

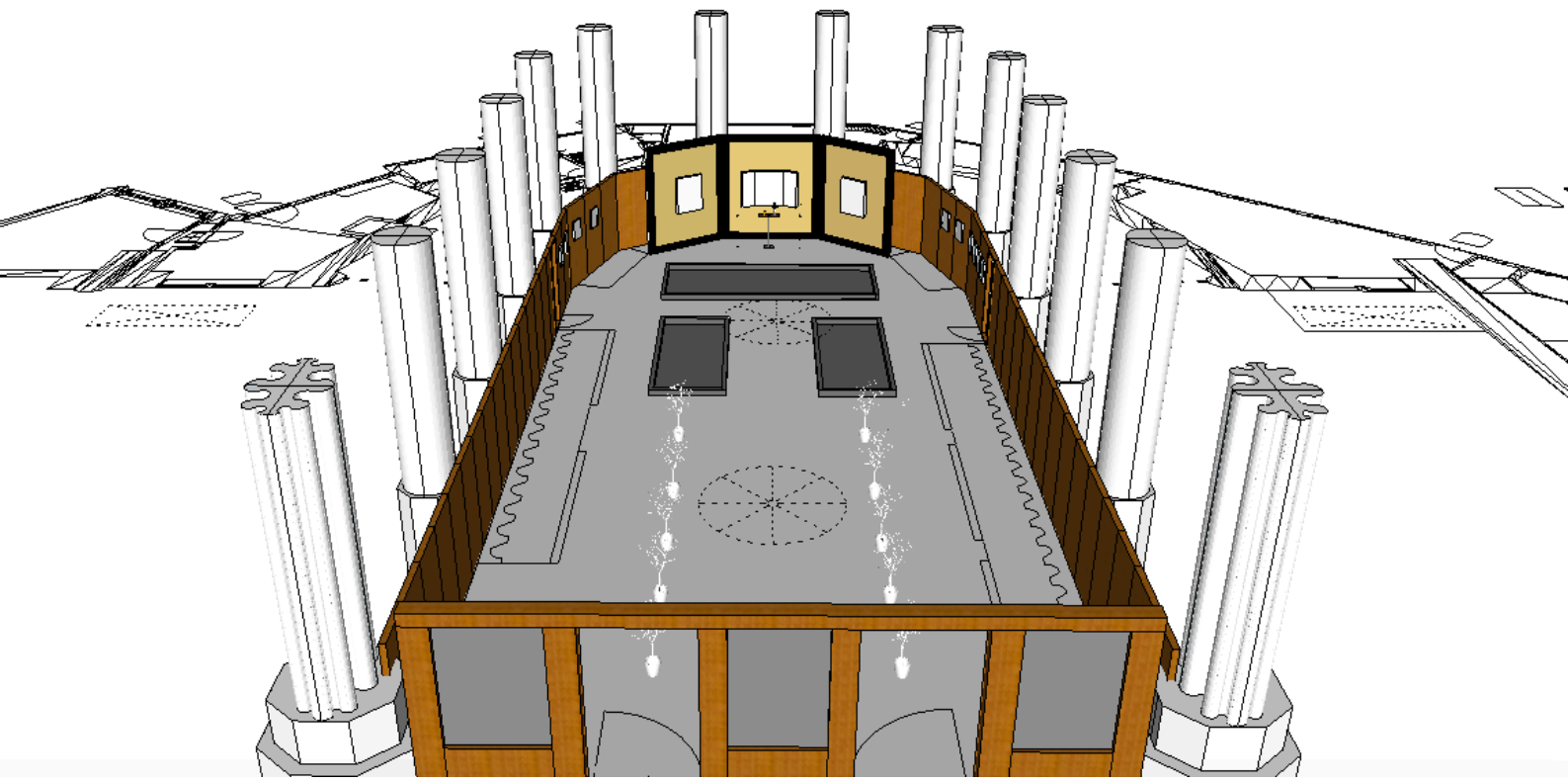
**Antonio Obá**

Mendes Wood DM São Paulo

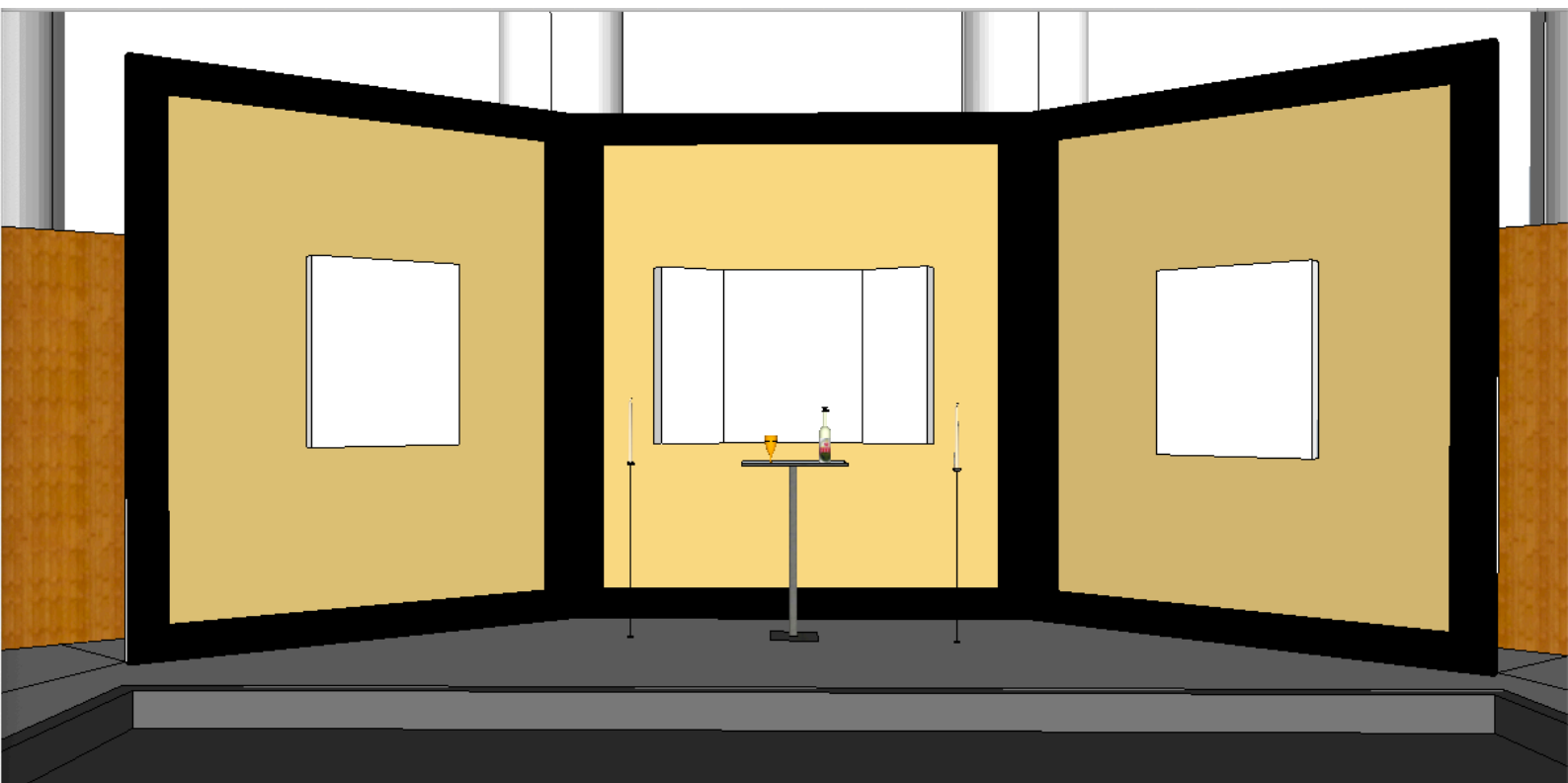
Enter the temple. Tread the dark red, gold, and white path weaving the odyssey of one body, into several bodies. The tree branches, the placement of saints, bells, stones, chains, and bottles are all mentions of votive offerings for the purpose of sacrifice and affiance, strength and protection. These suggest the connection between earth and sky, between present consciousness through dialogue with the past in flashes of what is marked and identified as an insistent keloid on the skin. In the background, a luminous force radiates, elevates what has collapsed into ashes and coal; a hypothetical offering; the body sublimated in verb. This is the blood becoming cachaça, aguardente, burning blood that is given to those who thirst and dare to swallow from the chalice.

