

The approach

Anderson Borba *Secret Ceremony*

5 June - 26 July 2025

Preview: Wednesday 4 June, 6-9pm

The Approach is pleased to present Anderson Borba *Secret Ceremony*, the Brazilian artist's first solo exhibition with the gallery. Borba lives and works in both London and São Paulo. Through his practice he seeks textural ambiguity, twisting and expanding the material and conceptual possibilities of wood, creating autonomous totems or hanging wall reliefs.

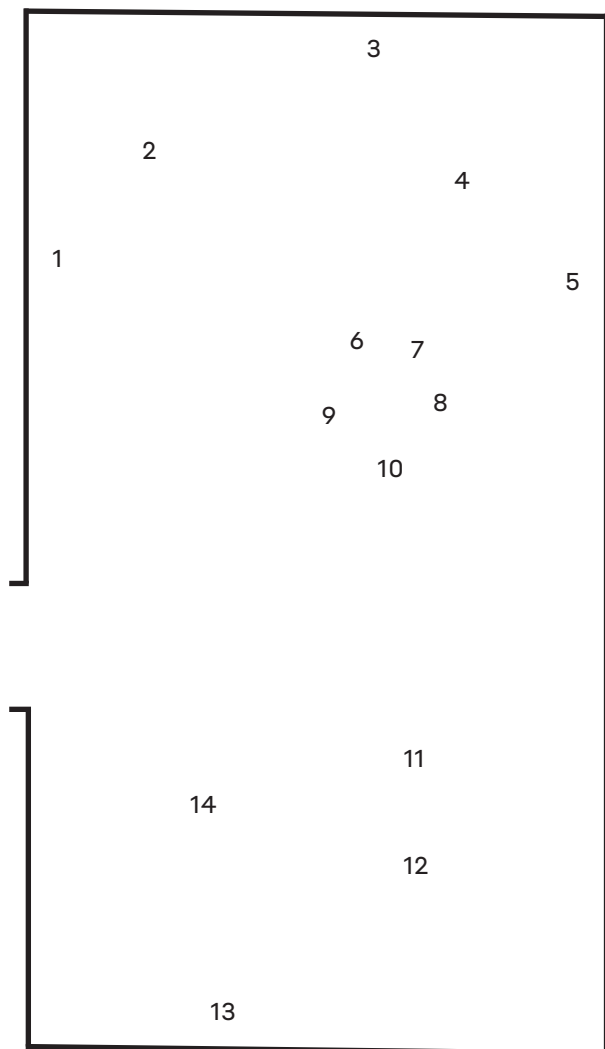
A distinctive feature of Borba's approach is the synthesis of traditional techniques with contemporary modes of expression, such as digitally manipulated images where the boundaries between image and material blur. Borba's practice involves negotiating with materials to determine the final form of his works. The artist carves, burns, paints, presses, and manipulates these elements in a process-driven construction, resulting in rough, cracked, yet seductive body shapes.

Influenced by both the historical canon of sculpture and the self-taught artists of Brazil's interior, Borba operates within a complex interplay between concept and experience, displacing and unfolding the physical body into an anthropomorphic abstraction. His sculptures, marked by a strong sense of physicality, often assume near-human scales, gazing impassively at those who observe them.

The exhibition is accompanied by a text by Bernardo José de Souza.

Anderson Borba (b. 1972, Santos, BR) lives and works in London and São Paulo. Recent solo and two person exhibitions include: *Harvest* (with Marta Jakobovits), Elizabeth Xi Bauer, London, UK (2025); *Thinking Hands* (with Gokula Stoffel), Francois Ghebally, New York, USA; *Anderson Borba + Dudi Maia Rosa, auroras*, São Paulo, Brazil (2024); *Anderson Borba + Erika Verzutti*, Pivô, São Paulo, Brazil (2023).

Recent group exhibitions include: *Quebracorpo*, Fortes D'Aloia & Gabriel, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2025); *Passages / 10th Anniversary Exhibition*, Encounter, Lisbon, Portugal; *Eu não confio*, Galeria Cavalo, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; *Ghosts in Sunlight*, Thirsk Hall, North Yorkshire, UK; *On feeling*, The Approach, London, UK; *Woodworks*, Lamb Gallery, London, UK (all 2024).



1. *Hanging*, 2025
Wood, paper, pigment, PVA, oil pastel, oil paint, cayenne pepper, turmeric, snake skin
42 x 74 x 8 cm
2. *Grace*, 2025
Wood, fabric, oil paint, pigment, oil pastel and shellac
182.5 x 25 x 33 cm
3. *Yellow mosaic*, 2025
Wood, paper, pastel, wax and lacquer
29 x 55 x 7 cm
4. *The Flicker*, 2025
Wood, paper, stone, pigment, cayenne pepper, metallic pigment wax, sawdust, pigment, PVA, oil pastel and peacock feather
153 x 35.5 x 24.5 cm
5. *For Luck*, 2025
Wood, paper, pigment, oil pastel and shellac
35 x 25 x 6 cm
6. *Black Marrow*, 2025
Wood, paper, stone, plaster, pigment, oil pastel, sawdust and shellac
164 x 24 x 25.5 cm
7. *Wisp*, 2025
Wood, paper, pigment, oil pastel, sawdust, cayenne pepper and shellac
161 x 19 x 25 cm
8. *Composite*, 2025
Wood, bronze, pigment, oil pastel and shellac
143 x 20 x 24 cm
9. *Line Body*, 2025
Wood, stone, paper, pigment, oil pastel, spray paint, sawdust, cayenne pepper and shellac
171 x 26 x 14 cm
10. *Analog Ghost*, 2025
Wood, paper, stone, plaster, pigment, oil pastel, sawdust and shellac
150 x 19 x 21 cm
11. *Mallet*, 2025
Wood, pigment, oil pastel, turmeric, cayenne pepper, sawdust and shellac
160 x 33 x 16 cm
12. *Black Halo*, 2025
Wood, pigment, oil pastel, sawdust, turmeric, cayenne pepper and shellac
164 x 33 x 24 cm
13. *Fluke*, 2025
Wood, magazine pages, printed paper, oil pastel, lacquer
33 x 45 x 7 cm
14. *Ingrained*, 2025
Wood, paper, plaster, pigment, oil pastel and sawdust
118 x 40 x 30 cm

In the office:

Medallion, 2025
Wood, paper, pigment, oil pastel and shellac
58 x 25 x 6 cm