

IANERS of EARTH

TEXTURED VISIONS

SAGE CULTURE



SageCulture_™

LAYERS of EARTH

Duo Exhibition — July 29, 2023

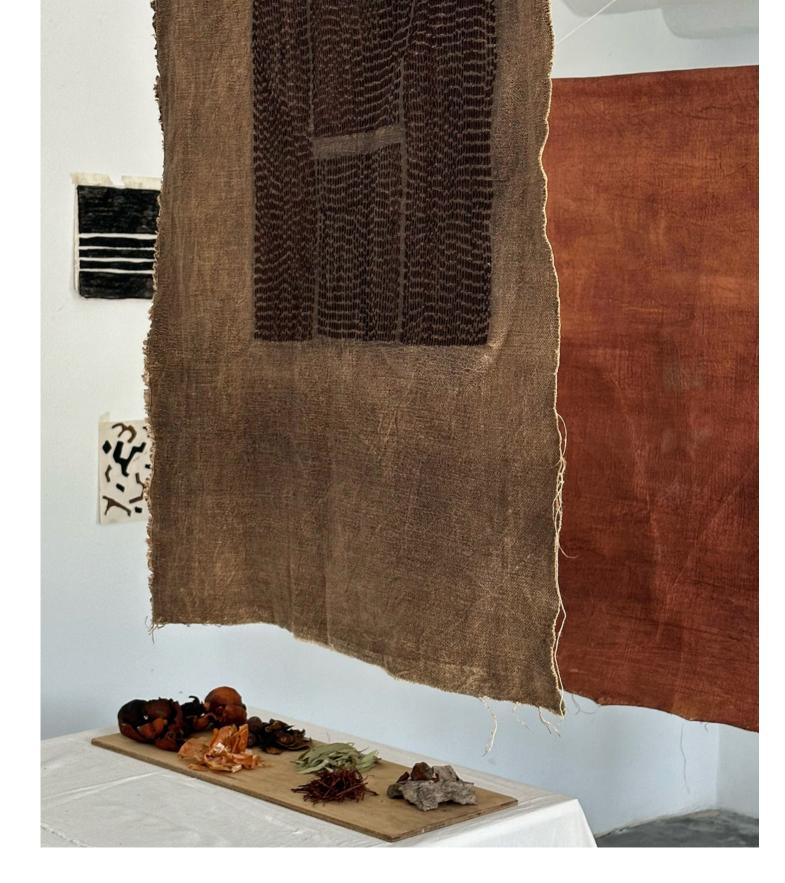
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PAULA BOSCO

London - UK



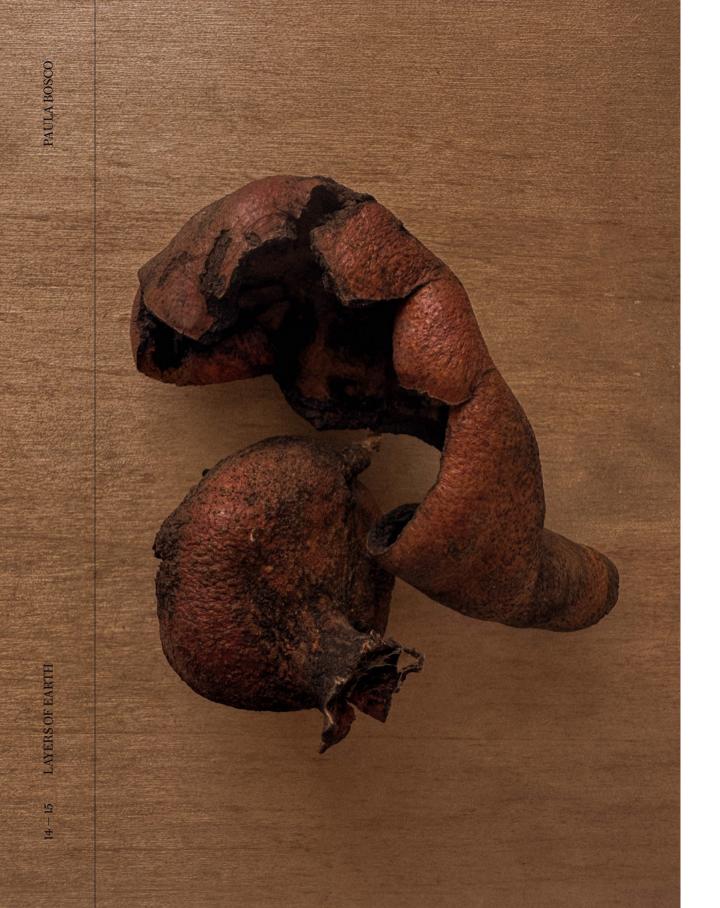


Born in Argentina, Paula Bosco is a visual artist and designer working mostly with textiles. Paula specialized in Textile Design at Central Saint Martins School, University of the Arts London. She currently lives and works in London. Questioning the art industry's impact on the environment, she embraces a visual and meditative process that moves away from exploitative and extractive relationships with nature and prioritizes connection, slower living, and mindful action.

Bosco works solely with organic materials and adopts ancient artisanal application methods, including hand printing, painting, dyeing, sewing, embroidery, and hand weaving. Her continuous and endless experimentation of botanical dyes and mineral pigments results in a color palette that is quite subdued yet reveals the unspoken energy and power held in the medium.

Her works carry an intimate and honest relationship between the pigments and the raw textiles. Closely, each piece and surface is subtly raw in its textures, and its receded colors do not cause distraction from the material, its meaning, and its substance. The minimalism and rhythms of the compositions attempt to capture the sublime simplicity of everyday life and the poetic cycles of nature.