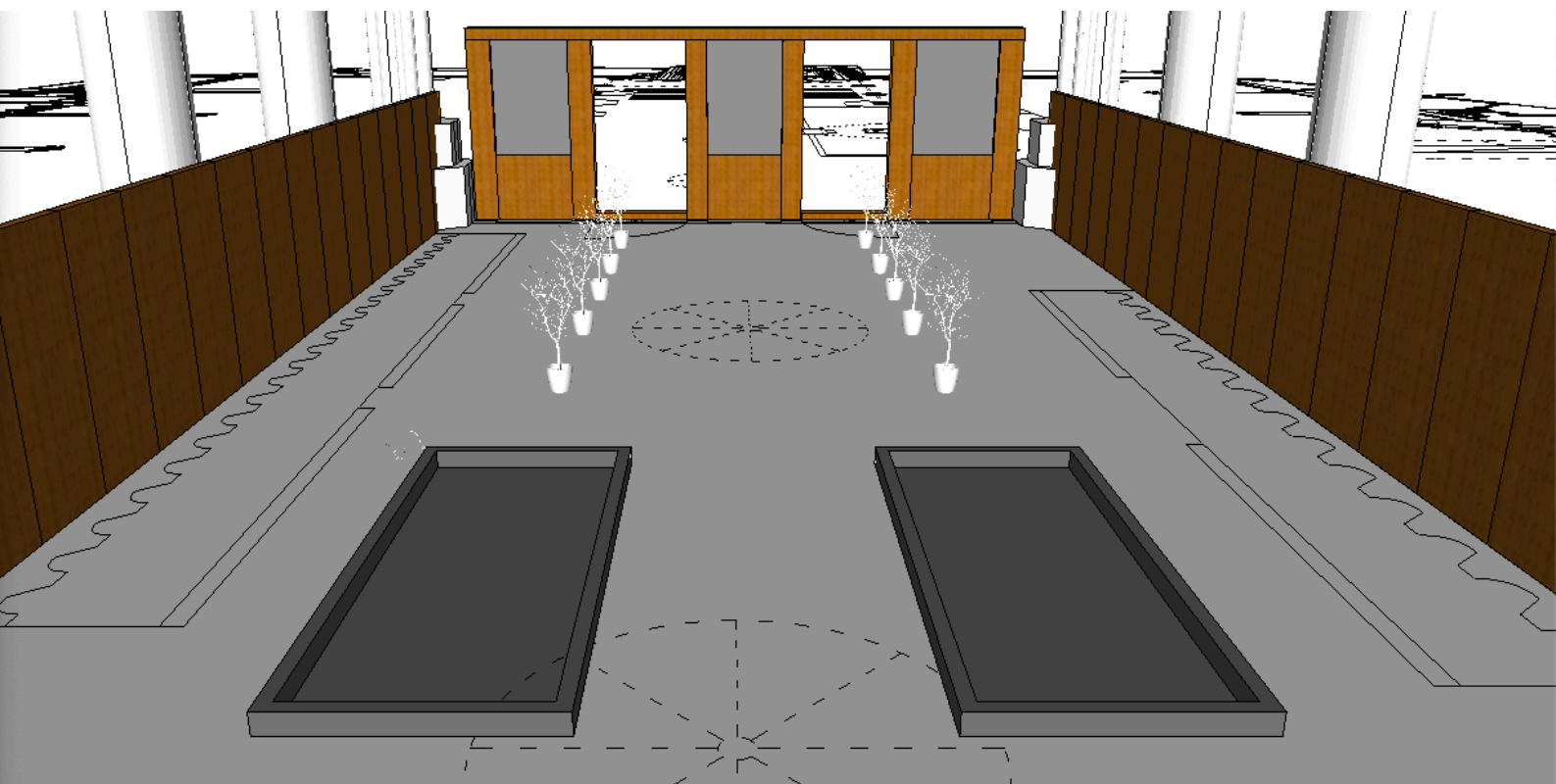
These paintings evoke the path of a “via crucis” that is harnessed to the idea of personal myth, in which the artist is included as a scapegoat of personal stories that intersect with black traditions and a range of social, cultural, and political interferences that have, and still cross the black body. This complex set of images offers a focus that constitutes the historical plot of Brazilian foundation, as it turns its eyes to a past stained by slavery, violence, and death, while staying in conversation with the saga of the black diaspora around the world. In this multiplicity of references and memories, singular compositions are presented as sights that illuminate the awareness of oneself and one’s history.

