

Néle Azevedo

Artist and Independent Scholar
Selected Installations and Performances

Minimum Monument | Monumento Mínimo¹

01 January

Urban Action in Public Spaces

2020

Giardino degli Aranci

Rome, Italy



¹ Photographs by Pedro Palhares and Néle Azevedo.



Minimum Monument

is an urban art action in public spaces that has traveled to many cities around the world. It consists of a large number of tiny ice sculptures that are shaped like men and women, which are collectively arranged at specific central locations in cities, with the help of volunteers and passers-by. Often placed on stairways, they are left to melt, fostering an experiential and visual dialogue with the public.

Minimum Monument's symbolically important participation was featured at La Festa di Roma, a celebration of the arrival of the year 2020 by the City of Rome, which was conceptualized as an ode to Nature and Planet Earth.

Originally conceived to interrogate the concept of the monument, *Minimum Monument* is an anti-monument. However, its images received worldwide attention after the Gendarmenmarkt performance in Berlin on September 2009, where it became a symbolic warning of the dangers of global warming and raised the interest of audiences beyond the circuits of contemporary art. This expanded meaning in reading the work was integrated into the original concept of *Minimal Monument*, broadening its interrogation in two areas: —the threats generated by global warming and climate change; —another way of celebrating the public memory of historical events.

*Historical Interweaving.*

Photographic overlap of *Minimum Monument* and *Le Radeau de la Méduse* (1818/1819) by Théodore Géricault. By Néle Azevedo.

*Suspended State/Estado de suspensão*²

28 June

Installation/Performance

2019

Ramos de Azevedo Square,
in front of the São Paulo Municipal Theater
São Paulo, Brazil



² Photographs by Edouard Fraipont.





Suspended State

is an ephemeral public art installation/performance involving more than 1000 elongated ice figures that are suspended at various heights by threads from a metal frame. Sitting over kitchen pots, bowls and lids, the anthropomorphic sculptures slowly melt in a state of suspension. To dramatize the spectacle, the dripping, cracking and breaking sound of the melting ice is amplified by microphones.

As the ice bodies hang in a temporary state of suspension, a state of being somewhere without actually being there, their fragility and ephemeral quality may come to signify a provisional state of transition.

The temporality of the suspended ice figures, their melting bodies and their expanded sound entail both a subjective and a collective experience, one that is temporal and rhythmic; eliciting questions about the body, existence, subjectivity and space.

Free falling/Queda livre³

14 December

Installation/Performance

2019

Reocupa Gallery at Ocupação 9 de julho, MTSC

São Paulo, Brazil



³ Photographs taken from frames of video by JP Acácio.



Free falling

is an ephemeral artistic installation in which three frozen sculptures that contain clay harvested at three locations in Minas Gerais are suspended by a thread and positioned over a metal bowl.

The locations are in Brumadinho, Mariana and Barão de Cocais. Mariana and Brumadinho were the sites of the collapse of two mining dams operated by Samarco Mineração and Vale companies in 2015 and 2019, respectively. These events represent the largest mine tailings disaster in Brazil. In the city of Barão de Cocais, residents live under the permanent risk of collapse of the upper Alto Sul dam that collects the mining waste from the Congo Soco mine.

The suspended frozen figures slowly melt and disappear, leaving a trace of the earthy-colored dirt. The melting sound is amplified by microphones reverberating the melting sound.

Artist Biography

Néle Azevedo is an artist and independent researcher living and working in Brazil. She completed her Master's of Visual Arts at the Arts Institute of Sao Paulo State University. Her work with urban interventions dates back to 2005, when she created *Minimum Monument*, a project that discussed public monuments and the threats generated by climate change. *Minimum Monument* has brought to many cities around the world, such as São Paulo; Havana, Cuba; Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan; Paris, France; Braunschweig and Berlin, Germany; Porto, Portugal; Firenze and Rome, Italy; Stavanger, Norway; Silkeborg, Denmark; Kendall Castle and Birmingham, UK; Burlington, Vermont, USA; and, recently Rome, Italy.