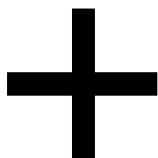


ana

betânia



CONTEMPORARY CERAMICS



ana

betânia

is

a Portuguese art duo constituted by Ana Cruz and Maria de Betânia who started working together on sculptural ceramics in 2012.

The duo is currently based in Caldas da Rainha.

Their body of work is often influenced by Portuguese popular ceramics, but the concepts and subjects they bring up are way far from traditional.

In this partnership, both of the artists are involved in every single step during the process, since the first brainstormings (which involve theoretical research and lots of sketches) to the studio work and the planning of an exhibition. Working together made this procedure develop faster and gain a larger scale.

As sculptors whose work is based upon modelling and shaping clay in a classical and realistic way, the duo mainly uses high fire bodies, especially stoneware.

Conceptually, an analysis about the feminine is proposed.

Not "The Feminine" as a solemn, philosophical idea, but the time-permeable feminine being, visible through the multiple and complex mutations that women suffer involuntarily throughout their existential march.

The duo appropriates a surreal, humorous language, deconstructing the human body (both male and female), so to build visual metaphors that appeal both to tenderness and delicacy... in a perverted, twisted way.

Playful and brutal at the same time.

**ELIZABETH (THE VIRGIN QUEEN)**

2016

Stoneware, stains, glaze, golden luster  
L8 x D5 x H12 cm



**LOVE/COMBAT**

2016

Earthenware, stains, glaze, mother-of-pearl luster  
L40 x D7 x H25 cm



**L'ORIGIN DU MONDE**

2016

Stoneware, stains, glaze, silver luster  
L30 x D5 x H30 cm



**MIRAGE**

2017

Stoneware, stains, glaze  
L14 x D10 x H22 cm



**ORANGE BLOSSOM**

2016

Earthenware, stains, glaze  
L22 x D1 x H17 cm



**BIG BANG**  
2017

Red earthenware, stains, glazes  
L30 x D12 x H40 cm



**STICKY MONSTERS**  
2014

Earthenware, glaze, enamels, golden  
luster, wood shelf  
L30 X D20 x H7 cm



**ATOMIC BOMB**

2017

Stoneware, crystalline glaze  
L30 x D25 x H55 cm





**FEED ME**

2017

Slip cast earthenware, paperclay, stains, glaze, found porcelain  
L30 x D7 x H30 cm



**PUPPY LOVE**  
2017

Stoneware, stains, glaze  
L23 x D20 x H28 cm



**BANANA SPLIT:  
THE MURDER PRICK FLOURISHING**  
2016

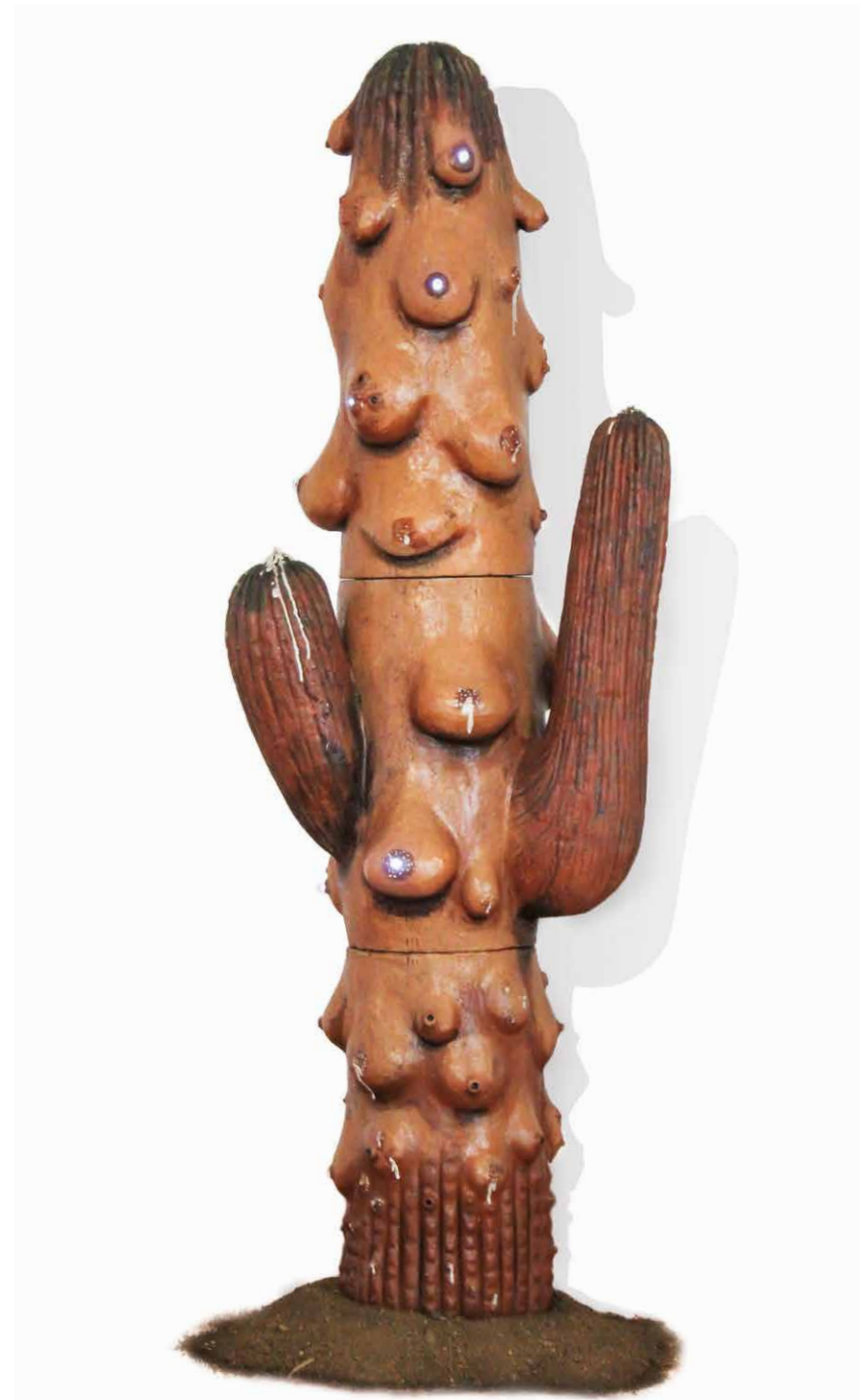
Stoneware, white slip, stains, glaze  
L18 x D7-18 x H7-15cm



