

Jandyrá Waters

cecilia brunson projects

Jandyra Waters (b. 1921, Sertãozinho, São Paulo - d. 2025, Sertãozinho, São Paulo) was a painter, sculptor, engraver, and poet, recognised as one of the pioneering figures in Brazilian Geometric Abstraction with a remarkable career that spanned over 60 years.

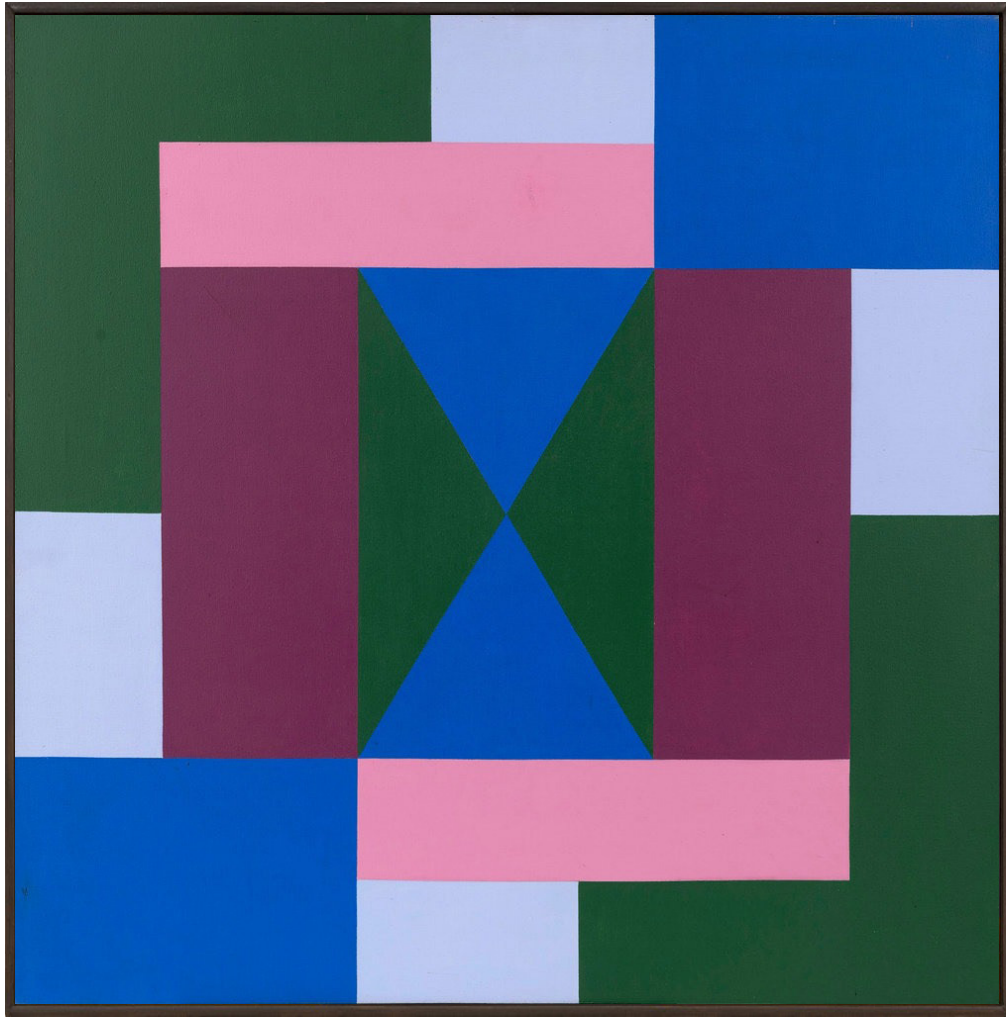
Having studied English and graduated from a secretarial course, Waters secured work at the American Embassy in Rio de Janeiro, before volunteering with the United Nations Relief Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) in post-WWII Europe. In 1946, she settled in Lewes in East Sussex in the UK and, two years later, went on to study at the local County Council Art School. After returning to Brazil in 1950, she honed her skills in painting with Yoshiya Takaoka and in sculpture and ceramics with André Osze at the artist's studio in São Paulo. She also, additionally, studied engraving under Marcelo Grassmann, a renowned Brazilian printmaker, draftsman, and illustrator. In 1951, she continued her studies with a specialism in mural painting under the tutelage of Clóvis Graciano at the Fundação Armando Álvares Penteado (FAAP), before she pursuing a degree in Art History at the University of São Paulo (USP) the following year.





