Francisco Tropa

MISS AMERICA

April 29 – June 20, 2026



Galerie Jocelyn Wolff

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Francisco Tropa's work is grounded in an imaginary world that is continually nourished by literature, philosophy, history, and conversation, notably through the exploration of themes such as vanitas and representations of the measurement of time. *MISS AMERICA* is the name of an imagined boat, which one boards as soon as the gallery doors are crossed. It is also the title of a narrative, visualised by Tropa. Thus, the exhibition allegorically invokes the maritime world, and more specifically naufragium in its ancient (Roman) sense—that is, an accident or an uncontrolled fall. This word was used to refer both to shipwrecks and to chariot accidents in the Roman circus.

The boat, the sailors, and the shipwreck are also figures that have evoked imagery since ancient times, such as Ulysses in the Odyssey, and are associated with the story of a character constantly in motion. At the origin of this exhibition lies an object unearthed by an archaeologist friend: a small bronze tower designed for casting dice. Dropped through an opening at its summit, the dice cascade down an internal staircase before revealing their final arrangement—an orchestrated fall that invokes chance and may be read as an allegory of the Roman notion of naufragium.

The first part of this fiction, *MISS AMERICA*, was recently presented at the Palazzo De' Toschi in Bologna, curated by Simone Menegoi. At Galerie Jocelyn Wolff in Paris, visitors are invited to discover two new chapters that complete the story of *MISS AMERICA : Poor Captain and Shipwreck.*

The myth of the sailor is also accompanied by songs. The artist therefore asked a close collaborator from the maritime world to write three songs, each inspired by one of the three chapters of the story. They reflect the language of sailors and provide clues for deciphering the allegory. These songs are made available to the public in a leaflet at the entrance to the gallery.

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Francisco Tropa was born in 1968; he lives and works in Lisbon.

Among his recent solo exhibitions are: Miss America, Palazzo Toschi, Bologna (2025); Paésine, Nouveau Musée National de Monaco, 2024; ⒶMO-TE, Museu Serralves, Porto, 2024; Le Poumon et le Cœur, Musée d'art moderne de Paris, 2022; Che Vuoi?, Le Creux de l'Enfer, Thiers, 2022; The Pyrgus from Chaves, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon, 2019; Scripta (performance), Centre National de la Danse, Paris, 2018; Gigante (performance), Festival MOVE, Centre Pompidou, Paris, 2018; TSAE – Trésors submergés de l'ancienne Égypte, Musée régional d'art contemporain Languedoc-Roussillon, Sérignan, 2015; TSAE – Tesouros Submersos do Antigo Egipto, Museu de Lisboa, 2014; STAE – Submerged Treasures of Ancient Egypt, La Verrière, Fondation d'entreprise Hermès, Brussels, 2013.

He has participated twice in the Venice Biennale (in 2003, in the international exhibition, and in 2011 as the representative of Portugal), as well as in the Rennes Biennale (2012), the Istanbul Biennial (2011), Manifesta (2000), the Melbourne Biennial (1999), and the São Paulo Biennial (1998).



Pierre, 2025
Inv.# FT/S 364
Patinated bronze, on plinth
Total dimensions : 125 x 50 x 140 cm
Ed. 1/2 + 1 A.P.



Pierre, 2025
Inv.# FT/S 364
Reverse side



Coquillage, 2025
Inv.# FT/S 365
Patinated bronze
159 x 81.5 x 15.5 cm
A.P.



Cloison #3, 2025
Inv.# FT/S 373
Beech wood, painted plywood, patinated bronze, brass, silkscreen print on plywood
220 x 105 x 51 cm
Unique

Francisco Tropa



Cloison #3, 2025
Inv.# FT/S 373
Reverse side



Cloison #1, 2025
Inv.# FT/S 371
Beech wood, painted plywood, patinated bronze, brass, silkscreen print on plywood
220 x 170 x 57 cm
Unique

Francisco Tropa



Cloison #1, 2025
Inv.# FT/S 371
Reverse side

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Cloison #2, 2025
Inv.# FT/S 372
Beech wood, painted plywood, patinated bronze, brass, silkscreen print on plywood
220 x 105 x 51 cm
Unique

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Cloison #2, 2025
Inv.# FT/S 372
Reverse side

Francisco Tropa



Cloison #4, 2025
Inv.# FT/S 374
Beech wood, painted plywood, patinated iron, screen printing on plywood
220 x 170 x 57 cm
Unique