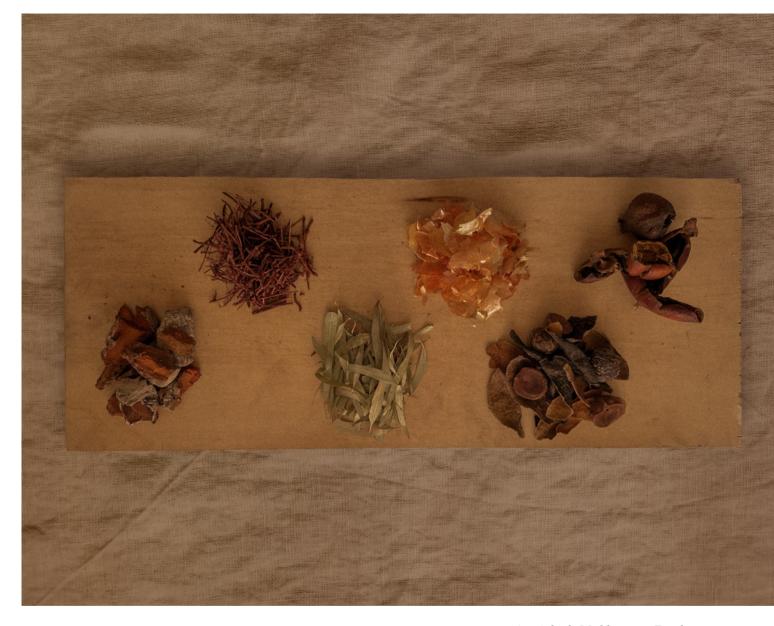


Artist Residency at Joya AiR Art and Ecology Almeria, Spain

"My art is an offering with the intention of bringing a quiet time for observation, reflection, deep communion with nature, and connection with spirituality. I want to facilitate the viewer's attendance to their relationship with themselves and with the living Earth.

By inviting the observer's mind to a softer place and returning to the essential, I can connect with them in the emotional realm. From there, true feelings emerge, and the mind becomes a space like a garden.

I pursue themes of beauty, calmness, and mindfulness, the value of the handmade. Above all, I want to stimulate the desire to practice deep respect for nature; part of that respect comes with interaction and time. It is by engaging in connection with nature we learn to value it, and this is grounded in a deep connection to the self, with our spirit.



Acacia bark, Madder roots, Eucalyptus leaves, Onion peels, Avocado skins and pits, Pomegranate skins







When it comes to color, the natural resources available allow me to shape their potential. I explore the pigments' tinctorial richness and hue variations, which give way to different amalgams and varied rates of color absorption on the canvas. On occasions, I consecutively juxtapose the dyes onto the cloth on top of each other or let the pigments bleed out gradually, and I stay open to visual incidents. Other times, I deliberately elevate a particular shade by infusing the surface with the pigment.

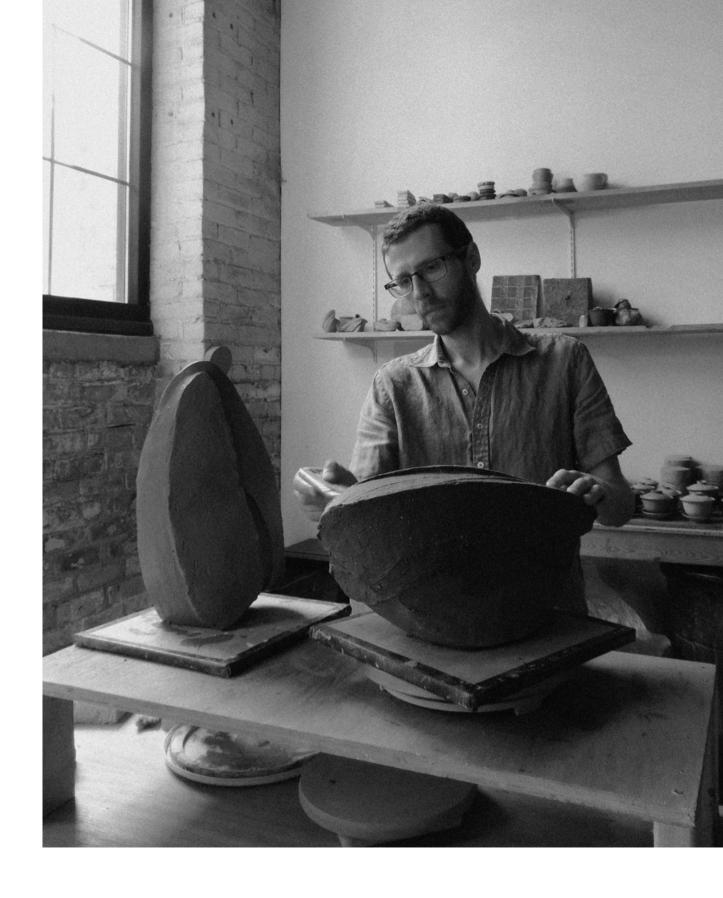
Shades and threads affixed to the canvas are delicate but full of character and speak for themselves. Using stitch and thread as a drawing and painting medium, colors and textures entwine and dialogue on the surface of the cloth, building a sense of unity between materials.

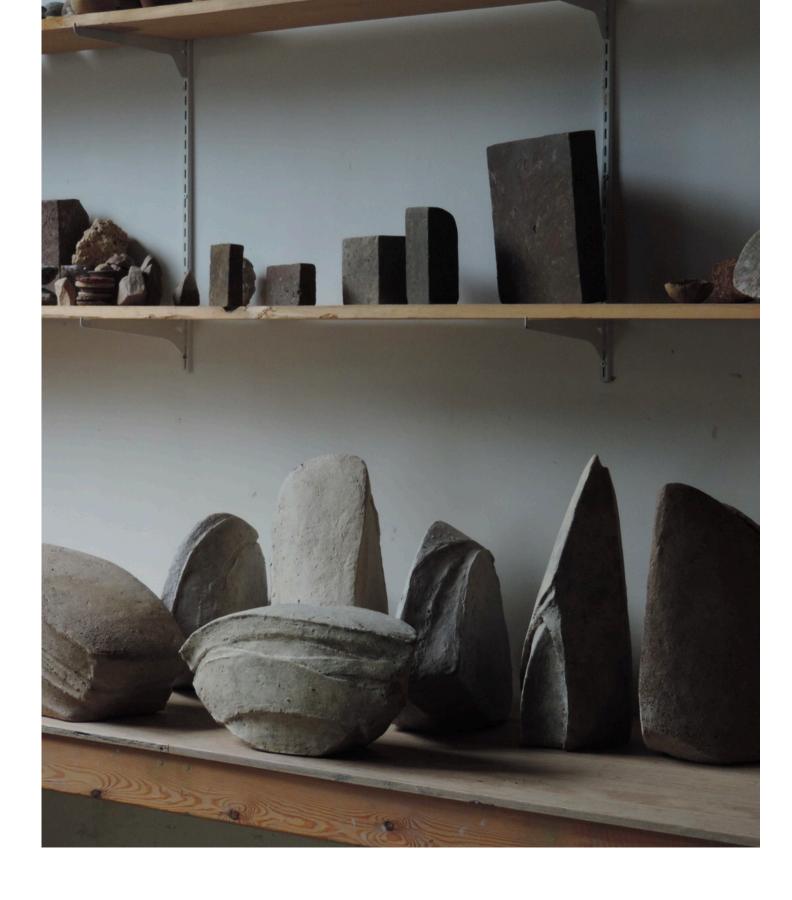
I work in a meditative fashion and with the reciprocal interaction between intentioned methodology and total freedom. My process is an intuitive and immersive ritual where I deepen my connection with the spiritual energy of nature, the senses, and myself. What comes into fruition -as a consequence- is the art that can be safely put back into the Earth".



