



OLGA DE AMARAL





OLGA DE AMARAL (b. 1932)

Memento 7

Signed verso, "1271 "Memento 7" Olga de Amaral 2010"

linen, gesso, acrylic, and gold leaf

68 x 32 3/4 in.

169.86 x 80.01 cm

2010

48012

PROVENANCE:

Donated by the artist via Lisson Gallery to the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston Latin American Experience Benefit Auction, 2022

Private Collection, acquired from the above sale

Heather James Fine Art

LITERATURE:

Houston, Texas, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, *Latin American Experience Benefit Auction 2022 Catalogue*, 2022, illustrated on cover

Olga de Amaral's *Memento 7* exemplifies the Colombian artist's mastery in transforming textile into a medium of profound sculptural and symbolic resonance. Woven from natural fibers and coated with gesso, metallic leaf, and pigments, the work shimmers between material solidity and optical flux. Its surface glints with gold, refracting light in rhythmic intervals that shift as the viewer moves, evoking both the permanence of memory and its fragility.

The *Memento* series, from which this piece belongs, explores memory as a layered, luminous presence. By embedding gold leaf within the weave, de Amaral connects her practice to pre-Columbian traditions in which gold was not a mere material but a carrier of spiritual and cultural meaning. In *Memento 7*, geometric patterning and a richly textured surface create a sense of sacred tapestry, collapsing distinctions between painting, sculpture, and textile.

De Amaral's work has been celebrated internationally for expanding the language of fiber art into realms of architecture and abstraction. *Memento 7* resonates with major institutional holdings of her work, including the Museum of Modern Art (New York), the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris. Within these collections, her gilded weavings stand as both objects of rare material beauty and meditations on history, place, and the metaphysics of light.

Memento 7 thus embodies the artist's unique synthesis of ancestral craft and modern abstraction, offering a powerful reflection on memory, time, and transformation.

