

## WHAT IS THE LIMIT? [2021 - ]

Gabi Coêlho

BRAZIL

*What Is the Limit?* explores themes of intimacy, identity, and human fragility. Through a series of self-portraits, Gabi Coêlho photographs her own mouth in ways that are at once unsettling and vulnerable. Using sharp, dangerous, or physically uncomfortable objects, such as razor blades, needles, iron elements, and organic materials, the artist deliberately confronts the boundaries of what is considered acceptable, tolerable, or safe.

By placing these materials in direct contact with her body, Coêlho exposes the mouth as both a site of communication and a threshold, a space where interior and exterior meet. The images evoke discomfort and tension, prompting viewers to confront their own limits, codes, and thresholds of endurance.

Standing before the camera, the artist becomes simultaneously subject and object, collapsing the distance between performer and image. The mouth, symbolic of speech, ingestion, silence, and desire, becomes a charged territory where vulnerability and resistance coexist.

In the context of contemporary life, *What Is the Limit?* raises essential questions about what we allow, what we endure, and how far we are willing to go, both physically and psychologically. The series invites a deeper reflection on the fragile relationship between body, identity, and the world that shapes them.

Part of the series is included in the collection of the Centro Cultural Banco do Nordeste do Brasil and in a private collection in New York.