MITCH IBURG

Saint Paul — USA

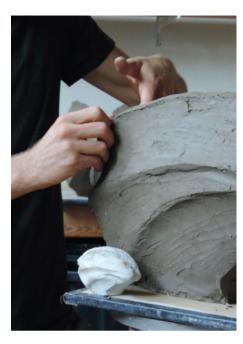




Mitch Iburg is an American ceramic artist based in Saint Paul, Minnesota. His studio practice is influenced by the Earth's geological record - specifically, as a manifestation of its ability to remember, rewrite, and inevitably forget the history through which it was formed.

The artist translates this concept into his work by using foraged clays, stones, fossils, and glacial debris to re-frame the volcanic eruptions, ancient seas, and ice sheets that have shaped the landscapes around him.









Sculpture built with coil, along with the original study maquette, tools, and materials for processing and testing by Studio Alluvium

Researching the diversity of Minnesota's geological past has inspired a way of making that both embraces and challenges conventional ceramic traditions. In an effort to promote various materials along a spectrum of art forms, Mitch's work frequently shifts between vessel, sculpture, and two-dimensional formats.

Each body of work conveys a unique dialect within the larger language of geological history. Collectively, he views each series as a specific resolution to the tension between artistic intent, ceramic tradition, and the intrinsic properties of natural materials.

"Each piece begins with a solid clay maquette that is translated to a larger sized coil-built form. This stage of the building process is always the most exciting as lines, planes, and movements begin coming together. After several days of planning the structure to ensure the right balance and proportions, everything begins to make sense. Once the form is fully enclosed the surface is further refined and allowed to dry before adding clay slips. My studio practice is influenced by the earth's geological record - specifically, as a manifestation of its ability to remember, rewrite, and inevitably forget the history through which it was formed. I translate this concept into my work by using foraged clays, stones, fossils, and glacial debris as tools for re-framing the volcanic eruptions, ancient seas, and ice sheets that have shaped the landscapes around me.

Researching the diversity of Minnesota's geological past has inspired a way of making that both embraces and challenges conventional ceramic traditions. In an effort to promote various materials along a spectrum of art forms, my work frequently shifts between vessel, sculpture, and two-dimensional formats. Each body of work conveys a unique dialect within the larger language of geological history. Collectively, I view each series as a specific resolution to the tension between artistic intent, ceramic tradition, and the intrinsic properties of natural materials.

Although all materials are sustainably collected with the permission of land owners, I recognize that my practice takes place on territory stolen from Minnesota's Indigenous peoples. I respectfully acknowledge the Dakota and Anishinaabe peoples as the rightful owners and original stewards of the land on which I work".

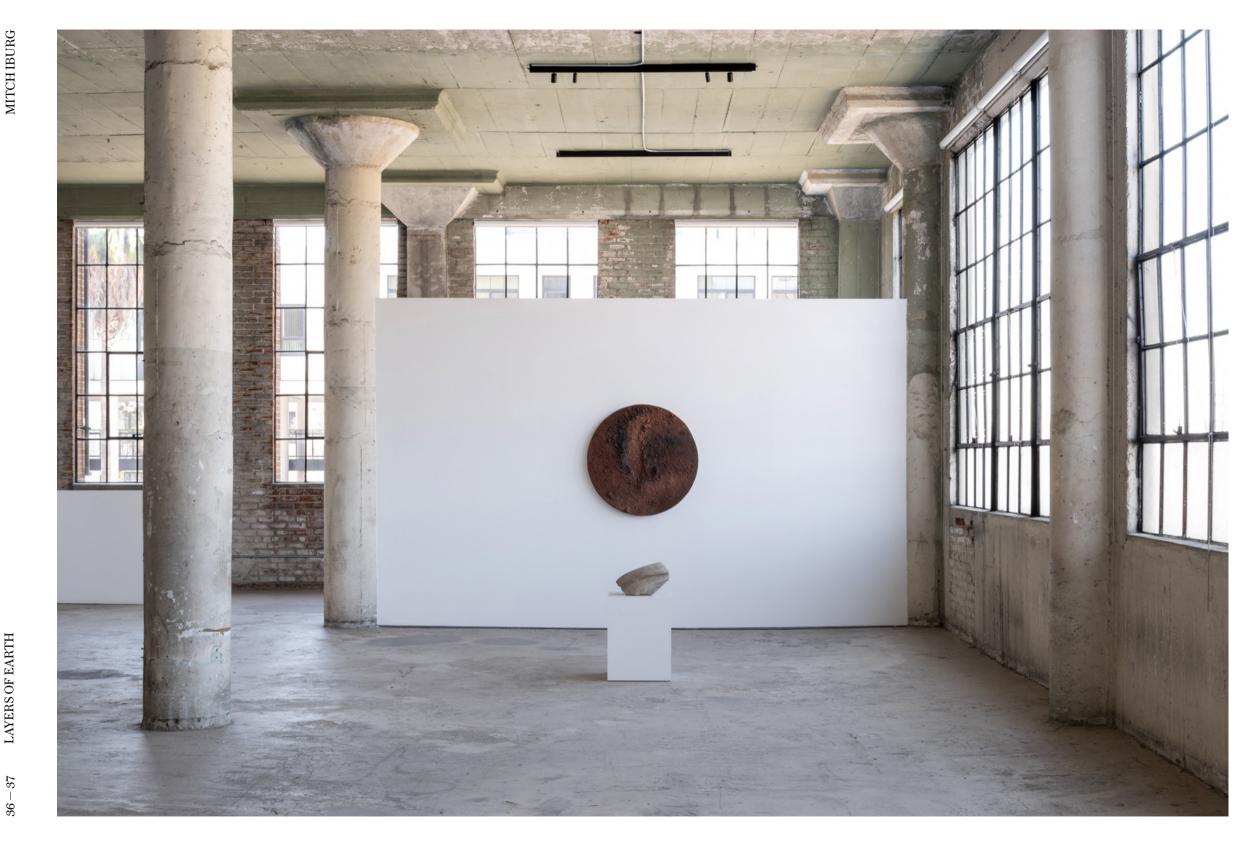


Trace Fossil - foraged clays, porcelain slip, 450 million year old Bryozoa fossils, fired to 2200 F. in oxidation



