



MARIANE IBRAHIM

ZOHRA OPOKU
I HAVE ARISEN...PART 2

MARIANE IBRAHIM

I HAVE ARISEN...PART 2

24 MARS - 3 JUIN 2023

Mariane Ibrahim a le plaisir d'accueillir l'exposition personnelle de Zohra Opoku intitulée *I Have Arisen... Part 2*. Première exposition de l'artiste à Paris, elle sera visible du 24 mars au 3 juin 2023 et s'inscrit dans le prolongement de sa série *The Myths of Eternal Life*, dont la première partie a été montrée à Chicago l'année dernière.

Zohra Opoku est une curatrice de la mémoire dans les chapitres de *The Myths of Eternal Life*, où elle fabrique du littéral, du matériel. Elle intègre le passé dans le présent, en brodant par exemple les contours d'une série de visages sculptés dans la pierre auprès d'un collage photographié et sérigraphié de sorte que nous ne sachions plus lequel est l'artefact et lequel est la référence.

The Myths of Eternal Life emprunte sa structure et son langage au *Livre des morts des anciens Égyptiens*, un texte antique qui explique comment préparer la vie après la mort. Les pièces perlées en laiton dispersées à travers les œuvres représentent l'artiste, comme dissoute, portée par le vent, inévitablement, suspendue aux branches nues des arbres, ou posée sur une sérigraphie du profil de son visage, ornant ses incarnations passées de ses manifestations ultérieures, divines; se marquant pour la vie éternelle.

Dans le *Livre des morts*, *ba* est le nom donné à l'oiseau à tête humaine dont l'esprit d'une personne prend la forme après qu'elle est décédée. C'est sous une forme similaire que Zohra Opoku apparaît dans une œuvre dont le titre commence par «*Maat is in my belly with the turquoise and faience of its monthly festival*». Elle y est ailée et fantomatique, peut-être *ba*, peut-être une divinité de son choix, ou bien sa mère, qui rêve souvent de voler, dit-elle.

Le mouvement le plus fréquent de Zohra Opoku est d'aller vers la résistance: résistance à la linéarité, résistance à la simplicité, résistance aux limites de l'incarnation et de la mortalité. Un autre passage du *Livre des morts* qu'elle cite commence par «*Je me donne ma propre bouche (pour que) je puisse parler par elle en la présence des dieux de la Douât.*» Plus que tout, c'est cela le travail de *The Myths of Eternal Life*, Zohra Opoku s'offrant à elle-même une voix pour dire sa complétude dans l'existence de cette vie, de la précédente et de la suivante.

Extrait d'un texte de l'écrivaine Delali Ayivor.

Mariane Ibrahim is pleased to present a solo exhibition by Zohra Opoku entitled, *I Have Arisen...Part 2*, the artists first show in Paris, on view from March 24th to June 3rd, 2023. The exhibition will unveil the continuation of her series *The Myths of Eternal Life*, following the debut show in Chicago in 2022, *Part 1*.

In the chapters of *The Myths of Eternal Life*, Zohra is a curator of memory, where she makes literal, material. She is interested in stitching the past into the present, such as rendering the contours of a series of carved faces in thread next to a screen-printed, photographed collage of the stone originals so we no longer know which one is artifact or reference.

