

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Paulo Nimer Pjota: Encantados is generously supported by

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📷 The works on display can be photographed. Share your pictures with us on social media.

Large print guides are available

Cover: *Banquete com teia (Banquet with spider web)*, 2025

All artworks by Paulo Nimer Pjota, 2025
Acrylic, oil and tempera on canvas
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SLG

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BIOGRAPHY



Photo: Gui Gomes

Paulo Nimer Pjota (b. 1988, São José do Rio Preto, Brazil) lives and works in São Paulo, Brazil.

Recent solo exhibitions include *Na Boca do Sol II* at François Ghebaly, Los Angeles (2026); *A Lua e Eu (The Moon and I)* at Kunststituut Melly, Rotterdam; *Os alquimistas estão chegando* at Mendes Wood DM, Paris (2025); and *Na Boca do Sol* at Mendes Wood DM, New York (2024); *Do cômico e do trágico* at Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo (2023); *Every Empire Breaks Like a Vase* at François Ghebaly, Los

Angeles, and Maureen Paley & Studio M, London (both 2022), as well as at *The Power Station*, Dallas (2021).

His work has been included in institutional group exhibitions such as 1981/2021: *arte contemporânea brasileira* at CCBB, Rio de Janeiro (2021); *Images that don't conform* at Museu de Arte do Rio, Rio de Janeiro (2021); *Trouble in Paradise* at Kunsthal Rotterdam (2019); *Sea of Desire* at Fondation Carmignac, Porquerolles (2018).

LIST OF WORKS

Clockwise from left:

Toca do lagarto (Lizard's Burrow), 2025

Duplo (Double), 2025

Em busca do vale encantado (para Jorge) (the land before time – for Jorge), 2025

A criação do ouro (The Creation of Gold), 2025

O ouro da noite (The Gold of the Night), 2025

Fogo e vaso e deserto (Fire and Vase and Desert), 2025

Fogo e tartaruga e deserto (Fire and Turtle and Desert), 2025

El Dorado (El Dorado), 2025

Banquete com teia (Banquet with spider web), 2025*

Fábula (Fable), 2025

Lago sagrado (Sacred Lake), 2025

All artworks by Paulo Nimer Pjota, Acrylic, oil and tempera on canvas
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*Private collection, New York, USA

EDITION

Encantados (Enchanted), 2026

Edition of 40
£400

Paulo Nimer Pjota has produced a new, limited-edition artwork to coincide with his first institutional show in London.

The edition is available to buy in the SLG Bookshop or online.

You can pay in interest-free installments through **Own Art**, for a more affordable way to collect and buy contemporary art.

You can also enjoy a 20% discount on your edition's frame through our partnership with **FRAME** London.

For more information contact us at shop@southlondongallery.org

All proceeds from edition sales directly support the exhibition, events and communities & learning programmes.

PAULO NIMER PJOTA ENCANTADOS

South London Gallery
1 May – 23 August 2026



SLG

Paulo Nimer Pjota is a Brazilian artist who predominantly works in oil, tempera and acrylic on canvas. His paintings draw on art history, popular culture, mythology and folk tales, merging multiple and often contrasting references to create new, imaginary scenarios. His approach borrows from the sampling and remixing practices adopted in Brazilian hip-hop and rap music, as well as on his experiences as a graffiti artist when he was a teenager. Even then he was an aesthetic disrupter, pushing against the rules governing street art, which he found to be restricting. Breaking down cultural hierarchies has remained at the heart of his practice ever since. Elements inspired by childhood memories and sketchbooks, his dreams, and imagery from a vast library of art historical reference materials, all coexist within his distinctive compositions.

For his South London Gallery exhibition, Pjota presents a new body of paintings on canvas against an expansive mural applied directly onto the gallery walls. Bringing together two very different and usually opposing approaches to painting, Pjota creates a visually cohesive whole. A magical environment is



Duplo (Double), 2025

populated by mythical characters, dragons, crocodiles, monkeys and extraordinary beasts. The sun, stars and moon are recurring motifs, as are ancient and modern vases, shells and invented vessels, brimming with flowers and hybrid plants.

Vases can be seen as containers of life, often symbolising the human soul. Through the ages they have been associated with various cultural traditions, artistic expression, social status, wealth, health and longevity. Flowers are

equally laden with meaning and can signal life, love, purity, and death, as well as a broad range of emotions. They are ephemeral, as are butterflies, which also appear in many of the paintings. Butterflies can refer to the soul, transformation, renewal and rebirth, and in different cultures represent joy, love and the spirits of the deceased. In *Fábula (Fable)*, 2025, butterflies emerge from the stomach of a god-like figure as if being born, but also refer to feelings of excitement.

Fantastical creatures drawn on the gallery walls imply the presence of music. A three-headed beast plays the trumpet, horn and sax, whilst simultaneously beating a drum. One animal's throat merges with the instrument it's playing, and another sits on a turntable, scratching a record with its feet whilst playing a violin with its hands. This injection of silent music hints at the potential of a hidden world, of secrets behind the surface of this mysterious garden. Bringing together such disparate components from the past, present and an imaginary world, Pjota introduces us to a new universe in which established attributions of value to various objects, artefacts and cultures are dismantled, making way for an alternative future.

The character of that alternative future is deliberately ambiguous. The exhibition's title, *Encantados*, meaning enchanted in Portuguese, draws on the dual definitions of a word which can refer to being charmed and filled with delight, but also to a state of being placed under a spell or bewitched. The potential for both positive and negative readings, and the tension between them, runs throughout the show. All the works are imbued with a sense of fantasy and magic, but



Fogo e vaso e deserto (Fire and Vase and Desert), 2025

whereas some are overtly joyous, others could be scenes from a post-apocalyptic world. Unlike a story book in which a clear narrative unfolds, with a beginning, middle and end, Pjota's works leave the viewer to make their own sense of his fantastical scenes.

The exhibition at the SLG is Pjota's first exhibition with a public gallery in the UK. It is his second institutional solo exhibition following his debut at Kunstinstiut Melly, Rotterdam, in 2025.

Em busca do vale encantado (para Jorge) (the land before time – for Jorge), 2025