In "Layers of Earth," Sage Culture is thrilled to present the continuity of the "Anamnesis Series," a prime example of his most important sculptural collection. These earth-based sculptures are composed of foraged clays, stones, fossils, and glacial debris from his home state of Minnesota. Iburg's work reinterprets geological phenomena and the Earth's past, representing the volcanic eruptions, ancient seas, and ice sheets that have sculpted the landscapes around us.

The pieces encourage interaction, as viewers' movements around the sculpture and their perspective shifts influence their perception of the piece. In its raw and authentic form, it acts as a testament to the elemental force of Earth and its evolution throughout history.

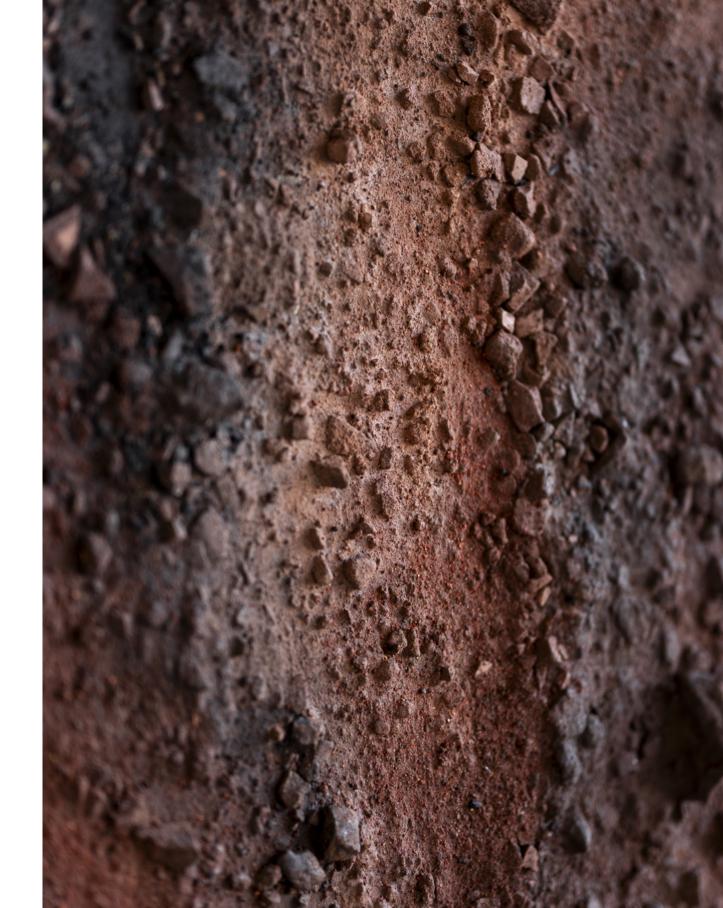


LAYERS of EARTH

Duo Exhibition - Paula Bosco & Mitch Iburg

Sage Culture Gallery is thrilled to present the duo exhibition "Layers of Earth: Textured Visions." The show unites the outstanding works of Mitch Iburg and Paula Bosco, both profoundly connected to the natural world and driven by their exploration of the Earth's diverse landscapes.

Through their distinct process approaches, yet with similar artistic intents of portraying nature, Iburg and Bosco uncover the natural world's layers of meaning and beauty.





The concept of visual incidents serves as a gateway to their shared exploration, inviting viewers to witness the transformative power of art as it intertwines with the textured terrains of our planet.

With a determined commitment to their craft, Iburg and Bosco employ their respective mediums to evoke a profound sense of connection and contemplation. Iburg's ceramics sculptures and installations breathe life into the geological forces that have shaped the landscapes around us. Drawing from foraged clays, stones, fossils, and glacial debris, he meticulously sculpts the textured layers, uncovering ancient and timeless narratives.

Mitch's work is deeply embedded in the Earth's geological record. By using foraged materials from soil samples, clays, stones, fossils, and glacial debris, his creations translate the historical narrative of Earth's formation into tangible forms, capturing monumental geological events. His research has shaped a unique art-making practice that reveres and challenges traditional ceramics.

Moreover, Iburg's expertise in manipulating the unpredictable nature of fire in kiln works, combined with his in-depth study of soil, contributes significantly to his distinctive artistic approach. This refined selection of materials, meticulously researched, analyzed, and curated, reflects his comprehensive experience and vision. As a result, Iburg's work spans a wide array of forms, including sculptures and sculptural wall artworks.





In conversation with Iburg's work, Bosco's textile art and paintings serve as a visual symphony that resonates with the Earth's diverse textures. She uncovers the inherent beauty and sensory experiences entrenched within the terrains through meticulous craftsmanship and intuitive exploration of organic materials. Each stroke or thread weaved tells a story, inviting viewers to engage with the tactile and visual richness of the Earth.

With profound sensitivity and a meditative approach, Paula intricately weaves her artistic visions into textile designs. Bosco's work reflects her commitment to environmental consciousness and mindful living. Drawing on her Argentinian roots and family history steeped in embroidery and textile culture, she transforms organic materials into vibrant textile art, using handmade techniques like painting, dyeing, sewing, embroidery, and weaving. At the heart of her practice lies a continuous exploration and application of botanical dyes and organic pigments, resulting in a captivating color palette imbued with serene, potent, peaceful energy. Bosco's art establishes an intimate, honest dialogue with raw materials, with each piece echoing the sublime simplicity of nature. It serves as a sanctuary for introspection and reflection, fostering a deep communion with nature and self, encapsulating beauty, tranquility, and mindfulness themes.