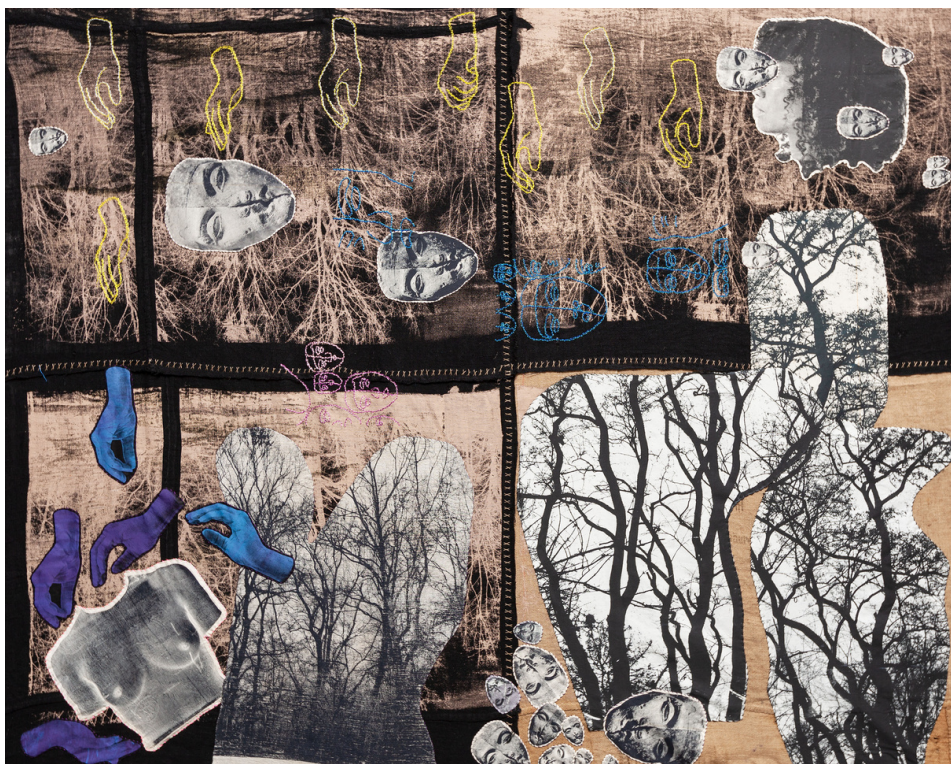
The Myths of Eternal Life borrows its structure and its language from the *Egyptian Book of the Dead*, an ancient text which provides instruction of preparation for the afterlife. The pearled brass pieces scattered through these works represent her, melted down and carried on the wind, where, inevitably, she becomes suspended in bare tree branches, or settles over the screenprint of her face in profile, adorning her past embodiments with their eventual, godly manifestations; marking herself for eternal life.

In the *Book of the Dead*, *ba* is the name given to the human-headed bird that a person's spirit would take the form of once they had passed on. It is in a similar form that Zohra appears in a work whose title begins "*Maat is in my belly with the turquoise and faience of its monthly festival,*" where she is winged and ghostly and, perhaps, *ba*, or perhaps a God of her own choosing, or her own mother, who she tells me often dreams of flying.

Zohra's most common movement is towards resistance: resistance of linearity, resistance of simplicity, resistance of the confines of embodiment and mortality. Another passage she references from the *Book of the Dead* begins "*I give my mouth to myself (so that) I may speak with it in the presence of the gods of the Duat.*" Above all, this is the work of *The Myths of Eternal Life*, for Zohra to gift herself a voice that can speak her wholeness into existence in this life, the past life and the next.

Excerpt from a text by writer Delali Ayivor.

MARIANE IBRAHIM



'Yesterday is beyond us. It has to come before me. Dawn comes (but) you are unaware. You are unaware of those who guard you.' [Extract from Chapter 84: Taking on the form of a heron/ An Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead/ The Papyrus of Sobekmose, 2023

Screenprint on vintage linen sack, screenprint applications, embroidery, hand stitched

Framed:

77 1/8 x 95 5/8 x 2 3/8 in

196 x 243 x 6 cm

MARIANE IBRAHIM



'My head shall not be taken from me. You shall raise me up. You shall make me new. You shall rejuvenate me.' [Extract from Chapter 43: spell for not letting the head / An Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead/ The Papyrus of Sobekmose], 2023

Screenprint on Vintage mixed cotton, screenprint applications, embroidery, hand stitched

Framed:

107 1/8 x 82 1/4 x 2 3/8 in

272 x 209 x 6 cm



MARIANE IBRAHIM



'May you be gracious (and) may Hapi come for me (so that) I may have power over plants. I am this one of your body forever.' [Extract from Chapter 148: conclusion of the papyrus/ An Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead/ The Papyrus of Sobekmose], 2023

Screenprint on linen

Framed:

36 5/8 x 24 3/4 x 2 3/8 in

93 x 63 x 6 cm



MARIANE IBRAHIM



'I have seen the secret sacred places. I was guided to the hidden sacred places, likewise, she allows me to have seen the birth of the great god who clothed me in his ba.' [Extract from Chapter 75: spell for going to Heliopolis (and) taking a seat there/ An Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead/ The Papyrus of Sobekmose], 2022