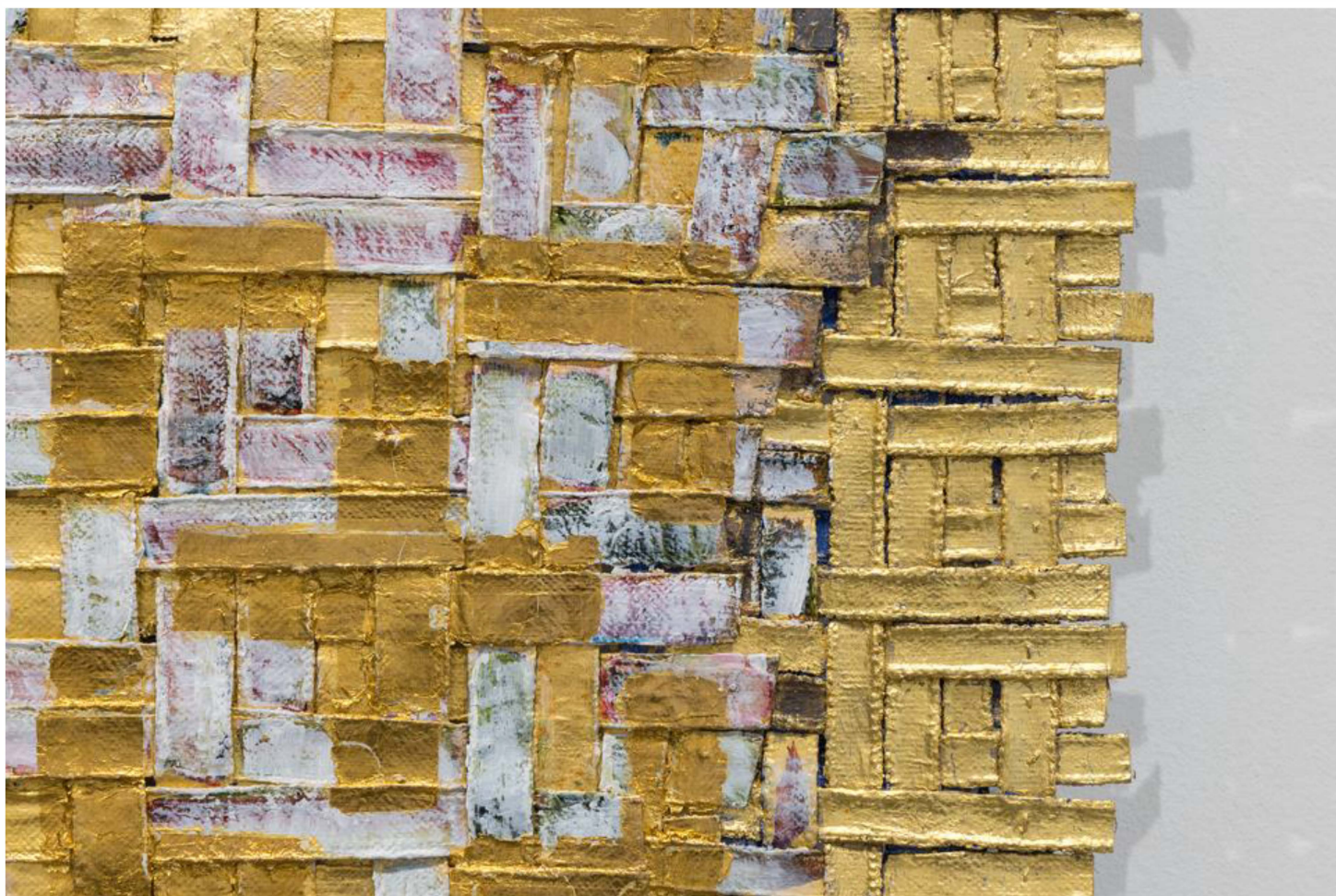
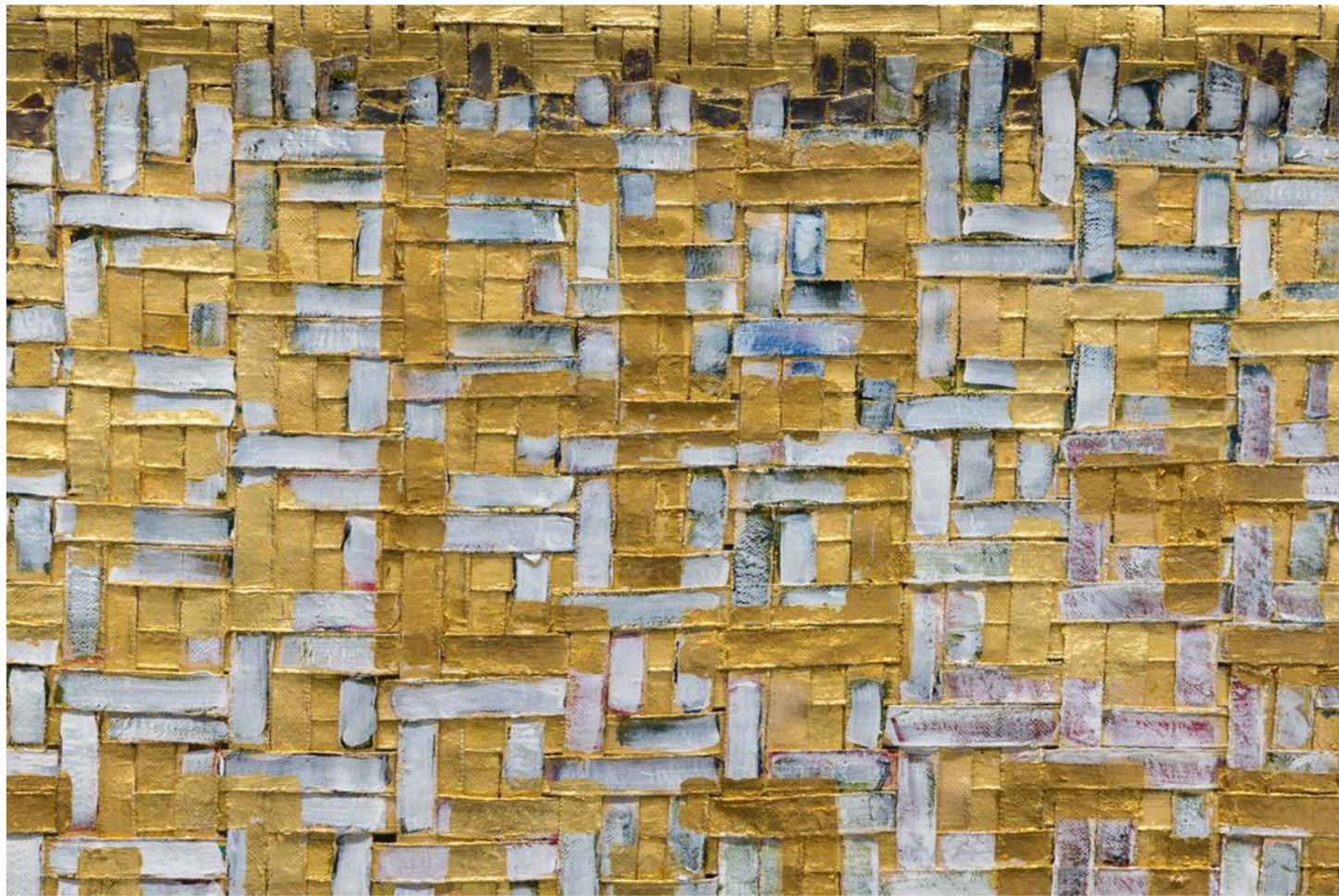
ARTIST BIO:

Olga de Amaral is a Colombian textile artist known for her site-specific installations utilizing materials such as gold leaf, fiber glass, and paint along with traditional fibers to create three-dimensional installations. These works are either hung flat upon the wall like a painting, or suspended from the ceiling like clouds with transparent architectural supports. Amaral's inspiration comes from a variety of sources, including her native landscape, pre-Colombian textiles and baskets, gold Catholic Church relics, and geometric abstraction. Born in 1932 in Bogotá, Columbia, she went on to study architecture at the Colegio Mayor de Cundinamarca, then fiber arts at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan, graduating in 1955. Amaral was honored with the Guggenheim Fellowship in 1973 and has exhibited at the Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris, the Colombian Embassy in Washington, D.C., The Museum of Modern Art in New York, and the Art Institute of Chicago, among others. The artist lives and works in Bogotá, Colombia.

(artnet.com)

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1271 "MEMENTO 7"
1.70 x 80 2010
OLGA DE AMARAL



1297. "Tomb of the
King of the
Pharaohs"