Installation view, Layers of Earth: Textured Visions, Sage Culture Gallery, Los Angeles, 2023



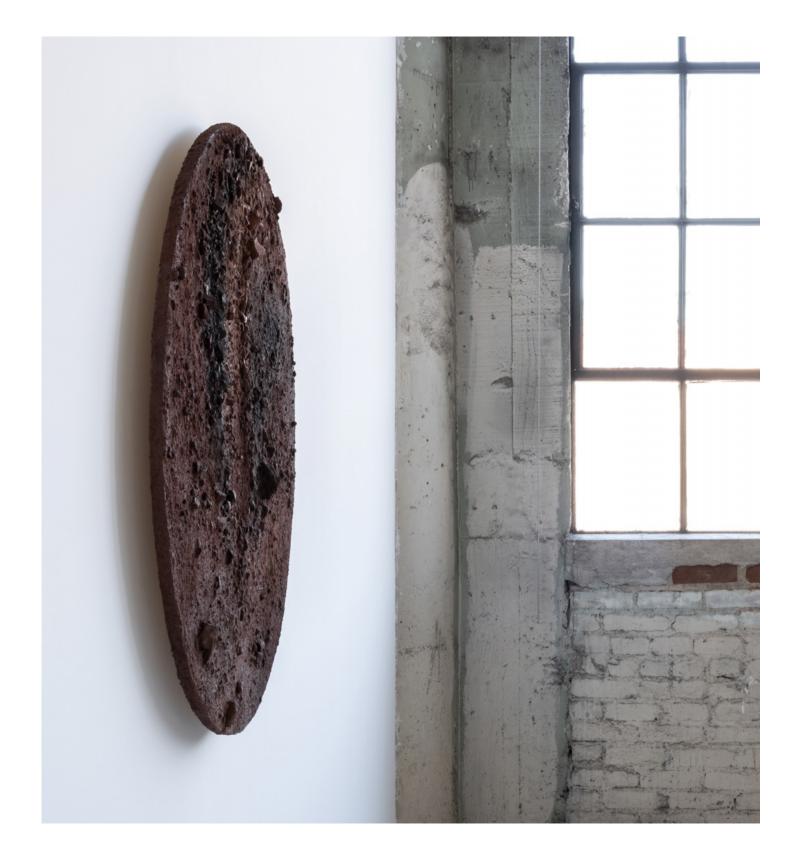


Both artists' processes also involve deep material research and show a concern with sustainable practices. Natural dyes and organic resources are used consciously to achieve harmony and balance. At the same time, it evokes a sense of calmness and brings the history behind the process in every created piece.

Iburg and Bosco guide us on a multisensory voyage to ignite the imagination, evoking memories of distant landscapes and unexplored realms. Within these textured terrains, their works find resonance, inviting us to contemplate the profound interconnectedness between humanity and the natural world.