Brass sculpture

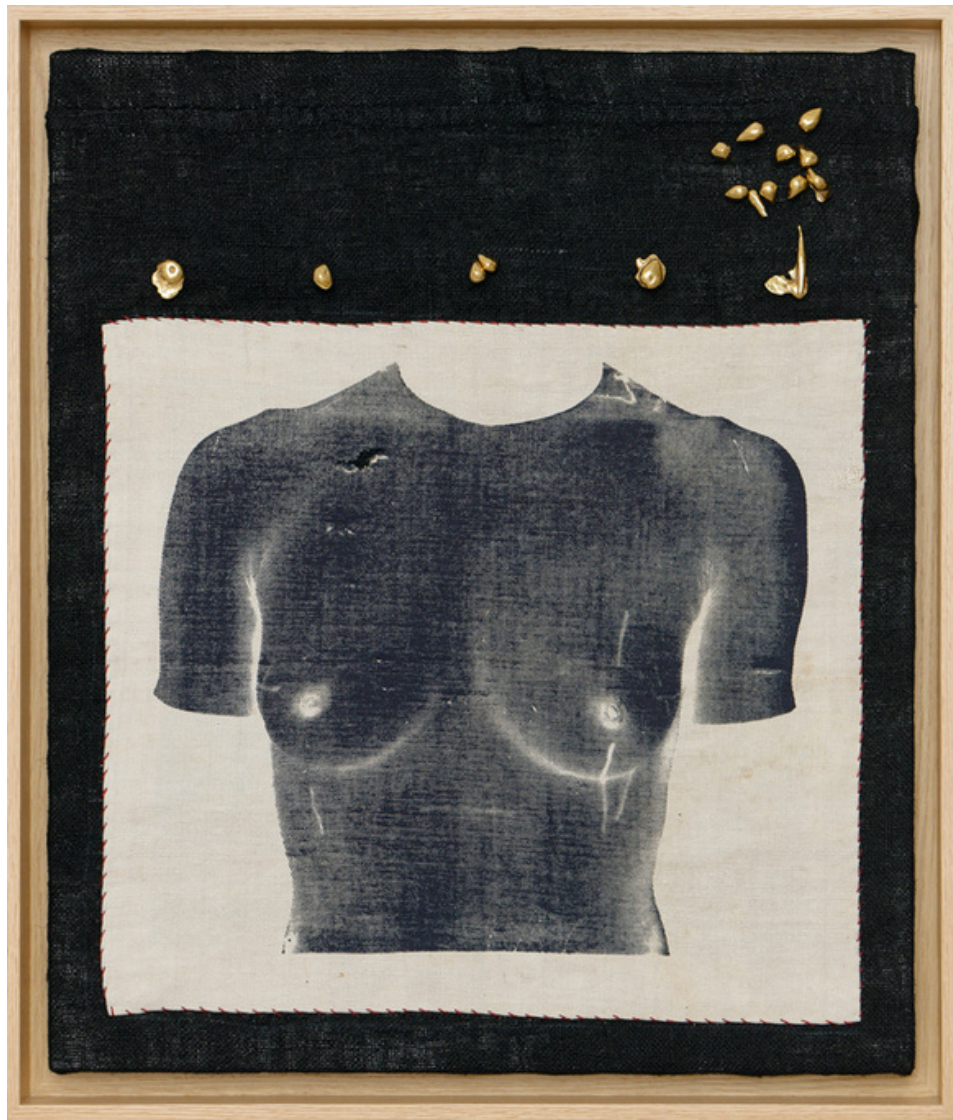
29 7/8 x 23 5/8 x 5 7/8 in

76 x 60 x 15 cm

MARIANE IBRAHIM



MARIANE IBRAHIM



'Hail to you, lords of forever, who establish eternity. Do not take this heart of mine away from me.' [Extract from Chapter 27: spell for not letting the heart / An Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead/ The Papyrus of Sobekmose], 2023

Screenprint on vintage linen sack, hand stitched, brass tears applications

Framed:

