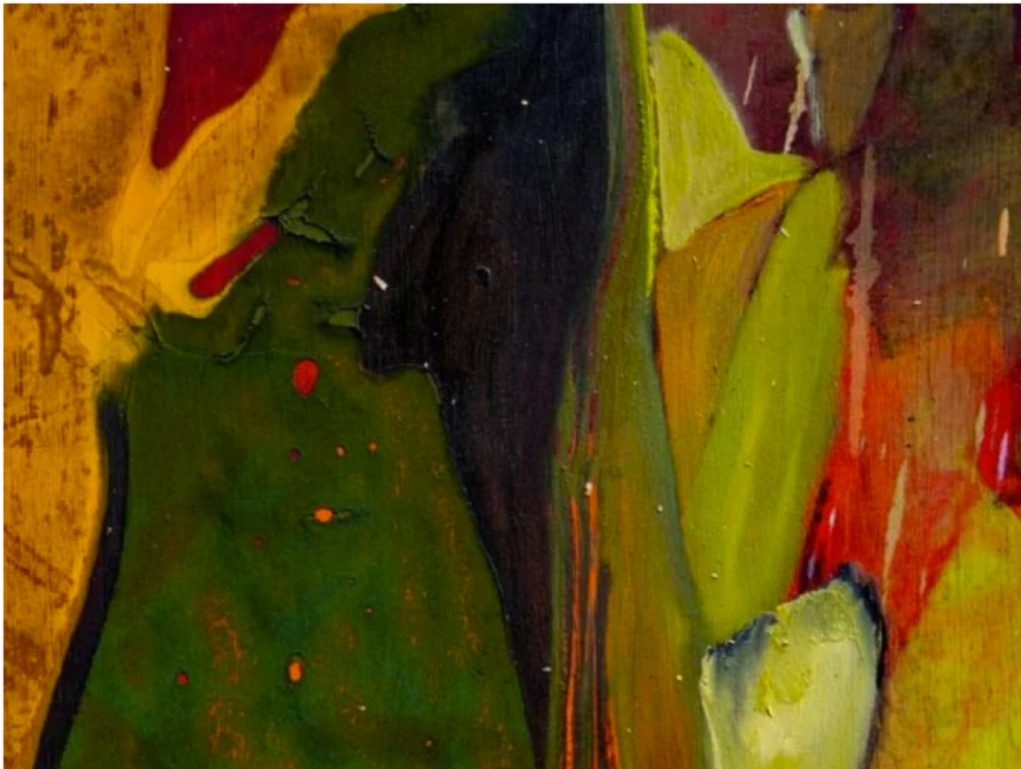


VISUAL ARTS

## Luiza Gottschalk's exhibition evokes the forest in an immersive installation.

The exhibition 'Clareira' runs until April 10th at the National Museum of the Republic. Denise Mattar is responsible for curating the works of artist Luiza Gottschalk.



📷 Artist Luiza Gottschalk, author of the works in the exhibition Clareira, on display at the Museum of the Republic - (credit: Edouard Fraipoint)



Nahima Maciel

Luiza Gottschalk grew up in the forest, in a corner at the peak of the Serra da Mantiqueira mountain range, in southern Minas Gerais. Born in São Paulo, the artist was taken to the location at the age of one and spent her childhood immersed in the woods, surrounded by a dense landscape of mountains and a narrow horizon. This experience is the main theme of the artist's paintings in the exhibition *Clareira*, currently on display at the [National Museum of the Republic](#).

Curated by Denise Mattar, the exhibition brings together recently produced canvases in an environment designed in collaboration with the artist to provide the public with a sensory experience. Luiza's abstract painting predominates in the large-format acrylic and oil paintings, which evoke the forest. Colorful patches, however, share space with occasional small figurations. "Large-scale work, somewhere between abstraction and figuration, has many patches, color is very present and guides the works, and occasionally figures appear," the artist explains. "Some are lighter, like birds, children, forest creatures, frogs, insects, but the patches also begin to appear and disappear. It's a painting that has a lot of movement."

Color and matter are very present elements in the works, which have been set in a clearing-like environment with leaves brought from the Serra da Mantiqueira mountain range. "Where I grew up there were very few people, there were no children, and I played in the middle of the forest. This experience of landscape, which is a landscape of dense forest, is 360 degrees. It's a bodily experience, and you become aware with your whole body because there are animals, jaguars, snakes. All my affective memories of this experience are what go into the paintings," says the artist, who decided to bring the leaves to provide the viewer with a bodily experience.

By creating the clearing in the [center of the exhibition](#) with the paintings surrounding it, Luiza wanted to bring the feeling of being in a forest to the gallery. "We activate the viewer's body in a more active than contemplative way. It's an immersion, almost a painting installation," she explains.

Curator Denise Mattar says she has known Luiza's work for a long time, but was recently impressed by an exhibition the artist held in her own home. "I realized that her work, because of all her experiences, is a sensory work, so this conjunction of a sensory work that is also basically [painting](#) is very interesting," explains Denise, citing the Russian painter Wassily Kandinsky. "He says that you don't see a painting only with your eyes, but with all five senses," recalls Denise, who found the idea of immersion provided by the clearing with forest leaves appropriate.