**MILKY CACTUS FOR THOSE LOST  
IN THE ORAL STAGE**

2015

Red earthenware, engobes, glaze  
L80 x D60 x H165 cm



**ROOSTER'S CROWING**

2016

Stoneware, stains, glaze  
L15 x D15 x H40cm



**BRIDE**

2016

Stoneware, stains, glaze  
L15 x D15 x H40cm



**NURSERY**  
2016

Stoneware, stains, glaze, terracotta bricks, wood shelves  
L190 x D120 x H130cm



## FAITH PER CAPITA

2013

Limoges porcelain, glaze, golden luster  
L70 x D70 x H49 cm



This sculpture aimed to reflect about Europe and China relations, particularly in trading.

It was meant to be an interactive work: the viewer may handle the fragile porcelain heads and change the top of the body to his/her own discretion. This piece is anchored on the concept of Saint Mary as an icon of southern Europe cultural identity, beyond its intrinsic religious value.



## IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER

2014

Limoges porcelain, glaze, golden luster  
L180 x D6 x H17 cm



The inspiration for this piece stemmed from the war in Syria and the ensuing violence and suffering. It is composed by an army of seven bionic hearts. Seven hearts that could perfectly be beating inside any chest if they were not hard and brittle instruments of war instead of propellant vehicles. "Let us remove their hearts and eat them".

## EDUCATION

**2001-2006:** B.A. in Fine Arts, Fine Arts Faculty of Lisbon University, PT.



## CONTESTS

**2014:** 1st Prize, 17th Biennial of Esplugues, Barcelona, ES.

**2011:** Honourable mention, 10th Biennial of Artistic Ceramics, Aveiro, PT.

**2010:** Honourable mention, CERCO, Zaragoza, ES.

**2009:** 3rd Prize, 9th Biennial of Artistic Ceramics, Aveiro, PT.

## RESIDENCIES

**2015:** Oficinas da Cerâmica e da Terra (Earth and Ceramics Center), Montemor-o-Novo, PT.

**2014:** Oficinas do Convento, Montemor-o-Novo, PT.

**2012:** "Muel Ceramics Alive" (residency and scholarship) at Escuela-Taller de Cerámica de Muel - with Rafa Perez and Miguel Molet -, Zaragoza, ES.

## ARTIST TALKS

**2015:** Iberian Residency of Ceramics, National Tile Museum, Lisbon, PT.

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

### SOLO SHOWS

**2017:** "Flesh Flowers", Antonia Puyo Gallery, Zaragoza, ES.

**2016:** "Entre Folhos" ("Private Parts"), City Gallery, Montemor-o-Novo, PT.

**2015:** "Femina", Abraço Gallery, Lisbon, PT.

### GROUP SHOWS

**2016:** + "Manas das Caldas", Caldas Late Night, Caldas da Rainha, PT.

+ "Contemporary Ceramics", Quartel Gallery, Abrantes, PT.

**2015:** + "Barreiro Rocks" Music Festival, Barreiro, PT.

+ 12th Biennial of Artistic Ceramics, Aveiro, PT.

+ "Artistes Premisats", Potters Association of Catalonia Gallery, Barcelona, ES.

+ "Carmo is a womanly name", Carmo'81 Gallery, Viseu, PT.

+ "11", Abraço Gallery, Lisbon, PT.

**2014:** "Give it a shot" (happening), Montemor-o-Novo, PT.

**2013:** "Face to Face: Portugal and China", Fine Arts Faculty Gallery and Foyer of Lisbon University Rectorate, Lisbon, PT.

**2012:** + "Virgin Capital" (happening), Muel, ES.

+ "Museum-Kampus", National Museum of Contemporary Art, Lisbon, PT.

## OTHER

**2013:** present: Ana Cruz is a member of the International Academy of Ceramics.

**2009:** present: Both Ana and Betânia are art therapists at two mental health institutes in Lisbon.



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