

22 May – 31 October 2021

# ERIKA VERZUTTI



**This exhibition is the first solo presentation in a UK museum by the Brazilian artist Erika Verzutti (b.1971, São Paulo). It gathers together more than 40 works from the last 15 years, alongside a body of new work and a major site-specific commission.**

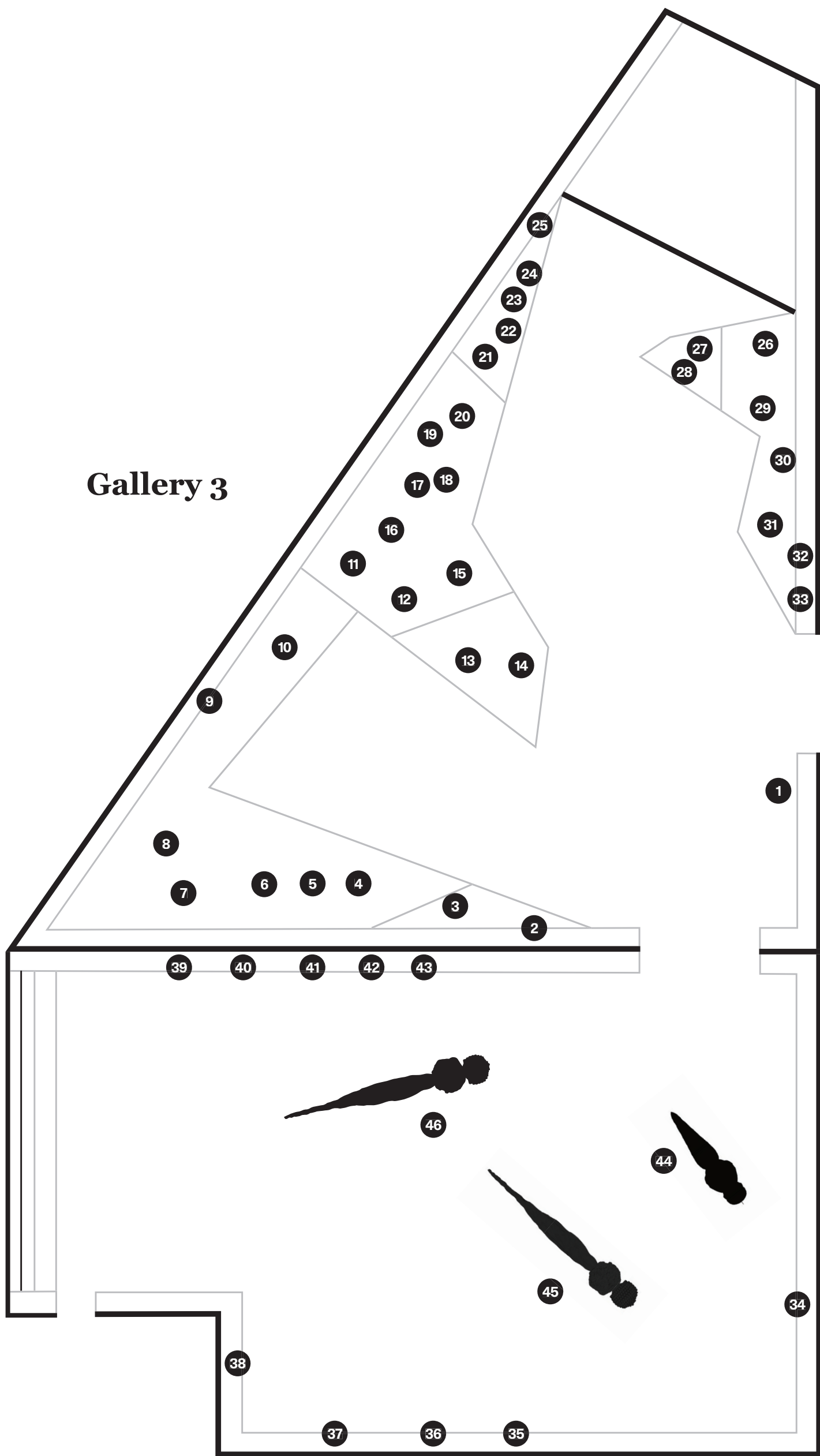
Sensuous and tactile, Verzutti's sculptures often seem to sit outside of period and place, conjuring relics or archaeological finds. Realised in bronze, concrete and papier mâché, they draw from a range of sources – from vegetables and household objects to newspaper clippings and imagery found online. They take a playfully omnivorous approach to art history, quoting and reimagining works that stretch from Brancusi to Brazilian modernism, or from Picasso back to the palaeolithic.

