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Three exhibitions to see in New York this weekend *Wangechi Mutu at Gladstone, Adriana Varejão at Gagosian and the unveiling of Day's End by David Hammons*

Gabriella Angeleti and Helen Stoilas



Installation view of Adriana Varejão: Talavera at Gagosian Gallery © Adriana Varejão. Photo: Rob McKeever. Courtesy Gagosian.

Adriana Varejão: Talavera

Until 26 June at Gagosian, 522 West 21st Street, Manhattan

The Brazilian artist Adriana Varejão is best-known for her oil and plaster “tile paintings” inspired by cracked azulejos, a Portuguese ceramic style with Arabic origins that is emblematic of colonialism in Brazil. In a collection of works made in the last three years, Varejão looks to talavera pottery for inspiration, the earthenware ceramic style prevalent in Mexico after Spanish colonisation, which hybrids Indigenous and European sources. Works like the painting *Three Diamonds* (2019) and the vibrant but sinister *Ruína Brasilis (Brasilis Ruin)* (2021) — a half-destroyed pillar with raw meat bursting from the structure — combines the two styles, commenting on the aesthetics and tension generated by cultural pluralism. The pieces symbolise the current and historical decay of government in Brazil, and generally of human life in the

Anthropocene. Varejão will have a major retrospective exhibition at the Pinacoteca de São Paulo next year.