Jandyra Waters
Sem título [Untitled], 1967
Oil on canvas
55 x 46 cm (21 5/8 x 18 1/8 in)





Jandyra Waters

Sem título [Untitled], 2002

Oil on canvas

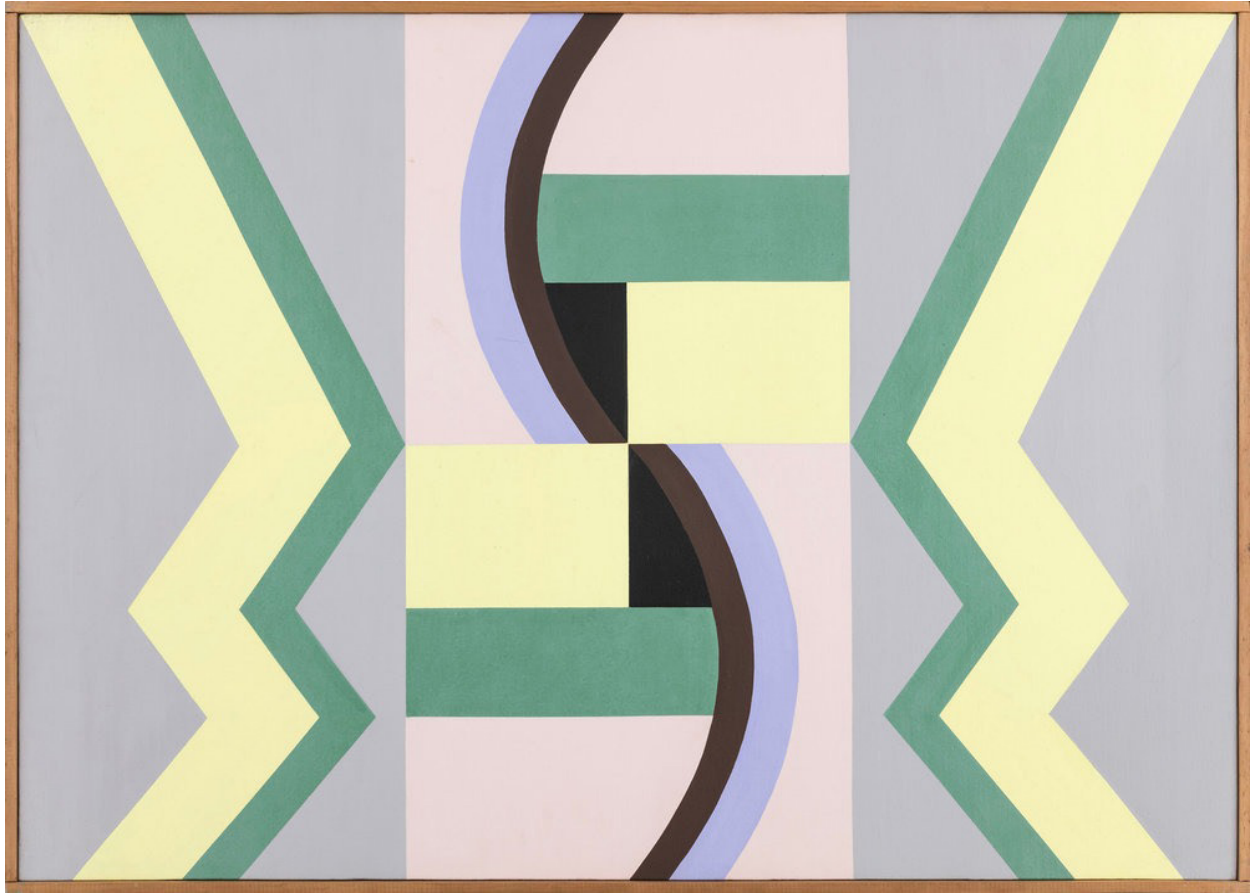
80 x 79.8 cm (31 1/2 x 31 3/8 in)

Exhibitions

Jandyra Waters: Rhythm of Time, Almeida & Dale, São Paulo, Brazil
(27 August - 23 September 2015).

