

Galeria Pedro Oliveira

HElena Valsecchi

VAMPATA

Flaming, high flame, tongue of fire; spark | Explosion, impulse (of anger, of enthusiasm); Rapture | Flushing, scalding | Flash, confrontation | Heat wave, gust (of hot air)

Opening: Saturday - April 11, 2026 – 4 PM

Helena Valsecchi's work revolves around an idea of interpenetration between bodies, experiences of places, and mineral, mythical, temporal, and historical stratifications. Through a multidisciplinary practice, the artist investigates the thresholds between culturally defined categories, questioning them.

Her processes are born from practices of listening and proximity: walks, collection of materials, and observation of territories, which integrate and inform the artistic process. Matter (fire, glass, pigments, or mineral and vegetable elements) is never neutral, but acts as a co-author, bearer of memory, symbol, and tension. The works thus emerge as fragile, precarious, and stratified forms, in balance between strength and vulnerability, evoking a sensitive dimension of experience and inviting a refinement of listening.

During the opening event, the gallery invites the public to participate in the collective becoming of the work: each contribution—be it a phrase, a word, or a fragment arising from the encounter with the pieces—will nourish the work through a writing device intervened by the artist.

An invitation to share and act: to leave the role of spectator and become an integral part of the making.

Helena Valsecchi (Novara, Italy, 1976). Italian-Portuguese artist, lives and works between Lisbon and Peniche. Master in Fine Arts, Esad.CR (2025). Her work was part of the book Portuguese Emerging Art (2023) and was selected for the Millennium BCP Young Art Prize (2024). Research residency on the relationship between the female body and Mount Etna, within the framework of the European program Culture Moves Europe (2025). Participated in exhibitions such as “The Spectator’s Place” (CAPC, 2023) and “331 Mulberry Trees in Metamorphosis” (Arpad Szenes – Vieira da Silva Museum, 2024-2025), and presented solo exhibitions such as “L’Invisible” (MUHNAC). Currently developing an artistic residency in the Bussaco Forest with the Aderno Association.

> 20.06.2026

Galeria Pedro Oliveira

Calçada de Monchique, 3 . 4050-393 Porto. Portugal | Tuesday to Saturday from 3pm to 7:30pm

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