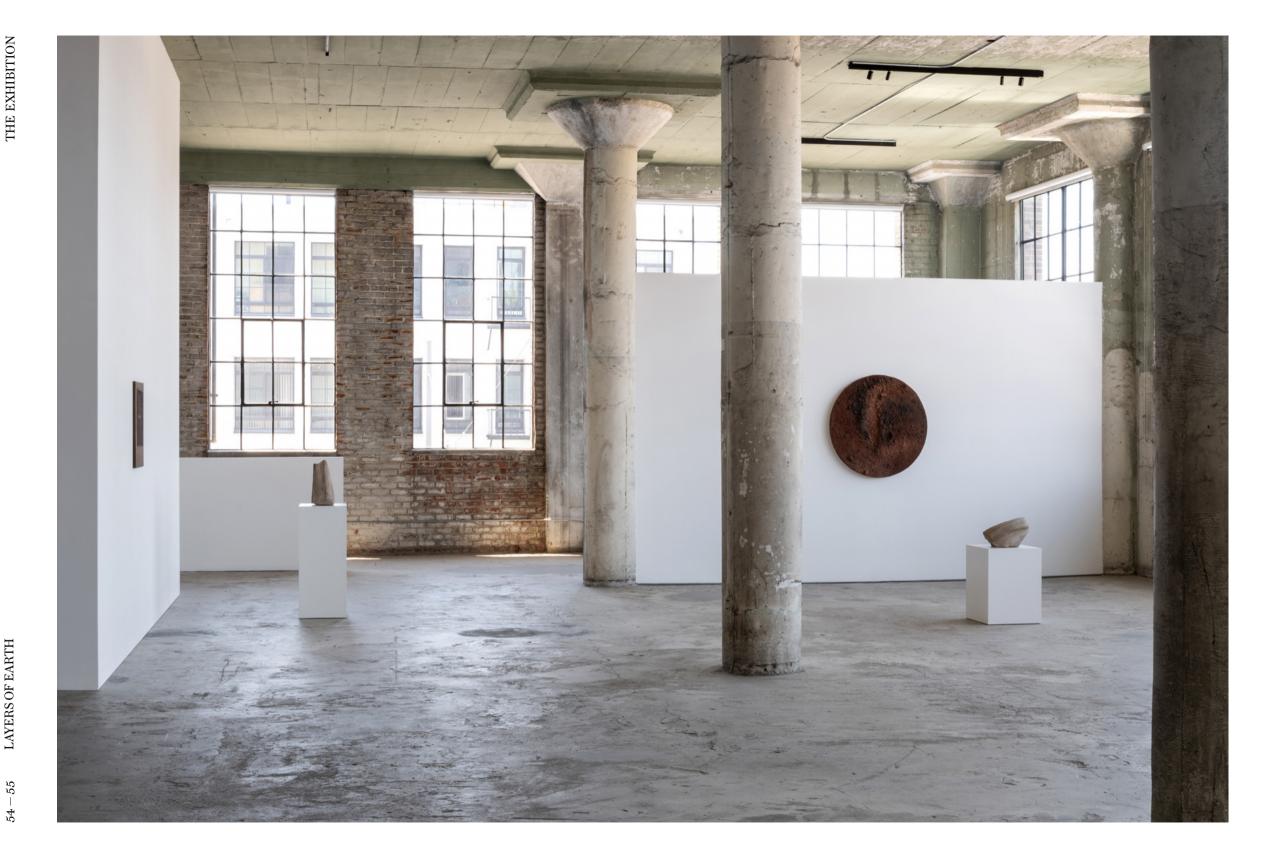


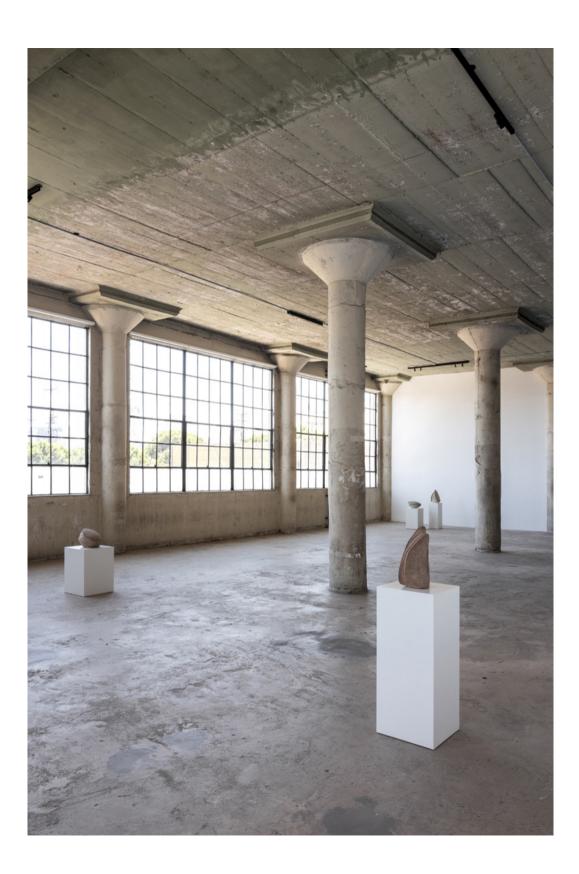




Since the primal times, humanity has been engaged in a ceaseless quest to decode and understand nature's intricate elements. Driven by a rational intent to research, dominate, and control, this journey has been akin to a relentless battle of conscious absorptions, seeking to grasp the essence of our planet and the natural world.

However, parallel to this conscious endeavor lies the realm of unconscious interpretations, where the human mind, with its complexities and depths, interprets nature in ways that often transcend rationality.





In contemporary times, our relationship with nature has undergone further transformation. The awareness of environmental issues, the fragility of ecosystems, and the interdependence of all life on Earth have brought about a growing sense of ecological consciousness.

This duo exhibition is a humble effort to showcase expressions and visual poetry arising from understanding the several layers of nature and their reflection in the layers of ourselves - the Layers of Earth.



THE WORK

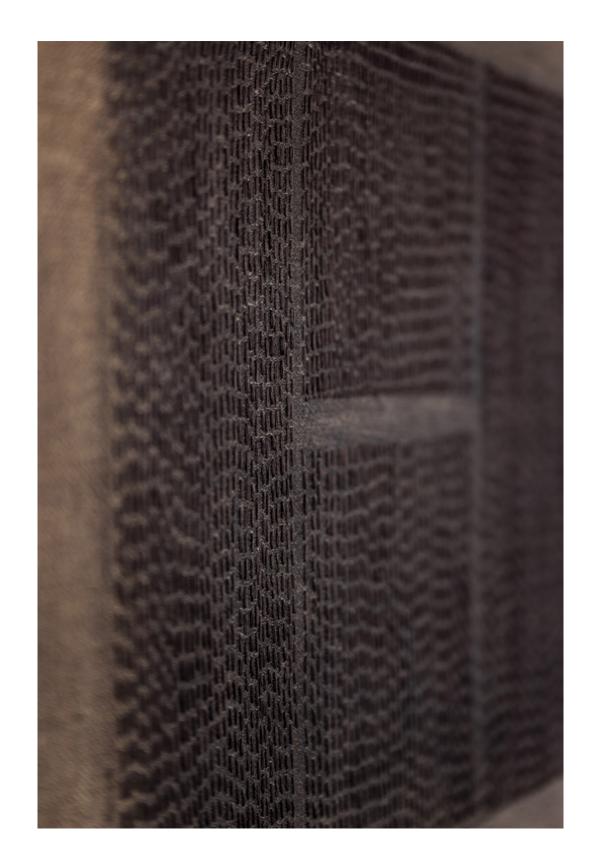
Paula Bosco | Mitch Iburg





Paula Bosco - Untitled II, 2023

Acacia bark extract and organic cotton thread hand stitched on linen $23\,3/5\times19\,7/10$ in $|\,60\times50$ cm











Mitch Iburg - Anamnesis 19, 2023

Coil-built, handcrafted ceramic sculpture, made from wild clays and stones hand-harvested in Minnesota $15\times12\times71/2$ in $|~38.1\times30.5\times19.1$ cm







 $Mitch \, Iburg \, \hbox{-}\, Anamnes is \, 22, 2023$

Coil-built, handcrafted ceramic sculpture, made from wild clays and stones hand-harvested in Minnesota $10\times14\times8$ in $|\,25.4\times35.6\times20.3$ cm



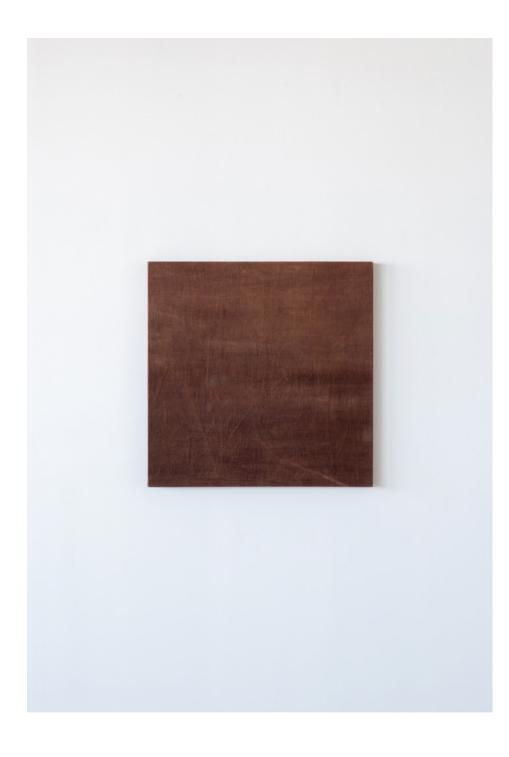




 $Mitch\,Iburg\,\hbox{--}\,The\,Conservation\,of\,Matter\,II,2021$

Brick Waste, Coal Slag, Soil, PVA Binder on Wood $40 \times 40 \times 2$ in $|100 \times 100 \times 5$ cm