Publications

Denise Mattar, *Jandyra Waters: Ritmo do Tempo* (São Paulo: Almeida e Dale, 2015), 51.



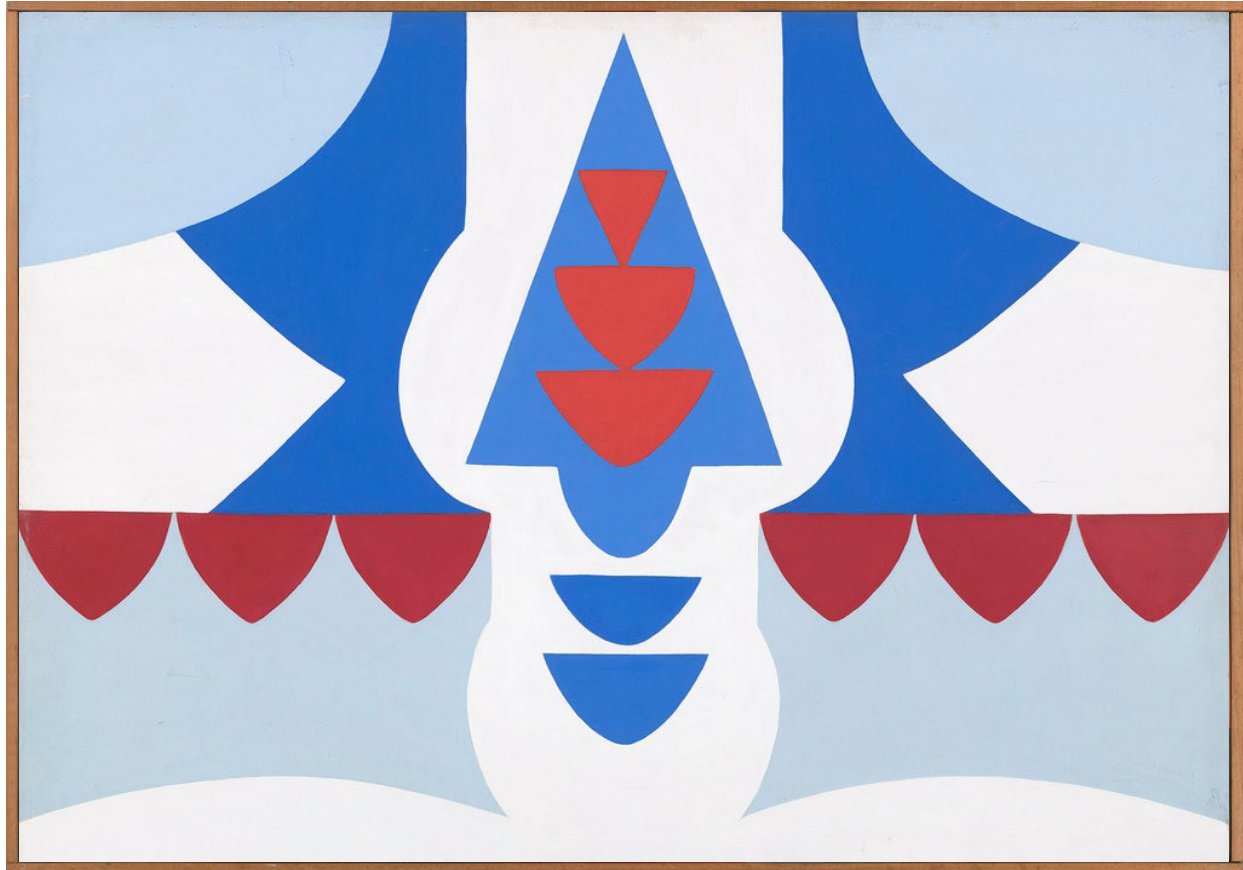
Jandyra Waters
Sem título [Untitled], 1992
Acrylic on canvas
72 x 99 cm (28 3/8 x 39 in)

Exhibitions
Acervo Vivo [Living Collection], Almeida & Dale, São Paulo, Brazil
(2 March - 2 May 2026).





