

[Ernesto Neto section text]

INTO THE TIME HORIZON

Ernesto Neto: Children of the Earth

This room-sized installation, *Children of the Earth* (2019) by Ernesto Neto (b. 1964), pays homage to the Amazon rainforest and highlights the fecundity of the natural world at large. Neto's immersive, cocoon-like installation invites visitors to revel in the senses as he metaphorically transforms the space into a living organism to be activated by guests. Upon passing through the gallery threshold, they encounter a vibrant, sensual environment that entices them to explore and interact with it.

This physical relationship with the piece is a critical aspect of Neto's work, in that he wants visitors to physically reconnect with nature. Cushions are provided so that people can relax and take in the fragrant spices that fill the crocheted nets suspended around them. Like in the canopy of a forest, tendrils cascade from above, here containing percussive instruments to play in a celebratory gesture, as if in a ritual honoring. Moreover, Neto provides comfortable camouflaged clothing for visitors to don so that the space can fully envelop them.

Children of the Earth inspires its participants to reflect on their innate connection to their surroundings. If they take care of Mother Earth, she will reciprocate their care, or as many Indigenous Australians believe, "If you take care of Country, Country will take care of you." Neto, who is from Rio de Janeiro, often deploys organic materials and phenomena, like spices and gravity, to remind us of the natural forces that make life possible, stating, "I want visitors to feel the poetry of being alive."

This installation is part of the exhibition **INTO THE TIME HORIZON**.