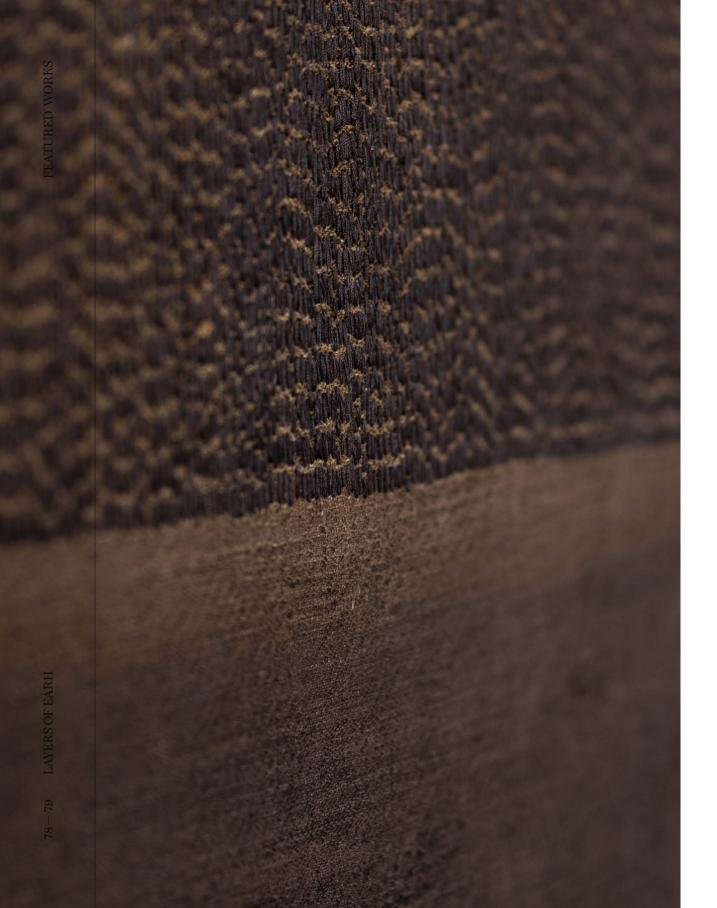




Paula Bosco - Fire, 2022

Sappanwood extract on linen $352/5 \times 352/5$ in $|90 \times 90$ cm

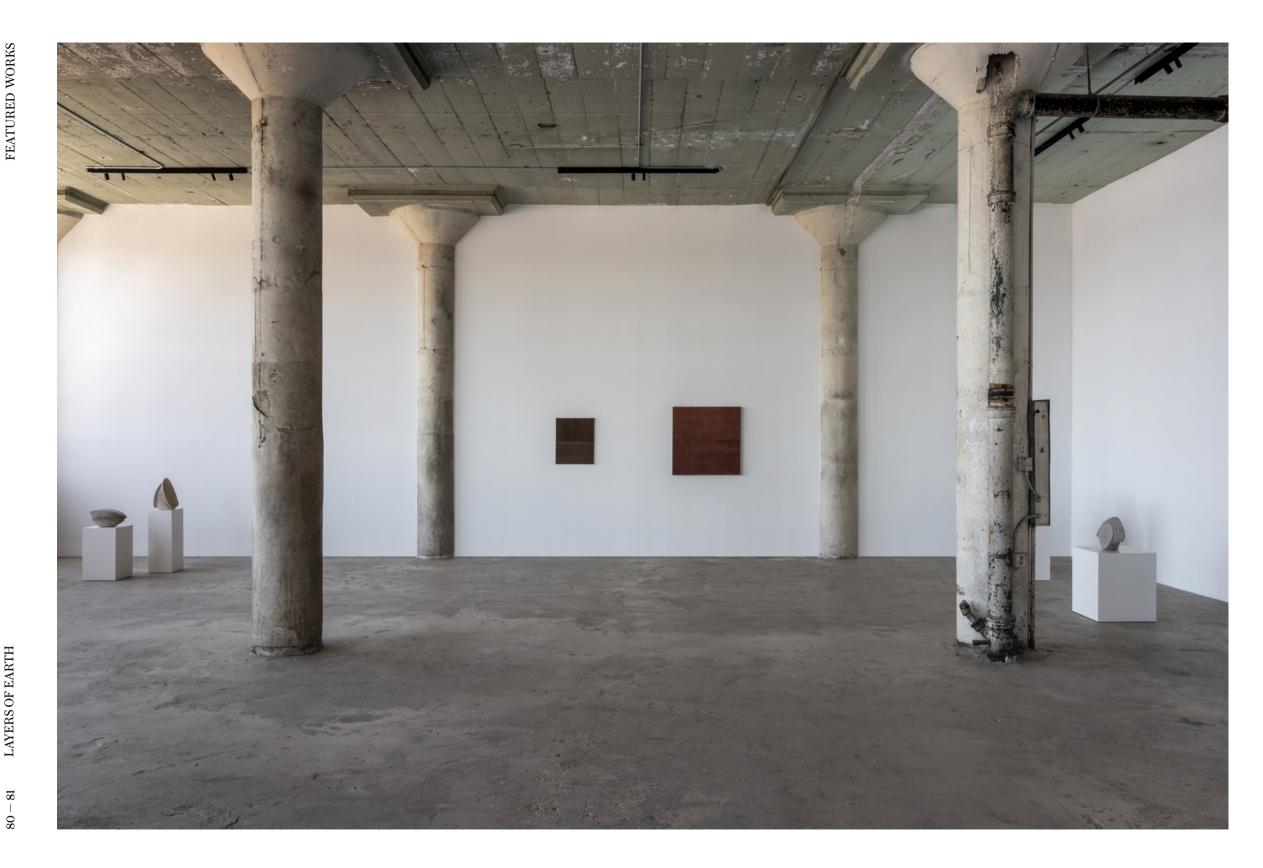






Paula Bosco - Untitled I,2023

Acacia bark extract and organic cotton thread hand stitched on linen 23 $3/5 \times 197/10$ in $|60 \times 50$ cm









Mitch Iburg - Anamnesis 16, 2023

Coil-built, handcrafted ceramic sculpture, made from wild clays and stones hand-harvested in Minnesota $15\times11\times6\,3/5\,$ in $|\,38.1\times27.9\times16.8\,$ cm