Verzutti groups her sculptures into what she calls families, such as 'Animals', 'Turtles', 'Cemeteries' and 'Missionary'. Her 'Brasilia' series, and the current context of the artist's home country, are important points of departure for this presentation – for example, in the various sculptures of cut and sliced jackfruit. In recent years, this pleasure in process has led to new forms and ways of making, such as the wall reliefs presented here. These hefty apertures carry the imprint of the artist's fingers, and explore the point at which painting and sculpture meet.

The Venus of Willendorf echoes throughout the exhibition. Discovered in Austria at the beginning of the 20th century, this 11-centimetre artefact was made around 25,000 years ago, and is often regarded as the mother of all sculpture. Two new six-metre sculptures continue this reference.

These totemic forms fill Gallery 4 – one erect, the other supine. Made using a new method for Verzutti, the works are machine and hand-carved polystyrene, covered in pigmented dough mixed with rubber crumb and sawdust. Elsewhere, another series of new sculptures – which Verzutti refers to as the 'ghosts' of previous pieces – are made from papier mâché, a material she has said allows her a new autonomy and freedom. Uniting all of these works are the variousness of Verzutti's material explorations and the playfulness of approach to language.

*Curated by Nicole Yip with Kiera Blakey, assisted by Hannah Wallis*























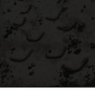
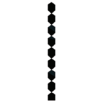
























