



WINE DARK-SEA

M A R I A T R A B U L O

When the sea is ink and salt the pigment

Fernando P. Ferreira

They say that, when the wind comes from the South,
it brings a different colour to the sea.

In Aljezur, in south-western Portugal, the wind coming from Africa crosses a border that maps draw, but which the winds and the sea do not recognise. It is in this movement—between geographies and perceptions—that Wine-Dark Sea, the artist Maria Trabulo's exhibition, begins: with the suspicion that the things we think we know—a colour, a body, a place—are transformed when we stop looking at the surface.

“What colour is the sea?”

The answer seems immediate. Blue.

However, Maria Trabulo insists on a second question: “Which blue?”

Between 2014 and 2021, alongside migrants, fishermen and climate activists in coastal areas of the Mediterranean and Atlantic, Trabulo sought other ways of evoking seas that we think we know. Someone who crossed the Mediterranean between Libya and Calabria shared that, in Libya, the sea was black; in Italy, blue. On the Aeolian Islands, archaeologists made the colour of the sea coincide with that of the volcanic island's soils. In Aljezur, an oceanographer described the colour of the sea from the currents coming from Morocco, capable of altering the colour and temperature of the waters off the Portuguese coast. These stories suggest that an apparently elementary perception is never only what we see, but also the result of a memory, a shared tradition, or a clandestine route, or of a sea that is simultaneously a border and a contested resource. But perhaps the most relevant aspect of these stories is not what they say about the sea, but what they reveal about the question Trabulo poses. Colour ceases to be an obvious property of something, and instead becomes a construction.

Selected passage from the exhibition text



Wine-Dark Sea - Pintor de Lipari I
Seawater crystallized on dyed cotton and linen
140 x 100 cm
2026



Wine-Dark Sea - Pintor de Lipari II
Seawater crystallized on dyed cotton and linen
140 x 100 cm
2026



Wine-Dark Sea - Pintor de Lipari III
Seawater crystallized on dyed cotton and linen
140 x 100 cm
2026



Wine-Dark Sea - Pintor de Lipari IV
Seawater crystallized on dyed cotton and linen
140 x 100 cm
2026



1500 Metres Deep VII
Nautical rope casted in Sea salt
63 x 15 x 8 cm
2026



1500 Metres Deep VII
Nautical rope casted in Sea salt
63 x 15 x 8 cm
2026



1500 Metres Deep III
Nautical rope casted in Sea salt
45 x 14 x 5 cm
2026



Southern Currents III
Chain casted in sea salt
43 x 43 x 8 cm
2026



1500 Metres Deep I
Nautical rope casted in Sea salt
74 x 3 x 3 cm
2026



1500 Metres Deep VIII
Nautical rope casted in Sea salt
100 x 31 x 4 cm
2026









Territorial I, II, III, IV

Giclée print on 230gsm alpha-cellulose matt paper

69 x 50 cm

2026



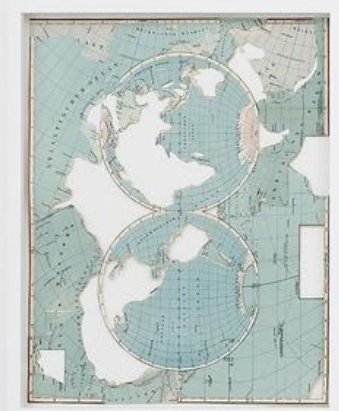


Territorial V, VI, VII, VIII IX, X, XI, XII

Giclée print on 230gsm alpha-cellulose matt paper

91 x 72 cm

2026



Study for Universal Blue I, II, III, IV

Paper Collage

91 x 72 cm

2026







Wine-Dark Sea - Malvasia I
Seawater crystallized on dyed cotton and linen
50 x 37 cm
2026



Wine-Dark Sea - Oliveira III
Seawater crystallized on dyed cotton and linen
50 x 35 cm
2026



Wine-Dark Sea - Night II

Seawater crystallized on dyed cotton and linen

50 x 37 cm

2026



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