

Soft Ground

Comporta 2026 summer exhibition

With works by Laís Amaral, Marcius Galan, João Maria Gusmão, Anne Lefebvre, Cristiano Lenhardt, Patrícia Leite, Arthur Lescher, Daniel Steegmann Mangrané, Ernesto Neto, Lygia Pape, Santídio Pereira, Paulo Nimer Pjota, Solange Pessoa, Marina Rheingantz, Paula Siebra, Manuella Silveira, Marcos Siqueira, Antonio Társis, Pedro Tudela, Pedro Vaz, Flávia Vieira, Erika Verzutti, and Luiz Zerbini.

Fortes D'Aloia & Gabriel is pleased to announce *Soft Ground*, the sixth edition of its annual summer exhibition in Comporta, Portugal, presented for the second consecutive year in collaboration with **Mendes Wood DM** and, for the first time, with the Portuguese gallery **Kubikgallery**, from July 4 to September 5, 2026.

This year's programming takes place across two venues: the Casa da Cultura da Comporta and the Espaço Museológico Museu do Arroz. The exhibition brings contemporary art into dialogue with the region's distinct atmosphere, offering a slower, more contemplative mode of engagement. Rooted in openness and dialogue, the initiative reflects the gallery's collaborative ethos by fostering meaningful partnerships with like-minded institutions.

Set in Comporta's expansive rice fields and golden dunes, one of the longest uninterrupted beaches in the world and one of Europe's most significant natural reserves, **Soft Ground** confronts the compounding pressures now bearing down on the region. Recent seasons of catastrophic weather have made the stakes impossible to ignore: storms eating into the coastline, entire towns submerged by floodwaters, the landscape changing before our eyes with a violence and speed that leaves little room for doubt. *"I have witnessed this region transform over the past decades, and these debates have become more pressing than ever,"* says Maria Ana Pimenta, partner and international director at Fortes D'Aloia & Gabriel, and conceiver of the annual project. *"We are interested in bringing to Comporta a compelling visual and material experience, while opening a dialogue around issues central to this region and deeply connected to the practices of our artists."* It was this sense of accelerating crisis that crystallised the exhibition's urgency for its organisers. *"The changes we are witnessing are not only ecological but social and political, and we felt this had to be addressed now, through art,"* says **Carolyn Drake Kandiyoti**, Partner at Mendes Wood DM. *"Climate crisis and real estate speculation are no longer abstract forces here; they are physically reshaping the land and the lives of those who inhabit it."*

Across various media the artists attend closely to this moment of transition. Rather than elegies for what has been lost, the works ask what comes next, and whether there is still time to shape it. *Soft Ground* is presented across two spaces by three galleries whose collaboration reflects a shared conviction that the moment calls for a collective response, an artistic exchange that extends beyond traditional exhibition models. Kubik Gallery has been present in Comporta for two consecutive summers, deepening its engagement with the region and its community. *"Joining forces with Fortes D'Aloia & Gabriel and Mendes Wood DM for Soft Ground allows us to create something with real reach,"* says **João Azinheiro**, Director of Kubik Gallery. *"An exhibition that speaks to the region as a whole and to the scale*

of what is at stake." Together, the three galleries open an urgent dialogue between fragile gestures of care and preservation and the ecological, social, and political forces threatening to overwhelm them.

A critical essay by curator and writer **Filipa Ramos** will accompany the exhibition. Ramos is one of the most significant voices working at the intersection of art, ecology, and moving image, known for her rigorous engagement with questions of multispecies coexistence, environmental fragility, and the politics of landscape. Her text will offer a critical framework for the questions the exhibition raises, about land, transformation, and the forms of attention and care we must still choose to practice.

Practical information

Duration: July 4 – September 5, 2026

Visitation: Tuesday – Sunday, 11 am – 2 pm | 5 pm – 8 pm

Addresses

Casa da Cultura: Rua do Secador 8, Comporta – Portugal

Espaço Museológico Museu do Arroz: Alameda Estrada Nacional 253, Km 1, Comporta – Portugal

About Fortes D'Aloia & Gabriel

Founded as Galeria Fortes Vilaça in 2001, Fortes D'Aloia & Gabriel has established itself as one of the leading contemporary art galleries in the world, maintaining a dynamic program of approximately 15 exhibitions per year across its spaces in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, in addition to a strong presence at major art fairs. Márcia Fortes, Alessandra D'Aloia, and Alexandre Gabriel celebrate 25 years of activity in 2026 with a roster of 51 artists, 34 of whom are Brazilian. In 2025, Ana Paula Pacianotto, Luiza Calmon, and Maria Ana Pimenta became partners at the gallery, further strengthening its structure and future vision. The gallery is dedicated to nurturing long-term relationships with its represented artists, supporting emerging voices, cultivating established careers and significant expressions, and fostering connections with museums and curators around the world. Committed to building innovative models, Fortes D'Aloia & Gabriel also invests in collaborations with other galleries and institutions through independent and hybrid projects.

About Mendes Wood DM

Mendes Wood DM was founded in São Paulo in 2010 by Felipe Dmab, Matthew Wood, and Pedro Mendes to exhibit international and Brazilian artists in a context conducive to critical dialogue and the cross-pollination of ideas. Inspired by the belief that artistic practices broaden the scope of human agency and have the power to change the world, the gallery cultivates a program grounded in conceptualism, political resistance, and intellectual rigor. Central to the program is a concern for regional difference and individuation while still

fostering cosmopolitanism and collaboration. The gallery has two exhibition spaces in São Paulo, one in the Tribeca neighborhood of New York, and two venues in Europe. It has been active in Brussels since 2017 and expanded to Paris in 2023 with a space on the Place des Vosges in the Marais. The European presence is led by partner Carolyn Drake Kandiyoti.

About Kubikgallery

Kubikgallery emerged as a space for the dissemination of contemporary art and representation of Portuguese and foreign artists in 2010. The gallery seeks to promote the exhibition and circulation of its artists' work through participation in international art fairs and collaboration with other cultural and artistic activities, thus developing an intense and dynamic program inside and outside Portugal. Since 2015, the gallery has worked closely with Brazil, a proximity that has enabled the exchange of artists and various opportunities to enrich their careers. In October 2024, Kubik opens a space in Lisbon that brings the possibility to reach new audiences, being physically closer to what happens in the capital and with a great focus on the appreciation of contemporary art and promoting artists of several areas of visual arts.