27 1/2 x 19 3/4 x 2 3/8 in

70 x 60 x 6 cm

MARIANE IBRAHIM



*"I am one who goes forth prospering, whose name is not known. I am yesterday.
The one who sees millions of years is my name." [Extract from Chapter 42: Spell for
warding off slaughter in Herakleopolis/ An Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead/ The
Papyrus of Sobekmose], 2023*

Screenprint on velvet, brass tears applications

Framed:

23 3/8 x 21 1/4 x 2 3/8 in

59.5 x 54 x 6 cm

MARIANE IBRAHIM



MARIANE IBRAHIM



'I am the lord of light. Mooring is my abomination. I shall not enter into the place of execution of the Duat.' [Extract from Chapter 85: taking on the form of a BA/ An Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead/ The Papyrus of Sobekmose], 2023

Screenprint on linen, brass tears applications

Framed:

34 1/2 x 54 3/8 x 2 3/8 in

87.5 x 138 x 6 cm



MARIANE IBRAHIM



'O lord of offering, great powerful one, see, I bring to you a propitiation offering (so that) you may live on it. Be kind to me. Drive away all the anger which is in your heart against [me].' [Extract from Chapter 14: the theme of driving away anger from the heart/ An Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead/ The Papyrus of Sobekmose], 2023

Screenprint on linen, brass tears applications

Framed:

35 x 53 x 2 3/8 in

89 x 134.5 x 6 cm

MARIANE IBRAHIM



'I have brought to pass what come to pass (and) what will come to pass (and) vice versa. I am the one who comes forth from the egg which the Nun created, whose flood waters raise you up as one who is made divine.' [Extract from Chapter 119: An Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead/ The Papyrus of Sobekmose], 2023

Screenprint on linen, brass tears applications

Framed:

32 7/8 x 54 3/8 x 2 3/8 in

83.5 x 138 x 6 cm

MARIANE IBRAHIM



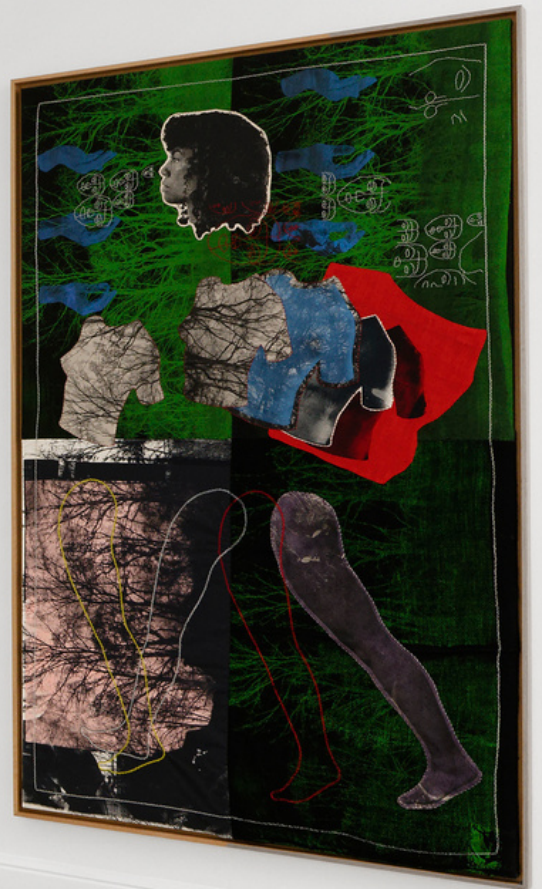
'I am the terror in the storm who guards the great one [in] the conflict. Sharp Knife strikes for me. Ash god provides coolness for me.'[Extract from Chapter 95: Spell of of being at the side of Thoth/ An Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead/ The Papyrus of Sobekmose],2023

Screenprint on vintage mixed cotton and linen, screenprint applications, embroidery, hand stitched