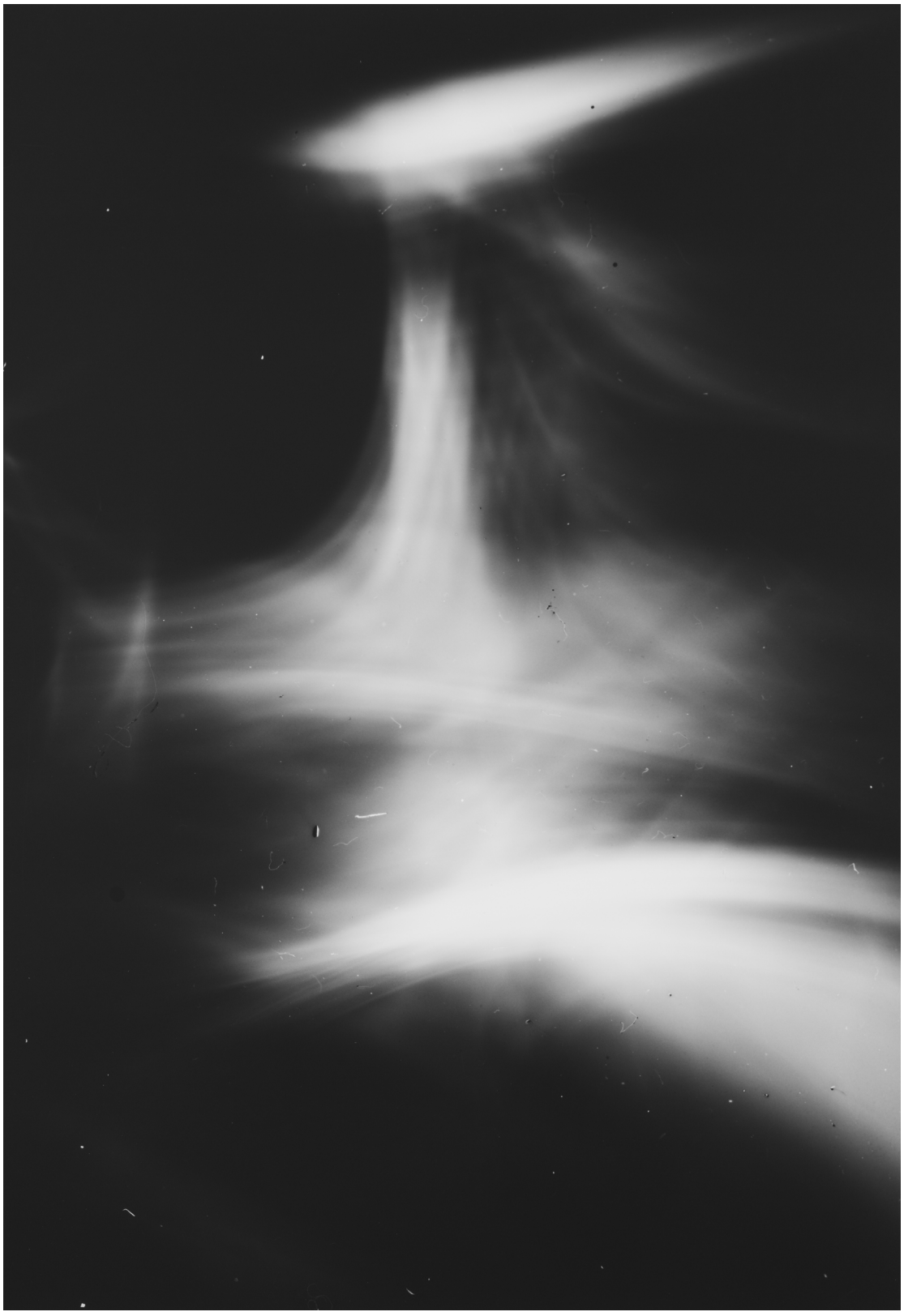
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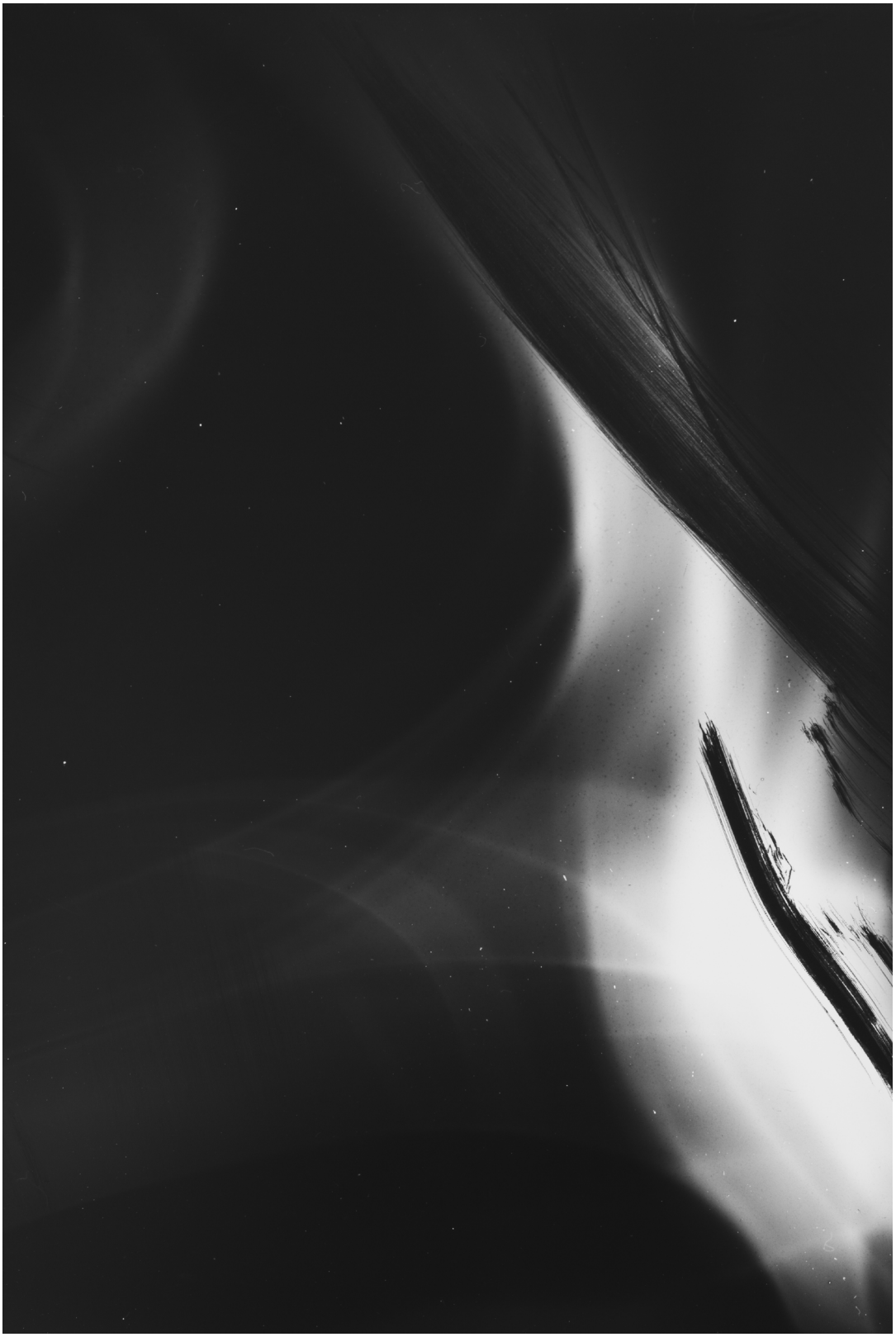
Cloison #4, 2025
Inv.# FT/S 374
Reverse side