Mitch Iburg - Anamnesis 17, 2023

Coil-built, handcrafted ceramic sculpture, made from wild clays and stones hand-harvested in Minnesota $7\times14\times6\,1/2$ in $|\,17.8\times35.6\times16.5$ cm



Mitch Iburg - Trace Fossil, 2021

Porcelain, Ordovician fossils, foraged Minnesota clays fired to 2200 F. in oxidation $8\times18\times11/2$ in $|45.7\times45.7\times3.8$ cm











 $Mitch \, Iburg \, \hbox{-}\, Anamnes is \, 20, 2023$

Coil-built, handcrafted ceramic sculpture, made from wild clays and stones hand-harvested in Minnesota $16\,1/2\times9\times6$ in $|\,41.9\times22.9\times15.2$ cm







Mitch Iburg - Anamnesis 18, 2023

Coil-built, handcrafted ceramic sculpture, made from wild clays and stones hand-harvested in Minnesota 12 \times 15 \times 7 in | 30.5 \times 38.1 \times 17.8 cm









Mitch Iburg - Anamnesis 21, 2023

Coil-built, handcrafted ceramic sculpture, made from wild clays and stones hand-harvested in Minnesota 12 \times 15 \times 7 in | 30.5 \times 38.1 \times 17.8 cm





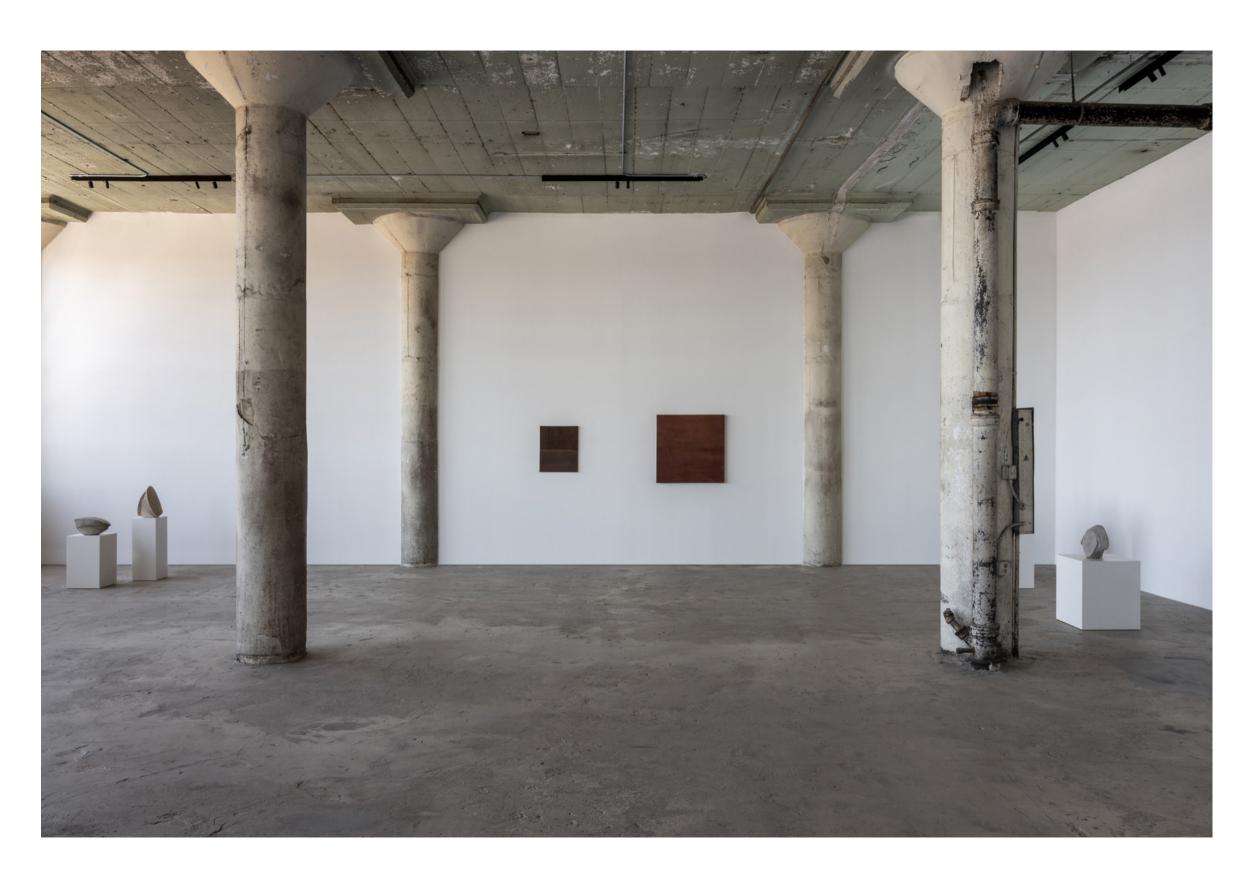




Paula Bosco - Joya, 2023

Acacia bark extract and organic wool dyed with Sappanwood extract, hand stitched on linen 511/5 \times 39 2/5 in | 130 \times 100 cm





SAGE CULTURE

Sage Culture is an art gallery based in Downtown Los Angeles, founded in 2017.

The appreciation of Nature defines the gallery's mission, curation, and aesthetics. Sage Culture's concept relates to a constant attempt to artistically portray the relationship between people and Nature — from observing humanity's primordial cultures and their complete integration with the environment to the recent efforts to make sense of this relationship today.



A visit to Easter Island was the starting point and primary inspiration for developing the early concept of Sage Culture. The remote island's rich history and how ancient art forms have always acted as a powerful transformation tool for humankind profoundly inspired the founders throughout the creative process.

In line with its concept, the gallery represents artists whose deep connection to Nature serves as their primary source of inspiration. Using natural materials or promoting discussions on the subject, they contribute to reimagining this crucial but endangered bond with Earth.

These artists focus on their processes, sometimes defying traditional practices and techniques. The results frequently blur the lines between media and the established boundaries of art, craft, and design.

In the age of the Anthropocene, our marks on the planet are the subject of constant debate, and Sage Culture intends to Make this debate permanently present in its program concerning Art & Environment, promoting a reconnection with the environment through artistic contemplation.





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LAYERS of EARTH

Duo Exhibition — July 29, 2023



This book is published in the ocasion of the exhibition "LAYERS OF EARTH" at Sage Culture Gallery from July 29th to August 31st, 2023.

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