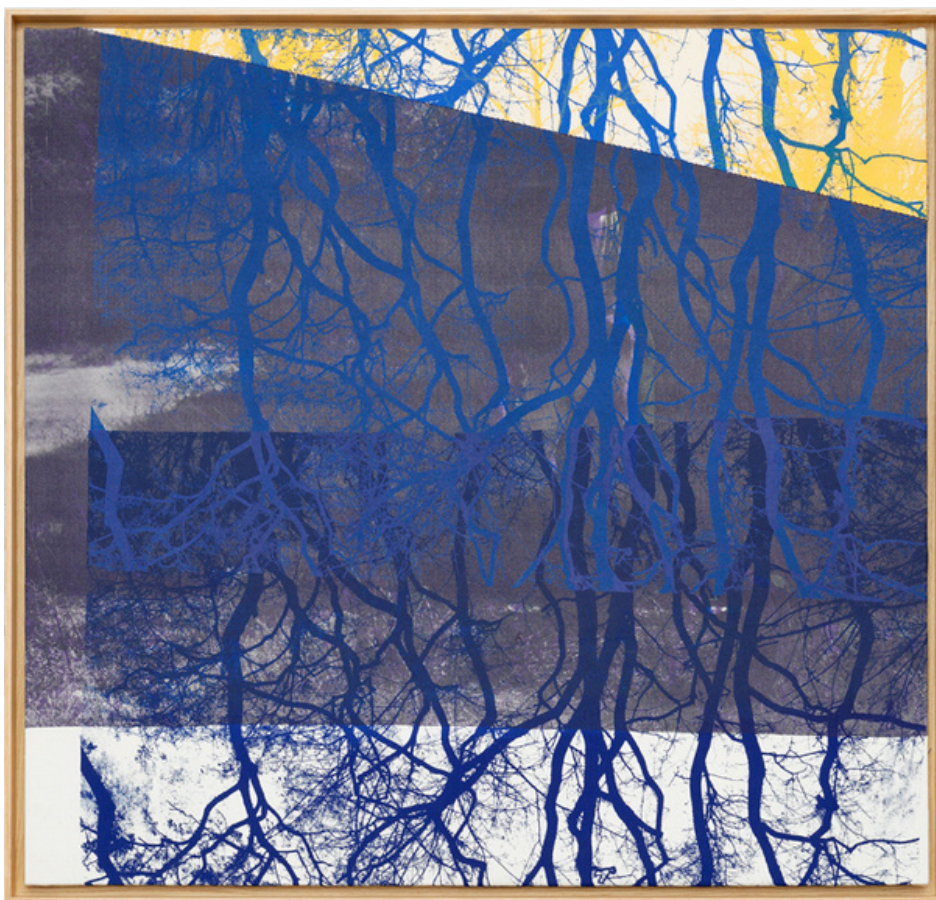
Framed:

98 3/8 x 62 5/8 x 2 3/8 in
250 x 159 x 6 cm

I am Great of Magic



MARIANE IBRAHIM



'I am a snake [whose] years are long, who sleeps (and) is born every day. I am a snake who is at the limits of the earth. I sleep. I am born. I am sound every day.'
[Extract from Chapter 87: the theme of transformation/ An Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead/ The Papyrus of Sobekmose], 2021

Screenprint on vintage mixed cotton and linen, screenprint applications, embroidery, hand stitched

Framed:

55 7/8 x 59 1/2 x 2 3/8 in

142 x 151 x 6 cm

MARIANE IBRAHIM



“Maat is in my belly with the turquoise (and) faience of its monthly festival. This field of mine is lapis lazuli in his festival. I am the Nun who makes the darkness shine bright. I have made the akhmy-demons fall. Those who were in the darkness worship me. I have made the mourners stand whose faces were hidden (and) who were weary.” 2021

Indigo dyed linen, screenprint, hand stitched

Framed:

65 x 69 1/4 x 2 3/8 in

165 x 176 x 6 cm

MARIANE IBRAHIM



'I have opened the doors of truth. I have passed the waters of heaven. I have raised up a ladder to heaven among the gods. I am one who is with you.' [Extract from Chapter 149-150: Conclusion of the papyrus/ An Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead/ The Papyrus of Sobekmose], 2023

Screenprint on dyed Vintage linen, screenprint applications, embroidery, hand stitched

