

The sixth edition of aarea presents "Cromlech", by Beatriz Toledo. Over three weeks, a surveillance camera will capture the artist's studio 24 hours a day and the images will live stream at www.aarea.co. The "subject on watch" is a big stone block to be daily sculpted and worked on by the artist along with her daughter Antonia, aged 4.

In the context of visual arts, we seldom observe the assimilation of parenthood in the work of artists: even though having children provokes deep changes in their lives, it is usually expected that the work follows an independent path. One implicit rule especially affecting women artists seems to state that an "intellectual career" is not compatible with home-related matters. By incorporating Antonia in "Cromlech" the artist shares a practical issue: to bridge the gap of her work on studio with her daughter's spare time, currently on school vacation period.

In "Cromlech" – a title referring to a set of Neolithic menhirs –, Beatriz Toledo counts on the creative force of Antonia to find an intent for this major unpolished stone, a symbol of an artwork transforming power just as the blank canvas. If we consider Antonia's size and strength, she would be in a "disadvantage" position, yet she remains a central piece to the development of the game here proposed: both of them will be jointly unfolding the sculpture's unknown aspects, as well as negotiating its outcome, something completely unpredictable beforehand. As online "watchers" of this work process, most of the time we find the solitary rock on the studio, in a static image that recalls photography. Only when Beatriz and Antonia step into the space, the idea of a sculpture becomes activated. This operation remains a synthesis of the artist's trajectory, expanding her language towards the space after years of research on photography.

Beatriz Toledo holds a BFA from USP in São Paulo/Brazil and a MFA in Contemporary Art and Photography from Université Paris VIII in Paris, France. She did a residency at École Nationale Supérieure de la Photographie in Arles, France, in 2007; at Red Bull Station in São Paulo, Brazil, in 2014; at Villa Belleville (Point Ephémère), Paris, France, in 2015; and at Pivô in São Paulo, Brazil, in 2016. Her work has been exhibited in several exhibitions mostly between São Paulo and Paris; among her recent shows in France, she participated in the 66th edition of the prize "Jeune Création" in Paris, the 61^o edition of the "Salon de Montrouge" and the exhibition "Oxymore and more and more" at the independent space Lieu Commun, in Toulouse. Beatriz Toledo also runs the independent space La Maudite, located in Paris, since 2013.

About aarea

www.aarea.co is an online platform founded in 2017 to showcase artworks created specifically for the internet. It is updated monthly, with each edition featuring a single project. As they navigate around the site, visitors have no access to fixed elements such as introductory texts, links, or buttons that are not a part of the artist's design. The absence of mediation that defines its format makes aarea a groundbreaking initiative in Brazil in terms of the circulation of artworks in virtual space. The featured artists have widely varying styles; but all have been challenged with creating a work whose only vehicle is the internet, most doing so for the first time.