Naufrage, 2025
Inv.# FT/PH 59
Cliché-verre - Gelatin silver print
Print : 82 x 60 cm
Framed : 107 x 85.1 x 4 cm
Ed. 1/2 + 1 A.P.



Naufrage, 2025
Inv.# FT/PH 60
Cliché-verre - Gelatin silver print
Print : 82 x 60 cm
Framed : 107 x 85.1 x 4 cm
Ed. 1/2 + 1 A.P.



Naufrage, 2025
Inv.# FT/PH 61
Cliché-verre - Gelatin silver print
Print : 82 x 60 cm
Framed : 107 x 85.1 x 4 cm
Ed. 1/2 + 1 A.P.



Naufrage, 2025
Inv.# FT/PH 62
Cliché-verre - Gelatin silver print
Print : 82 x 60 cm
Framed : 107 x 85.1 x 4 cm
Ed. 1/2 + 1 A.P.



Naufrage, 2025
Inv.# FT/PH 63
Cliché-verre - Gelatin silver print
Print : 82 x 60 cm
Framed : 107 x 85.1 x 4 cm
Ed. 1/2 + 1 A.P.



Naufrage, 2025
Inv.# FT/PH 64
Cliché-verre - Gelatin silver print
Print : 82 x 60
Framed : 85.1 x 107 x 4cm
Ed. 1/2 + 1 A.P.

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Naufrage, 2026
Inv.# FT/PR 3
Cliché-verre, Photogravure with chine-glued printing
79 x 53 cm
Framed : 80.5 x 54.5 x 4 cm
Ed. 3 + 1 A.P.

Francisco Tropa



Naufrage, 2026
Inv.# FT/PR 4
Cliché-verre, Photogravure with chine-glued printing
79 x 53 cm
Framed : 80.5 x 54.5 x 4 cm
Ed. 3 + 1 A.P.

Francisco Tropa



Naufrage, 2026
Inv.# FT/PR 5
Cliché-verre, Photogravure with chine-glued printing
79 x 53 cm
Framed : 80.5 x 54.5 x 4 cm
Ed. 3 + 1 A.P.



Naufrage, 2026
Inv.# FT/PR 6
Cliché-verre, Photogravure with chine-glued printing
79 x 53 cm
Framed : 80.5 x 54.5 x 4 cm
Ed. 3 + 1 A.P.



Lampe à petrole, 2025
Inv.# FT/S 377
Bronze
49 x 13 x 13 cm, 5 kg
Ed. 4 + 1 A.P.

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Untitled, 2025
Inv.# FT/S 369
Painted bronze, painted brass, painted wood
295 x 28 x 67 cm
Unique out of aa series of 3 + 1 A.P