

Change—or *mudança* in Tadáskia’s native language of Brazilian Portuguese—lies at the center of the multidisciplinary artist’s practice. In her work across drawing, sculpture, and other media, Tadáskia employs an improvisational approach, conveying a sense of fluidity through her dynamic mark-making, nuanced imagery, and kaleidoscopic palette. Rather than pursue a complete or final image, the artist has explained: “I’m interested in the passage from one thing to another.”

Tadáskia’s unbound book *ave preta mística mystical black bird* (2022) forms the centerpiece of this presentation. The work recounts a fantastical tale of “winged transformation,” and pairs the artist’s freeform drawings alongside her poetic, bilingual text. The images depicted in her colorful compositions, which she often initiates with closed eyes, vary and morph from one sheet to the next. They might appear as crescent moons and brilliant suns, or as ambiguous abstract shapes. Through the story, we are invited to follow its titular *ave preta*, or black bird, on her flight across earthly and divine realms, “towards a journey of freedom,” informed by the artist’s lived experience as a Black trans woman.

For *Projects: Tadáskia*, the artist has produced an expansive wall drawing and a set of sculptures in response to this exhibition space. While her vigorous mark-making encourages us to trace her coursing and shifting lines, the organic materials used in her sculptures evoke the ephemeral life cycles of nature. Alongside the central role of change, as Tadáskia herself asserts, “the main character in the work is time.”

The exhibition is organized by Thelma Golden, Director and Chief Curator, the Studio Museum in Harlem, and Ana Torok, the Sue and Eugene Mercy, Jr. Assistant Curator, Department of Drawings and Prints, MoMA, with the assistance of Kiki Teshome, Curatorial Assistant, the Studio Museum in Harlem.

The Elaine Dannheisser Projects Series is made possible in part by the Elaine Dannheisser Foundation and The Young Patrons Council of The Museum of Modern Art.

Hear from the artist about her influences, process, and approach. Scan the QR code to listen, in either English or Portuguese, on the free Bloomberg Connects app.



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