



RUI FREIRE
Fine Art

BELA SILVA

MOMENTO SUSPENSO





BELA SILVA — SUSPENDED MOMENT

"The purpose of art is washing the dust of daily life off our souls."
— Pablo Picasso

In her recent gouaches, **Bela Silva** transforms color and gesture into records of fleeting, unrepeatable moments. Each brushstroke emerges from an immediate intuition, as though she allowed her hand to follow the current of imagination without restraint. This spontaneity, where accident and revelation coexist, infuses the works with a striking humanity. Color, here, is not simply an aesthetic device but a vital force, inseparable from the artist's sensibility. It is in this space, suspended between free gesture and cultural memory, that Silva locates her most authentic terrain: each painting the singular trace of an irretrievable instant.

"I am Portuguese, I am American, I am Belgian..."

This declaration is not about geography but identity. A plural figure, Bela Silva creates, whether in clay or on paper, a universe where imagination acquires form, color, and presence.

Born in Lisbon, she studied sculpture in Lisbon, Porto, and Norwich before joining the Art Institute of Chicago, where she embraced an experimental freedom across sculpture, ceramics, fashion, foundry, and photography. Later, she lived between Lisbon, Paris, and Brussels, while collaborating with Hermès, Ginori 1735, Vista Alegre, and Bordallo Pinheiro, and exhibiting in museums in Portugal, France, Brazil, and the United States. She was the first Portuguese artist to design a carré for Hermès (*La Maison des Oiseaux Parleurs*).



Though ceramics remain her chosen medium, malleable, tactile, and sensorial, her practice extends to gouache, drawing, murals, and azulejo, unfolding an imagination at once intimate and universal.

In this new series, inspired by the heritage of the **Palácio Fronteira**, Silva reinvents the tradition of Portuguese tilework in exuberant compositions where gardens, birds, and foliage interlace in bold gestures and vivid hues. Works such as *Forêt Amoureuse*, *Moment Suspendu*, and *Explosion de Confetti* unfold with a pictorial lyricism that balances spontaneity and structure, while their monumentality and chromatic clarity imbue the compositions with both vibrancy and strength.

“These drawings, created from this universe, I hope will convey a world inhabited by birds, foliage, a whole colorful atmosphere. In a time of so many horrors, more than ever we need color, the ability to fly through creativity, and to reach a magical world where friendship, kindness, and care for others still exist.”

Her memories—of monasteries and palaces, of Lisbon haunts such as Solmar with its Fellinian *Dolce Vita* aura—interweave with the experience of exile and the discipline of labor.

“When I think of the Palácio da Fronteira, I feel a sense of wonder, a certain naïveté in its designs that transports me to a childhood where reading was a privilege and stories opened entire worlds. The subtle technique of different blue gradations, so difficult to master, can only be achieved through practice.”

Between tradition and modernity, between memory and invention, Bela Silva offers a body of work both organic and lyrical, where color emerges as a vital space of resistance and wonder.

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Opening: October 1, 6:30 pm

Exhibition: October 2, 2025 – January 9, 2026



Image: © Nuno Sousa

Moment Suspendu , 2025

Gouache on paper

140,5 x 180 cm





Explosion de Confetti, 2025
Gouache on paper
88,5 x 90 cm



Kaléidoscopique, 2025

Gouache on paper

140 x 120 cm





Aventura da Sombra, 2025
Gouache on paper
80 x 180 cm







Gôût des métamorphoses , 2025

Gouache on paper

50 x 110 cm

Com moldura: 64,5 x 124,5 x 6 cm





Noites ao Luar, 2025
Gouache on paper
140 x 109 cm





Nuage de Fleurs , 2025

Gouache on paper

140.5 x 90 cm

Com moldura: 155 x 105 x 6 cm







Caprichos do Olhar , 2025
Gouache on paper
160 x 60.5 cm





Waves of Mouvement , 2025
Gouache on paper
110 x 90 cm







To my Delight, 2025
Gouache on paper
50 x 60 cm



Converging Lines , 2025
Gouache on paper
50 x 60 cm





Forêt Amoureuse, 2025
Gouache on paper
50 x 60 cm



Amour en fruit , 2025
Gouache on paper
47.5 x 49.5 cm



Amour Durable, 2025
Gouache on paper
50 x 60 cm





Souffle Coupé, 2025
Gouache on paper
50 x 60 cm



Le Délire, 2025
Gouache on paper
50 x 60 cm











Horários: Ter-Sab 14h-19h
(ou por marcação)

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2 Outubro - 9 Janeiro 2026

