

REVEALING (IN)VISIBLE TIMES: ALEXANDRE DA CUNHA FRANCISCA ANINAT

THE HEONG GALLERY AT DOWNING COLLEGE
11 SEPTEMBER TO 19 OCTOBER 2025

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GALLERY

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Alexandre da Cunha, *Vortex (Brown Eye)*, 2023.
© Alexandre da Cunha. Courtesy the artist and Thomas
Dane Gallery. Photograph by Richard Ivey.



Francisca Aninat, *Everyone's Dream*, 2025.
© Francisca Aninat. Photograph courtesy the artist.

The Heong Gallery at Downing College, Cambridge, is pleased to present ***Revealing (In)visible Times***, a two-person exhibition featuring Brazilian-born artist **Alexandre da Cunha** and Chilean artist **Francisca Aninat**, curated by **Valentina Gajardo**. Through installation, textiles, and reconfigured found objects, the exhibition explores the experience of waiting, inertia, and overlooked durations in the daily lives of often unseen, or transient, communities.

At the heart of *Revealing (In)visible Times* is a shared inquiry into how time materialises – how it can linger in the fibers of everyday objects and places, from hospital waiting rooms to cleaning equipment. The physical hosts of ‘lost’ passages of time are transformed into artworks that foreground hidden narratives of care, displacement, and labour.

Alexandre da Cunha reimagines found materials—such as mop heads and ropes—in sculptural works like *Free Fall II*, *Vortex (Brown Eye)*, and *Kentucky (Partridge)*. These ordinary materials bear unseen histories, and the resultant artworks are marked by the lingering traces of use and repetition. Much of da Cunha’s practice illuminates the quiet dignity embedded in manual labour and the materials it relies on.

Francisca Aninat’s contributions include her *South American Series* and a new body of work created through collaborative workshops with patients at **Addenbrooke’s Hospital** in Cambridge. Her work meditates on the vulnerability of healthcare systems in Chile and the UK, staging a material dialogue between distant hospitals and shared experiences of waiting, anxiety, and care. Through textile assemblage and collective making, Aninat offers a poetics of silent time—of hours suspended in hospital waiting rooms, stitched into fabric and held in gesture.

Together, da Cunha and Aninat offer parallel strategies for perceiving time less as a linear flow than as a material condition: something to be handled, layered, and revealed. Their works pose quiet but urgent questions: *What does time leave behind? How do materials remember?*

The exhibition forms part of the **Visual Enquiries** programme at The Heong Gallery, which fosters dialogue between academic research and the visual arts. A public **interdisciplinary symposium** on **13 October 2025** will accompany the exhibition, featuring contributions from scholars at the University of Cambridge. The symposium will explore contemporary experiences of liminality, displacement, and invisible routines—extending the exhibition's questions into wider cultural and political contexts.

[Revealing \(In\)visible Times: Exhibition Symposium Tickets, Mon 13 Oct 2025 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#)

The Heong Gallery, Downing College, Cambridge, CB2 1DQ

Press contact: gALLERY@dow.cam.ac.uk

Exhibition dates: 11 September 2025 to 19 October 2025

Opening times: Wednesday to Sunday, 12PM-5PM

FREE ADMISSION

Private view: 10 September, 6PM-8PM

Please RSVP to gALLERY@dow.cam.ac.uk

About the Curator:

Valentina Gajardo is an art historian and curator. Her work centres on bringing visibility to overlooked symptoms and contemporary practices from Latin America, exploring thread narratives present in art production since the return to democracy, weaving artwork into the latent stories that remain in silence. She has been an invited speaker at the Women's Art Collection Conference at Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge, and is currently writing her upcoming book, *Thread Stories* (Ediciones Metales Pesados).

About Alexandre da Cunha:

Alexandre da Cunha (b.1969) is a Brazilian-born artist who lives and works in São Paulo and London. He has referred to his practice as 'pointing' as opposed to 'making'. By 'pointing' at existing objects in plain sight, da Cunha highlights new and unexpected meanings within the objects he chooses. Solo exhibitions of his work have been held in São Paulo, Naples, London, Brighton and Chicago. Major public and outdoor sculptures by da Cunha are on permanent view at Battersea Power Station Underground Station in London, the Monsoon Building in London, the Laumeier Sculpture Park in St. Louis USA, Pierce Boston Tower in Boston USA and the Rochaverá Tower in São Paulo, Brazil.

About Francisca Aninat:

Francisca Aninat (b.1979) lives and works in London. Using different materials, her interest relies in generating a connection between artistic processes and the narratives of everyday life. Her work is part of the Cisneros Fontanals Foundation, Femsá collection, Museum of Contemporary Art in Chile, MOMA archives and The Roberts Institute of Art, among others. She has received the National Chilean Fund for Culture and the Arts, the Chilean Academic Excellence Scholarship for studies abroad and the Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation Grants and Commissions Program. Her recent projects include the participation in the 4th Polygraphic Triennial of San Juan, Latin America and the Caribbean, the 22nd Paiz Biennial in Guatemala and the Casa Wabi Foundation in Mexico. She has recently published with Editorial Ikrek, Ediciones Táticas, D21 Editores and Letras Libres magazine.

About The Heong Gallery:

The Heong Gallery at Downing College opened in February 2016 as a purpose-built public exhibition space for modern and contemporary art. Designed by Caruso St John Architects (RIBA Stirling Prize 2016), the Gallery won a RIBA East Award in 2017. It was inaugurated by alumnus Sir Alan Bowness and named after alumnus Alwyn Heong in recognition of his generous benefaction.