Debuting at the Salão Paulista de Artes Moderna (SPAM) in 1957, her work progressed from figurative landscapes, domestic interiors, and still lifes into rhythmic abstraction, inspired by the Tachisme movement that developed in Europe in the 1940s and 1950s. By the 1960s, her work had consolidated into Lyrical Abstraction, using a bolder palette to create more deliberately distinctive shapes, before giving way to Geometric Abstraction in the 1980s. Here, Waters' more fluid forms developed into harder, geometric shapes that were often incredibly architectural. In addition to oil and acrylic paintings, her later work also included sculptural relief cut-painted wood, no doubt inspired by her earlier studies in wood engraving under Grassmann. In addition to her visual practice, Waters also published three haiku poetry books - short, unrhymed Japanese-style prose that aimed to capture the fleeting essence of nature. She remained an active artist until her passing in 2025, aged 103.



Jandyra Waters
Sem título [Untitled], 1971
Oil on canvas
80 x 100 cm (31 1/2 x 39 3/8 in)



Jandyra Waters
Sem título [Untitled], 1993
Acrylic on canvas
72 x 99 cm (28 3/8 x 39 in)

Exhibitions
Acervo Vivo [Living Collection], Almeida & Dale, São Paulo, Brazil
(2 March - 2 May 2026).





Installation View

Acervo Vivo [Living Collection], Almeida & Dale, São Paulo, Brazil
(2 March - 2 May 2026)



Installation View

Theodore Ereira-Guyer and Jandyra Waters: We Lost Lots of Beautiful Things,
curated by Maria do Carmo M. P. de Pontes, Elizabeth Xi Bauer, London, UK
(10 October - 23 November 2025)



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Installation View

Continuities, 2000 Years of Female Art in South America, Embassy of Brazil,
London, UK
(2-23 March 2023)



Installation View
Continuities, 2000 Years of Female Art in South America, Embassy of Brazil,
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Installation View
Continuities, 2000 Years of Female Art in South America, Embassy of Brazil,
London, UK
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Installation View

Resonances / 2000 Years Female Arts of South America, Frieze Masters 2022,
Paul Hughes Fine Arts, London, UK
(12-16 October 2022)



Exhibiting extensively across Brazil, Waters' first solo exhibition was held in 1963 at Galeria Aremar, Campinas, São Paulo. More recently, Waters has been the subject of several solo exhibitions, notably *Jandyra Waters: 104 years* at Club Athletico Paulistano (São Paulo, Brazil, 2025); *Desvendador* at Galeria MaPa (São Paulo, Brazil, 2019); and a retrospective entitled *Jandyra Waters – Rhythm of Time* at Almeida & Dale (São Paulo, Brazil, 2015). Waters' work has been included in many group exhibitions, including *Acervo Vivo [Living Collection]* at Almeida & Dale (São Paulo, Brazil, 2026); *Centenarians: Three Brazilian Women Artists* at Jeff Lincoln Art + Design in collaboration with Haslauer Gallery (New York, US, 2026); *Theodore Ereira-Guyer and Jandyra Waters: We Lost Lots of Beautiful Things*, curated by Maria do Carmo M. P. de Pontes at Elizabeth Xi Bauer (London, UK, 2025); *Five Essays on MASP- Geometries* at the Museu de Arte de São Paulo (São Paulo, Brazil, 2025); and *Mapa das Mulheres [Map of Women]* at Galeria MaPa (São Paulo, Brazil, 2024).

Her work, lauded by critics such as Theon Spanudis, Mário Schenberg, and José Geraldo Vieira, can be found in some of the most important private collections in São Paulo and at institutions such as Museu de Arte de São Paulo (MASP), Museu de Arte Contemporânea (MAC-USP), Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, and the FAAP's Brazilian Art Museum (BAM).