**Gallery 3**

**Reception**

**Gallery 4**



# List of works

	1. <i>Tarsila with Orange</i> , 2011. Bronze and acrylic paint. Lent by the Tate Americas Foundation, courtesy of the Latin American Acquisitions Committee 2019.		17. <i>Galápagos</i> , 2007. Bronze and acrylic paint. James Moores Collection.		33. <i>Carne Sintética (Cultured Meat)</i> , 2019. Bronze and oil paint. Private Collection.
	2. <i>Man Ray with Fish</i> , 2019. Bronze, cast aluminium and oil paint. Private Collection, London.		18. <i>Brazilian Turtle</i> , 2021. Bronze and painted clay. Courtesy of Alison Jacques, London.		34. <i>Painted Lady</i> , 2011. Bronze and acrylic paint. Private Collection.
	3. <i>Missionary Variation</i> , 2011. Bronze and acrylic paint. Private Collection.		19. <i>Untitled</i> , 2003. Painted unfired clay. Stieler Collection.		35. <i>Star Without Makeup</i> , 2015. Bronze and wax. Collection Nicoletta Fiorucci Russo De Li Galli.
	4. <i>Surrealista</i> , 2021. Papier mâché and polystyrene. Courtesy of Alison Jacques, London.		20. <i>Azambuja</i> , 2007. Bronze, acrylic paint and cold porcelain clay. Private Collection, London.		36. <i>Cold and Medium</i> , 2015. Bronze and acrylic paint. ISelf Collection.
	5. <i>Pot</i> , 2021. Papier mâché, polystyrene and oil paint. Courtesy of Alison Jacques, London.		21. <i>Fatia Jaca</i> , 2013. Bronze and acrylic paint. Courtesy of Alison Jacques, London.		37. <i>Airplane</i> , 2020. Aluminium, papier mâché, oil and acrylic paint. Collection of Charlotte and Herbert S.Wagner III.
	6. <i>Egg Tower with Brazil</i> , 2021. Papier mâché and polystyrene. Courtesy of Alison Jacques, London.		22. <i>Brasilia Jewel</i> , 2011. Bronze and acrylic paint. Kunststiftung Rainer Wild, Germany.		38. <i>Lady with newspaper and coins (Crying?)</i> , 2020. Acrylic paint, oil paint and pigmented wax on bronze. Collection of Matthew Slotover and Emily King.
	7. <i>Porn Star</i> , 2011. Bronze and acrylic paint. The Ekard Collection.		23. <i>Brasilia Parede (Brasilia Wall)</i> , 2011. Bronze and acrylic paint. Kunststiftung Rainer Wild, Germany.		39. <i>Dalmatian Sky</i> , 2020. Papier mâché, polystyrene, bronze and oil paint. Collection Charles Asprey, London.
	8. <i>Lápis (Pencil)</i> , 2014. Bronze, acrylic paint and wax. Lent by the Tate Americas Foundation, courtesy of the Latin American Acquisitions Committee 2019.		24. <i>Brasilia Skate</i> , 2011. Bronze and acrylic paint. Kunststiftung Rainer Wild, Germany.		40. <i>Lemon Libido</i> , 2019. Bronze and oil paint. Private Collection.
	9. <i>Brazil</i> , 2018. Papier mâché, polystyrene, concrete and paint. Lent by the Tate Americas Foundation, courtesy of the Latin American Acquisitions Committee 2019.		25. <i>Bacurau</i> , 2020. Bronze and oil paint. Collection Charles Asprey, London.		41. <i>Children's Book</i> , 2013. Concrete, bronze, clay, polymer clay, soft clay and wax. James Moores Collection.
	10. <i>Porco</i> , 2017. Bronze, wood and acrylic paint. Courtesy of Alison Jacques, London.		26. <i>Swan with Work</i> , 2014. Bronze, concrete and hammer. Collection Nicoletta Fiorucci Russo De Li Galli.		42. <i>Vanilla Sky</i> , 2014. Concrete and oil paint. Private Swiss Collection.
	11. <i>Tarsila</i> , 2004 – 18. Bronze. Collection Charles Asprey, London.		27. <i>Elephant</i> , 2003 – 17. Concrete. Courtesy of Alison Jacques, London.		43. <i>Ouro Branco (White Gold)</i> , 2015. Papier mâché, styrofoam and wax. Collection of Heloisa Becker Genish.
	12. <i>Jaspera as a Young Girl</i> , 2006 – 08. Bronze and acrylic paint. Private Collection, London.		28. <i>Romana</i> , 2011. Concrete. Private Collection, London.		44. <i>Venus of Cream</i> , 2021. Bronze. Courtesy of Alison Jacques, London.
	13. <i>Sex</i> , 2017. Bronze and ostrich eggs. Simone Coscarelli Parma.		29. <i>Grayscale</i> , 2011. Concrete and graphite. Courtesy of Alison Jacques, London.		45. <i>Venus Carnival</i> , 2021. Industrial papier mâché and styrofoam. Courtesy of Alison Jacques, London.
	14. <i>The Painted Lady</i> , 2014. Papier mâché, wax and acrylic paint. Private Collection, London.		30. <i>Kiss on the Cheek</i> , 2021. Bronze. Courtesy of Alison Jacques, London.		45. <i>Venus Resting</i> , 2021. Industrial papier mâché and styrofoam. Courtesy of Alison Jacques, London.
	15. <i>Saramandaia</i> , 2006. Polychromatic bronze. Stieler Collection.		31. <i>Sarah</i> , 2008. Wax and styrofoam vegetables, craft bronze paint and newspaper. Courtesy of the artist and Misako & Rosen, Tokyo.		
	16. <i>Venus Maior</i> , 2011. Bronze. Private Collection, London.		32. <i>Black Sun</i> , 2015. Bronze and wax. Courtesy of Alison Jacques, London.		

# Language of Hands

Below are words that relate to Erika Verzutti’s sculptures.  
Use them to explore the artworks and make connections.  
Add to and play around with words to create new titles.  
Devised by Gillian Brent.

We’d love you to share your ideas with us by tagging us on social media

push

pull

squeeze

smear

press

score

scrape

meld

pinch

layer

imprint

stretch

add

remove

pierce

gouge

sharpen

spread

slit

carve

slice

join

elongated

dent

egg crack

butt

holding

banana

pointed

balanced

vertical

piled

dinosaur

bulbous

peaks

turtle

valley

channel

segment

courgette

tripod

relief

jackfruit

make-up

paintbrush

glossy

glassy

pimpled

spiked

granular

rutted

cut

away

bumpy

indented

embossed

irregular

stippled

coated

hollowed

picked out

brushed

polished

contrasting

handled

undulating

encased

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