IN HER ELEMENT

By FREYA HERRING

For Tankoa's award-winning *Spirit*, Nayara Nascimento created twenty-one original functional sculptures, developing their materials and structures for life at sea. The commission reveals the artistic and technical ambition behind aeny studio.





The bronze-finished dining table aboard *Spirit*, sculpted by Nayara Nascimento.

The dining table has an edge you want to follow with your hand. Its bronze finish catches the light unevenly, illuminating a surface that seems to have gathered its own history. Eleven feet long, the form swells and recedes along its perimeter. Beyond the glass, the water supplies another kind of movement. Inside, Nayara Nascimento has already given the room its own.

Her presence continues through the yacht. A pale mirror folds around its reflection, its broad curves framing glimpses of the staircase beyond. In the salon, adjoining coffee-table forms meet along a sinuous seam, their sculpted openings admitting light beneath the surface. A bedside lamp rises from a dark base into a softly flared shape. Each possesses an anatomy that makes its familiar function newly intriguing.

These works belong to a collection of twenty-one original functional sculptures created by Nascimento, the Brazilian-Canadian artist and researcher behind aery studio. Commissioned for permanent installation aboard Spirit, Tankoa's 52-metre custom yacht, they extend across living and dining spaces, private rooms and outdoor areas. Designed by Philippe Briand's Vitruvius Yacht Design, with interiors by FM Architettura, the vessel made its world debut at the Monaco Yacht Show this September.

Nascimento had full artistic freedom. She conceived the sculptures independently, and the interiors developed around them: colours, finishes and lighting responded to the works she was creating. Their forms became reference points for the spaces they would inhabit. The commission gave her an opportunity to develop a substantial body of art whose influence reached into the architecture surrounding it.