



## WAVE HILL SUNROOM PROJECT SPACE

October 14–November 26, 2023 **BEL FALLEIROS** *Floresta de Pulsares (Forest of Pulses)*

# BEL FALLEIROS

Born in São Paulo, Brazil  
Lives and works in Stony Point, NY

*Floresta de Pulsares*  
(*Forest of Pulses*), 2023 (detail)  
Found branches and leaves, cotton  
bands, brazilwood and butternut tree  
natural paint on fabric, and sound  
Dimensions variable  
Courtesy of the artist

Bel Falleiros focuses on the relationship between place and belonging. In particular, she is interested in how contemporary constructed landscapes marginalize the diverse layers that constitute a place and how this misrepresentation impacts its inhabitants. The immersive installation *Floresta de Pulsares (Forest of Pulses)* incorporates organic detritus, tree parts, plant dyes and sounds collected onsite, in the artist's home country of Brazil and at Harriman State Park (near where she lives). The result transforms the Sunroom into a living, breathing, all-seeing forest of origin stories. Guided by an ancient proverb shared by indigenous Brazilian philosopher and activist Ailton Krenak, which states that "the forest has more eyes than leaves," the artist invites visitors to attune themselves to the animacy of the forest, trees, flowers and dirt that are alive with history, community, spirituality and knowledge.

Central to the artist's work is the appropriation and exploitation that trees across the Americas have endured. Falleiros employs red hues and patterns abstracted from nature to delve into the symbolic, political and chromatic life of the endangered brazilwood tree. This tree, the country's first colonial good was exported by the Portuguese at such high rates that it gave Brazil its name. She also references the endangered butternut tree, native to North America. Indigenous peoples used its bark to make dye and during the Civil War, Confederate Army coats were colored using dye made from butternuts.

*Floresta de Pulsares* is an invitation to experience contemplation, reflection, refuge and ritual—a space to honor the untold stories of trees of the Americas. The work asks us to look beyond the trees' associations with colonialism, violence and capitalism, and consider instead the stories of the companion species and people who live in proximity to them.

Falleiros earned a BA in Architecture from the School of Architecture and Urbanism at University of São Paulo, Brazil. She was commissioned for the 37th Panorama of Brazilian Art *Under the ashes, ember* at São Paulo Museum of Modern Art, and participated in the New York Latin American Art Triennial *Abya Yala: Structural Origins*, both in 2022. Projects include *Monuments Now* at Socrates Sculpture Park, NY (2020); a community garden in collaboration with Tewa Women United as part of Santa Fe Art Institute's Equal Justice Residency, NM (2018); an earthwork at Burnside Farm, Detroit, MI (2017); and installations at Pecos National Park, NM (2016). Falleiros held her first solo exhibition at CAIXA Cultural São Paulo in 2014.

**PUBLIC PROGRAM: SAT, OCT 14, 2PM: *Meet the Artist & Sound Activation by Koyoltzintli***

Organized by Curator of Visual Arts Rachel Raphaela Gugelberger, the Sunroom Project Space provides an opportunity for New York-area emerging artists to develop and exhibit a site-specific project as a solo show. The 2023 season features, consecutively, Jae Hi Ahn, Jacq Groves, Grace Sachi Troxell, Jill Cohen-Nuñez, Max Benjamin Sarmiento and Bel Falleiros.

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