

OBSERVER

These Are the Spring Season's Must-See Museum Shows

From exhibitions of works by Jack Whitten, Rashid Johnson and Amy Serrano to the international debut of Luana Vitra, there's a lot to see in the city.

By [Elisa Carroll](#)



Luana Vitra's "Amulets" is on view at SculptureCenter through July 28, 2025. Courtesy the artist and Mitre Galeria, Minas Gerais and São Paulo. © 2025. Photo by Léo Mitre

Luana Vitra's "Amulets" [↗](#)

SculptureCenter

Through July 28, 2025

There is something profoundly alchemical—almost shamanic—in the way Brazilian artist Luana Vitra engages minerals and organic materials as the core medium of her practice. For her New York institutional debut, Vitra has transformed SculptureCenter into the site of a ritual, where enigmatic totemic forms channel ancestral energies and infuse the space with an uncanny, sacred charge. These auratic sculptures appear suspended in a dialectic of ascension and descent, animated by a tension between transcendence and rootedness, while mineral sedimentations spread across the floor like devotional offerings: “amulets” and ritual acts that mark the threshold between the physical and the spiritual. Vitra’s practice is deeply rooted in her native Minas Gerais, a mineral-rich region historically shaped by the violent extraction of gold through forced labor and, today, dominated by the iron mining industry. Drawing on the metallurgical symbolism and transformative potential of minerals, Vitra evokes a vision of perpetual flux—matter and energy in constant states of becoming, dissolving and reconstitution. Seeking the “spirit in matter,” she activates minerals as vessels for receiving, storing and transmitting energy, a medium for spiritual communication and metaphysical presence.