

Maria Appleton

'The Storing Skin'

Curated by Filippa Oliveira
Septembre 30, 2023 - February 24, 2024

Casa da Cerca, contemporary art center in Almada, Lisboa, Portugal

From September 30, 2023, to February 5, 2024, Maria Appleton presents 'The Storing Skins', a solo exhibition at the Casa da Cerca contemporary art center in Almada, curated by Filippa Oliveira. In response to the exhibition space, one of the old cisterns of the city of Lisbon, the artist showcases a series of five floating woven textiles, each over two meters in height. Appleton focuses on her distinctive concepts, such as information, memory, and spatial experience through her new tapestries that "reflect the interaction between the past and the present, as well as the dominant presence of information."

From Maria Appleton's work focuses concepts such as information, memory and spatial experience in tapestries that reflect on the interaction between the past and the present, and on the dominating presence of information. They are screens, membranes that sediment individual memories and collective experiences of inhabiting our contemporary reality.

In each tapestry, Appleton weaves a different set of elements, like geological layers, where different times overlap. Just as the Earth's strata reveal the history our planet, her "screens" reveal the layers of our personal and collective memory, structures within a structure. His grandfather's archive of engineering drawings, postcards, his own photographs, memories of past trips, photographs circulated in the media and even car advertisements of diverse visual and textual sources from different eras creates a complex narrative that transcends mere autobiography.

Confronting the profound interaction between memory and information, Appleton invites us to contemplate how our personal memories overlap with the broader currents of collective memory. At the time when information permeates every aspect of our lives, in both physical and digital forms, Appleton attempts to capture and reflect on this constantly evolving, data-saturated landscape. Everything, in essence, is information. Even though the structure of things can be destroyed and reassembled, the fundamental basis remains information. This information occupies a physical space, a reminder that even when our data resides in the digital realm or "in the cloud", it continues to occupy a tangible footprint in our world. These inescapable systems of information - social, cultural, intellectual - form the intricate web of our collective experience.

The use of images in Appelton's work invites us to contemplate the fragmented nature of memory. Just as our memories are often a collage of images - some real, some fictionalized, from different time periods - her tapestries deconstruct and reconstruct visuel elements, somewhat like a motherboard. Her work becomes a container for the convergence of individual and shared experience.

The dilution and deconstruction of images in the structure of her tapestries becomes a metaphor for the dilution of the architectural (and social) structures we inhabit. Just as the digital age blurs the boundaries between physical and virtual spaces, Appelton's work blurs the lines between the tangible and the intangible, between memory and information. Created specifically for Casa da Cerca's Cistern, these pieces are designed to engage us as viewers, to immerse us in an immersive experience, in the tapestries' intricate layers of meaning and memory, encouraging and challenging us to reflect on how our memories are both fragmented and interconnected, and how we construct our perspectives through the threads of our own experiences.

Maria Appleton's works can be seen as liminal spaces, storing skins. They bridge the gap between the tangible and the intangible, the past and the present, the personal and the collective.

Filippa Oliveira

About Maria Appleton:

Maria Appleton (b. 1997) is a textile artist based in Lisbon, Portugal. Graduating from the Chelsea College of Arts in London in 2019, Appleton was selected for various international residencies and was invited to participate in several exhibitions across European galleries. She was selected in 2018 to the Kyoto Institute of Technology (2018, Kyoto, Japan) and the EMMA Institute where she developed *Nicht eine Stadt, die war; stadt bad* (2020, Pforzheim, Germany). In 2022, Appleton was invited by the French Institute to be a resident at the Cité Internationale des Arts (2022 in Paris, France; residency funded by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation). Her first solo exhibition, *Gaze to see, Gauze to perceive* opened in 2021 at Galeria Foco, Lisbon. For his first solo presentation in Paris with HATCH, Appleton presents *Is There Yet Space For Light*. The artist participated in her first art fair at ARCO Madrid in February 2023 with the Galeria Foco. She is currently being exhibited at Casa da Cerca, the Contemporary Art Center in Almada, Lisbon.

Maria Appleton's practice finds its material form in an ongoing search for color and form, developed through multiple dyeing, weaving and printing techniques. Her pieces unfold as chromatic imprints on a juxtaposition of layers of cotton, silk and other industrial fabrics, defining a series of abstract and vibrant transparencies. Probing architectural conceptions of space, the artist challenges the experience of the eye through optical perspective games, while remaining very attentive to the movements of bodies.

About HATCH:

Hatch, synonymous word to incubate, is a gallery dedicated to support and promote international young and emerging artists, through fresh, vibrant and engaged exhibition programmes. Located in Paris and operating across non-traditional settings, the gallery highlights multidisciplinary practices that defy the boundaries of traditional art disciplines. Founded in 2022 by Margot de Rochebouët and Giovanna Traversa, Hatch takes a collaborative approach with its artists and prioritizes a close relationship with its collectors.

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Informations:

Adresse :
Casa da Cerca, Centre d'Art
Contemporain d'Almada

Exhibition until February 24, 2024
From Tuesday to Sunday
10am to 5:30pm

R. da Cerca, 2800-050 Almada,
Portugal

Exhibition until February 24, 2024

HATCH

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