104 3/4 x 122 7/8 in

266 x 312 cm

MARIANE IBRAHIM



MARIANE IBRAHIM

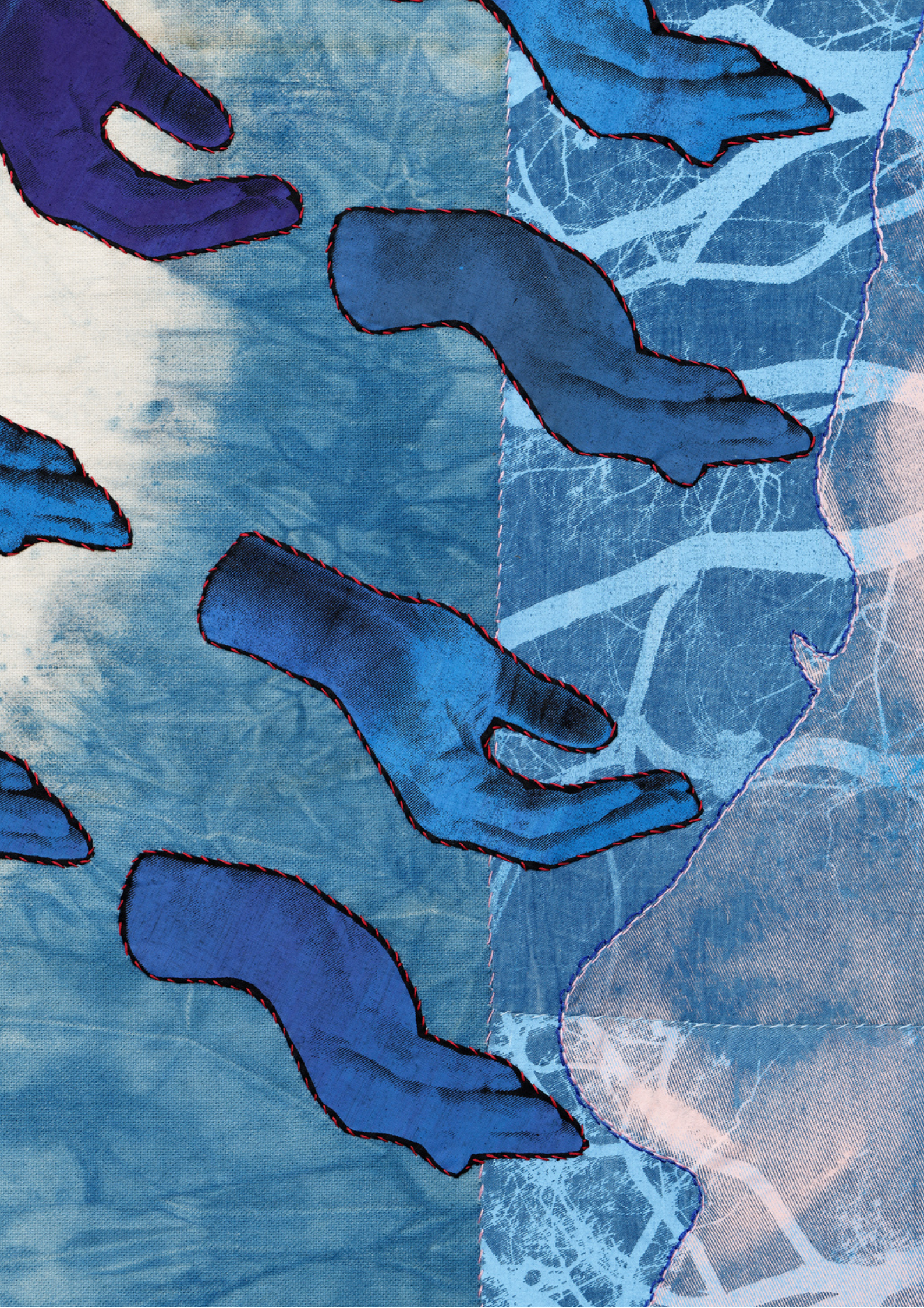


'I am the one who shines, the one who is above the district of the sky. I go forth to the sky. I climb upon the sun's rays. O, I am weary, I am weary, (yet) I proceed.'
[Extract from Chapter 74 : Spell for going forth from the earth/ An Ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead/ The Papyrus of Sobekmose], 2023

Screenprint on indigo dyed linen, screenprint applications, embroidery, hand stitched

97 1/4 x 124 in

247 x 315 cm





Informational text panel on the gallery wall, containing several lines of text.





18



MARIANE
IBRAHIM

MARIANE IBRAHIM

CHICAGO | PARIS | MEXICO CITY

paris@marianeibrahim.com