

SURFACE

"Pink, Gold, and Excess: Ana Elisa Egreja's Maximalist Vision"

By Sofia Quintero

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Ana Elisa Egreja, *Pink Table with Chinoiserie and Roseate Spoonbills* [Mesa Rosa com Chinoiserie e Colhereiros-Rosados], 2026. Courtesy of the artist, Almeida & Dale, and Jessica Silverman.

Brazilian artist Ana Elisa Egreja's "Pink Table with Chinoiserie and Roseate Spoonbills" (2026), on view now through September 5 at Jessica Silverman Gallery in San Francisco, is a large-scale still life built from a real-life staging. Guided by the coloring of a bird native to Brazil's Pantanal, the work fuses classical Dutch still-life tradition with the fantastical logic of Latin American magical realism, topped with a gold-leaf sky reimagined in a tropical environment. It's a combination of Egreja's practice over the past two decades: warm, vibrant, and unapologetically excessive.

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Portrait of Ana Elisa Egreja. Courtesy of the artist, Almeida & Dale, and Jessica Silverman.

Bio: Ana Elisa Egreja, born 1983, lives and works in São Paulo, Brazil

Title of work: *Pink Table with Chinoiserie and Roseate Spoonbills* [*Mesa Rosa com Chinoiserie e Colhereiros-Rosados*], 2026.

Where to see it: Ana Elisa Egreja: "The Flight of Color"

Jessica Silverman Gallery

621 Grant Ave, San Francisco, CA 94108

Through September 5, 2026

Three words to describe this work: Pink, Chinoiserie, Excess.

What was on your mind at the time: Color was the starting point. I really wanted to make a painting using pink, gold, and blue. The *colhereiro*, a bird from the Pantanal (one of Brazil's major biomes), had exactly the tones I was looking for to guide the palette.

An interesting feature that's not immediately noticeable: I'm not sure if it's something viewers immediately notice, but the painting begins with a real-life staging. Long before I start painting, I

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begin gathering everything I want to include: the fabric, the Chinese porcelain, serving platters, fruits, and vegetables. I arrange the entire composition on the table in my studio, and only then do the long months of painting begin.

How the work reflects your practice as a whole: It reflects my practice in every way. It is a large still life, a genre that has accompanied me for the past twenty years. It brings together references to classical Dutch painting with the sense of the absurd and fantasy inspired by one of my greatest influences: Latin American magical realism. It also features the gold-leaf sky, borrowed from medieval painting and reimagined within a new tropical reality. And finally, it embraces the warm, vibrant palette that has always been my favorite.

One song that captures the work's essence: "Você Não Entende Nada." Written by Caetano Veloso, performed by Gal Costa.

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