Antonio Obá

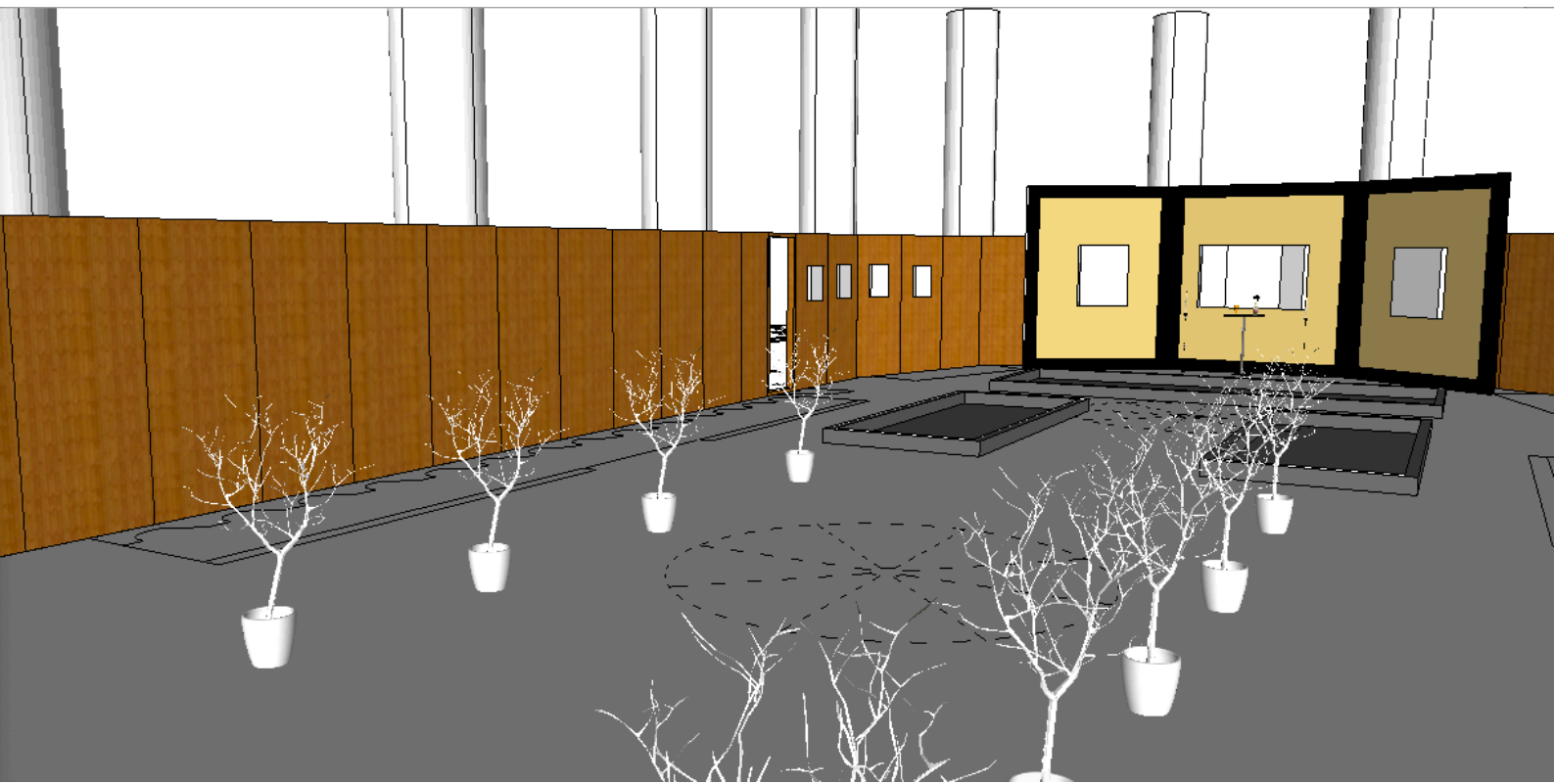


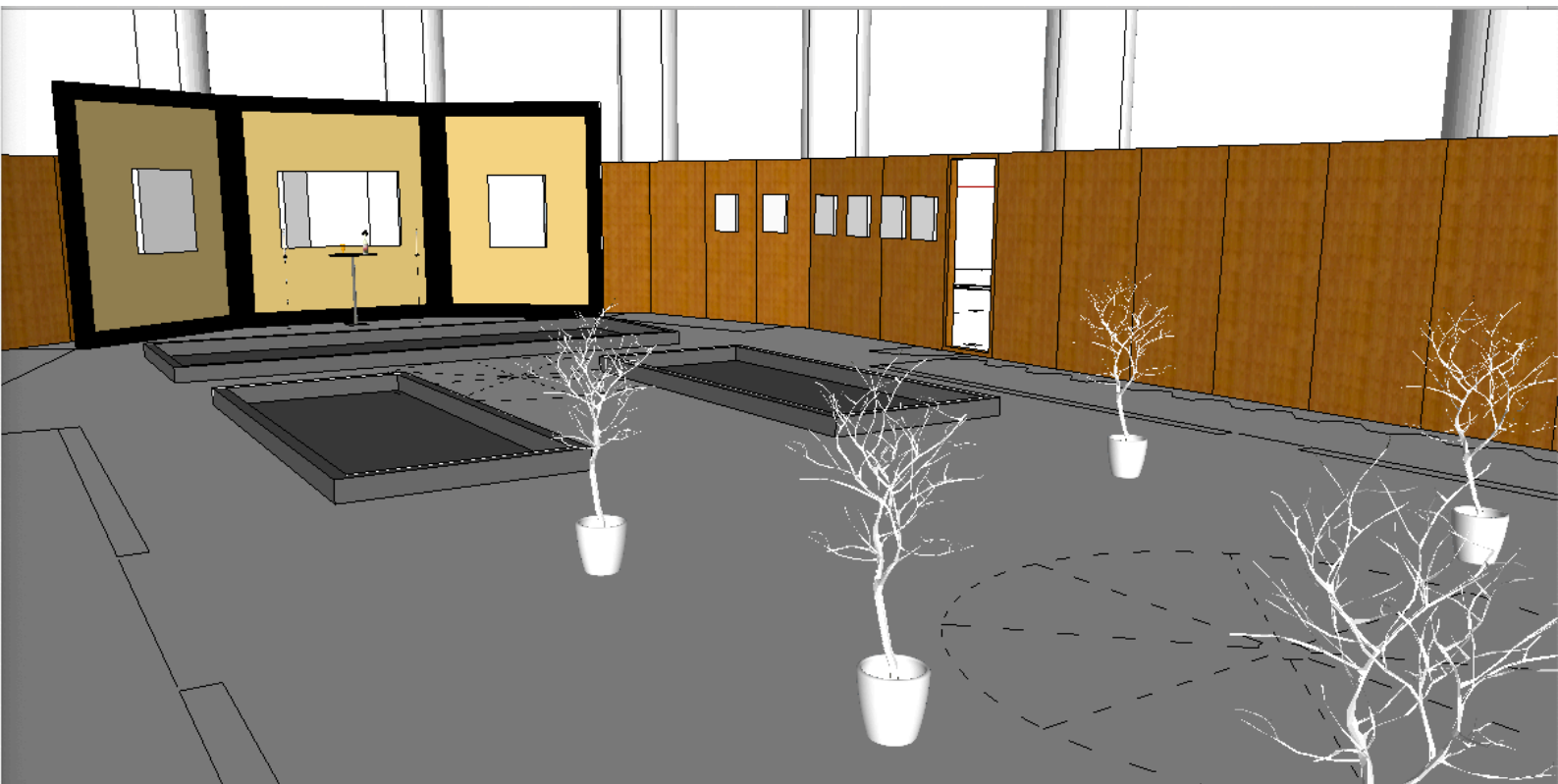












Mendes  
Wood  
DM

Rua da Consolação 3368  
01416-000 São Paulo SP Brazil  
+ 55 11 3081 1735  
[www.mendeswooddm.com](http://www.mendeswooddm.com)  
[@mendeswooddm](mailto:@mendeswooddm)