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**VANESSA BARRAGÃO**  
**(b. 1992, Portugal)**

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Vanessa Barragão is a Portuguese textile artist whose work reflects a deep commitment to sustainability and environmental preservation. She grew up in Albufeira, a coastal city in southern Portugal, where she now maintains her studio.

Her art is strongly influenced by the beauty and fragility of the oceans and the natural ecosystems that surround her. Through the recycling of wool and synthetic fibers, Vanessa breathes new life into discarded materials, transforming them into textile works that evoke underwater landscapes and organic forms. Using ancestral techniques such as latch hook, crochet, and felting, she creates rich and dynamic textures that transport the viewer into a world inspired by marine biodiversity.

Her personal experiences play an essential role in her creative process. Childhood trips to the Caribbean, where she witnessed the decline of coral reefs, awakened an environmental awareness that is reflected in each piece she creates. For Vanessa, art is not just a form of expression but a tool for raising awareness about pollution, overconsumption, and the urgent need to preserve both the planet and endangered artisanal techniques. Each of her artworks is unique, unpredictable, and shaped by time, care, and passion, symbolizing the complexity and delicacy of the natural world. Through her work, Vanessa invites the public to reflect on the impact of their daily choices and embrace more sustainable practices. Her goal is to inspire a shift in mindset, promoting harmony between art, tradition, and environmental responsibility.

Barragão is an artist whose passion for the environment has led her on a remarkable journey in the world of textile art. From a young age, she discovered her love for textiles and craftsmanship, laying the foundation for a unique artistic career that harmoniously integrates art and sustainability.

After completing her studies in Fashion Design at ULisboa, Barragão became aware of the fashion industry's highly polluting and wasteful impact. Seeking to distance herself from that world, she pursued opportunities in handmade production factories, eventually securing a position at an artisanal rug factory. It was at this moment that she realized the vast amount of waste generated by the industry.

Having learned ancestral weaving techniques from her grandmothers at an early age, Barragão began experimenting with textile waste—mainly wool fibers—and, through an organic process, developed the textile installations that now define her work. Recognized for her talent, Barragão has collaborated with renowned organizations. In 2024, one of her artworks was selected as Portugal's gift to the United Nations and has since been part of the permanent collection at the UN headquarters in New York. She was also one of the highlighted artists on the Portuguese representation at Expo 2025 Osaka, and, in 2026, her artwork *Matriz* was donated to the City of Lisbon through its integration in the MUDE - Design Museum's collection.

Barragão remains dedicated to her vision of art as a vehicle for positive change. Through her future projects, she aspires to reach new heights, spreading her message of environmental awareness to a wider audience and leaving a lasting legacy as a sustainable artist who redefines the boundaries of textile art.

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VANESSA BARRAGÃO | CV

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**EXHIBITIONS**

[ 2025 ]

*Mergulho - As paisagens de Vanessa Barragão*,  
Centro Comercial Colombo (Lisbon, Portugal)  
*Bienal Arte & Design Funchal*, Centro Cultural e  
de Investigação do Funchal (Madeira, Portugal)  
*Submerso Imerso*, Centro de Congressos de  
Ílhavo (Ílhavo, Portugal)  
*Expo Osaka*, Portugal Pavillion (Osaka, Japan)

[ 2024 ]

*SUBMERSO IMERSO*, Lagos Cultural Centre  
(Lagos, Portugal)  
*ALL THAT BREATHES*, Cheongju Craft Biennale  
(Shanghai, China)  
*ARTE NO FEMININO*, Rectorate of the University  
of Lisbon (Lisbon, Portugal)

[ 2023 ]

*MORPHOSIS*, Art Museum of Sintra (Sintra,  
Portugal)  
*WITHIN + WITHOUT*, Unit (London, UK)  
*Maré*, Arts and Crafts Centre (Albufeira, Portugal)  
*LISBON BY DESIGN*, 3rd Edition Lisbon by Design  
(Lisbon, Portugal)  
*DUBAI DESIGN WEEK* (Dubai, United Arab  
Emirates)  
*INTRICATE OCEANS*, Coastal Discovery Museum  
(South Carolina, USA)  
*CURRENTS*, Science Museum Oklahoma  
(Oklahoma, USA)  
*BLOOMING FROM THE ROCK*, CoBrA Gallery  
(Shanghai, China)

[ 2022 ]

*FITE*, Museum Bargoin (Clermont-Ferrand,  
France)  
*12th FROM LAUSANNE TO BEIJING*, Yunnan  
Museum (Kunming, China)  
*FESTIVAL EMINENTE*, Public Art Installation  
(Lisbon, Portugal)  
*THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF  
EXTRAORDINARY TEXTILES*, Museum Bargoin  
(Clermont-Ferrand, France)  
*FLORA | FAUNA | FIBER: TEXTILES IN  
CONTEMPORARY ART*, Mary M. Torggler FineArts  
Center (Newport News, VA, USA)  
*THE ART OF MUSHROOMS*, Serralves (Porto,  
Portugal)

*CRAFTING A MORE HUMAN FUTURE | Homo Faber  
Event*, Foundation Giorgio Cini (Venezia, Italy)  
*FOR THE LOVE OF THREAD* | International Thread  
Arts Exhibition, Grand Palace (Nantes, France)  
*ARTE NO FEMININO-CONCEBER E  
TECER/TECER E CONCEBER*, Portalegre  
Tapestry Museum Guy Fino (Portalegre,  
Portugal)

[ 2021 ]

*TOOLS FOR CONVIVIALITY*, Cheongju Craft  
Biennale (Cheongju, South Korea)  
*ALGARVENSIS Geopark*, Public Art Installation  
(Ponte Medieval de Paderne, Portugal)  
*UNDERNEATH THE SERENE SKY*, CoBrA Gallery  
(Shanghai, China)

[ 2020 ]

*DESIGN EM SÃO BENTO*, São Bento Mansion  
(Lisbon, Portugal)  
*CHANGE IS A TEAM SPORT*, Super Bowl '20  
Adidas Studio (Florida, USA)  
*TEN*, Paradigm Gallery + Studio (Pennsylvania,  
USA)  
*MATERIAL PROPERTIES*, Paradigm Gallery +  
Studio (Pennsylvania, USA)

[ 2019 ]

*SURFACE SPECTRUM*, Mash Gallery (Los Angeles,  
USA)

[ 2017 ]

*THREADS + COLOUR 2*, KPC Yarn (Sydney,  
Australia)

[ 2014 ]

*22 AOS DE DESIGN*, MUDE (Lisbon, Portugal)

## **AWARDS**

[ **2021** ]

National Award Artesanato '21 IEFP  
Entrepreneurship Award - New Talents

[ **2019** ]

Mercúrio Award | Young Entrepreneur  
Albufeira Mulher

[ **2018** ]

WEF | Young Innovator for a Better World

[ **2008/9** ]

Nós e o Mundo | 1st place

## **COLLECTIONS**

Private collection MUDE (Portugal)  
Collección SOLO (Spain)  
Vila Vita Parc (Portugal)  
Hotel Pullman Paris Montparnasse (France)  
3HB Hotel Faro (Portugal)  
Etsy HQ (New York, USA)  
Heathrow Airport (UK)