist and Casa Vicência.

Where the work is made.

Amadeo Carvalho works on the floor and on the wall, in large sequences: sheets of paper and canvases pinned side by side, worked in parallel until a face emerges from the black. The volcanic material is personally collected by the artist on the islands of Fogo, Santiago and São Vicente, and gives the blacks their grain and their weight.

The works presented at AKA were produced between London, Praia and Lagos, in the studio and during the ATCHA and ROOTS residencies.



Studio view, Lisbon, 2026.
Courtesy of the artist and Casa Vicência.



Studio view, ROOTS residency, LAC – Laboratório de Actividades Criativas, Lagos (PT), 2025.
Courtesy of the artist and Casa Vicência.

Press images

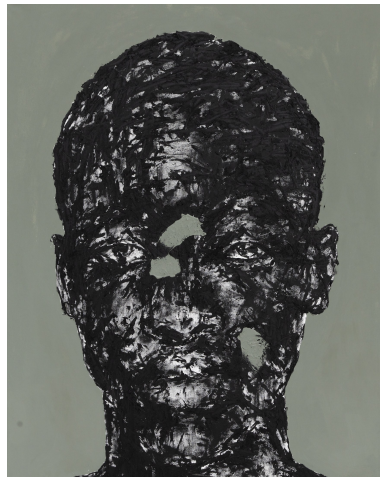
High-resolution images (300 dpi, JPG) available upon request and on the press page:

- AC_RA_Ensemble50_2025.jpg, the fifty-portrait ensemble (lead image)
- AC_RA_HerancaDoSilencio_2026_110x150.jpg
- AC_RA_SentineladoFogo_2026_110x150.jpg
- AC_RA_MininuDiOnti_2026_100x120.jpg
- AC_RA_OLadoQueFalta_2026_100x120.jpg
- AC_RA_AnsiedadeBranca_2025_100x120.jpg
- AC_RA_OPicoEmMim_2026_110x150.jpg
- AC_RA_OrfaoDeAfeto_2025_80x100.jpg
- AC_RA_DoLadoDeDentro_2026_21x29.jpg
- AC_Studio_2026_01 to 03.jpg, studio views
- AC_Portrait_Studio.jpg, artist portrait
- CV_Wordmark.svg / .png, Casa Vicência logotype

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Carreau du Temple, Paris, 23–25 October 2026

Stand C7