

KADIST

Jota Mombaça: THE SINKING SHIP/PROSPERITY

KADIST San Francisco

October 27, 2022–January 28, 2023 [extended through February 11, 2023]

see:

in the absence of place

the planet's foreigner exits any sense of geography

locality is lost, not here

nor there. stuck in movement (in the tide)

–Jota Mombaça, excerpt from *what is coming for you is only dawn* (2022)

KADIST San Francisco presents [*Jota Mombaça: THE SINKING SHIP/PROSPERITY*](#), the interdisciplinary artist's first solo exhibition in the US, a large-scale sculptural installation accompanied by sound and video works exploring how water behaves and “the radicality of sinking.” This body of work by the Brazilian-born and Amsterdam and Lisbon-based Jota Mombaça carries on and emerges from a cycle of performances focused on elemental ways of sensing, that began earlier this year at the future site of the Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo on the island of San Giacomo in Venice, Italy; the International Artists Studio Program in Stockholm, Sweden; and de Appel Amsterdam in The Netherlands, that enmesh materiality and performativity with social and political histories of the waterways that form around those localities.

Jota Mombaça's practice entwines drawing and writing as well as installation, performance, sculpture, sound, and video. This fluid approach flows from their research, which engages the continuing traumas of the Transatlantic slave trade and the escalating impact of the climate crisis, traversing such topics as global water transport, displacement, water control systems, queer mourning, and time travel.

For *THE SINKING SHIP/PROSPERITY*, Jota Mombaça presents a group of sculptures made from cotton and linen fabrics that have been submerged in bodies of water at or near each of the performance sites—The Venetian Lagoon, an Amsterdam canal, as well as new commissions produced in the San Francisco Bay Area's San Pablo Bay, San Francisco Bay, and the Pacific Ocean. These fabric sculptures, titled *Ghost 0*, *Ghost 2*, and *Ghost 1* (all 2022) appear to float through the gallery, supported by steel armature resembling whale rib bones. Referring to and holding space for the artist's recent performance works, Mombaça transforms the gallery into “a wordless spectral realm” and a “place of letting go.” As an exhibition that

resonates with the changing dynamics of water, a fourth fabric sculpture, *Ghost 4(b)*, and two newly commissioned video works will be unveiled during the course of the exhibition.

Jota Mombaça: THE SINKING SHIP/PROSPERITY considers both the “climates” surrounding the artist’s recent performances and the unfolding of their material connections. The sway of Jota Mombaça’s actions and objects and the atmospheres they create continues a deep practice of radical transfeminist activism, asking what we might learn about decolonialism and climate justice by listening to the water.

A monthly public program series called [Currents](#) animates Jota Mombaça’s exhibition, with a conversation between the artist and critic and philosopher Darla Migan; a performance for the debut of *waterwill* (2022), a video drawn from footage of the sculptures being sunk and resurfaced that will be projected within *Ghost 0*, produced in collaboration with Anti Ribeiro and Darwin Marinho; and the release of a limited-edition publication of the artist’s drawings and poems.

Current 1: Conversation with Jota Mombaça and Darla Migan, November 14, 2022 [Video recording [here](#)]

Current 2: *Grieving Time*, Performance by Jota Mombaça and Debut of *waterwill* (2022), December 8, 2022 [Video recording [here](#)]

Current 3: Artist publication release, January 12, 2023