CARDOSINHO

ARTIST'S PORTFOLIO

BIOGRAPHY

CARDOSINHO
José Bernardo Cardoso Júnior

1861, Coimbra - Portugal | 1947, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

José Bernardo Cardoso Júnior, known as Cardosinho, was born in Coimbra, Portugal, in 1861. He arrived in Rio de Janeiro at the age of three, aboard a ship that sank during the journey, resulting in the deaths of his mother and two of his siblings.

Cardosinho began painting around the age of 70, encouraged by Portinari and Fujita, after retiring from a career of over four decades in education.

Between the ages of 14 and 16, Cardosinho studied at the Seminário São José, a traditional institution for theological and philosophical training in Rio de Janeiro.

His studies continued at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Italy, where he likely studied between 1877 and the middle of the following decade, eventually earning a degree in philosophy.

Upon returning to Brazil, and having distanced himself from ecclesiastical activities, Cardosinho began teaching Latin, Portuguese, and French at the Ateneu Mineiro in Juiz de Fora.

In 1888, he became the inspector of the State Primary Education Headquarters of Rio de Janeiro, a position he held for 30 years. Later he also taught at the Liceu de Artes e Ofícios in Rio de Janeiro, among other institutions.

Cardosinho was, therefore, a man of great culture, also the author of three novels (including Almas Satânicas) and a book of poetry (Ideias e Telas).

When he took up painting, his approach was self-taught, driven by a desire to practice constructing images based on engravings and photographs from books, newspapers, magazines, and postcards.

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As a result, some of his works exhibit a collage-like quality, where figures, objects, and spaces are combined in a seemingly disjointed manner, with variations in scale, source material, or execution. For example, in one painting, the figure of a bather, apparently drawn from an almanac illustration, is depicted seated on a rock in a landscape rendered with a strikingly realistic objectivity.

Cardosinho’s painting career spanned from 1931 to 1947. Though long classified as naïve, his work garnered enthusiastic recognition from numerous artists and intellectuals within Brazil’s modernist circles, including art critics Celso Kelly and Rubem Navarra, painter Candido Portinari, and writers Mário de Andrade and Rubem Braga. The Argentine art critic Jorge Romero Brest also commented on Cardosinho’s work, particularly on the blend of “childlike innocence” and eroticism in his paintings, as part of a broader analysis of Brazilian art in the first half of the 20th century.

This analysis was published in the catalog for the 20 Artistas Brasileños exhibition at the La Plata Museum of Fine Arts in Argentina in 1945.

One of Cardosinho's paintings, titled Elas se Divertem (c. 1935-40), became part of the Tate Modern collection in England after being featured in a 1944 charity exhibition of "Brazilian Modern Painting" in London, organized by the British Royal Air Force during World War II (1939-1945). Additionally, his works are held in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York, the Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro (MAM-Rio), which houses the Gilberto Chateaubriand Collection, and the Institute of Brazilian Studies at the University of São Paulo (IEB-USP), home to the Mário de Andrade Collection.

SOLO EXHIBITION

1936 Exposição de Cardoso Júnior - Palace Hotel
Rio de Janeiro – RJ, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

2026 Arte da nossa gente
MAB/FAAP - Museu de Arte Brasileira, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

2025 In every corner: Casa Fiat de Cultura and Instituto Tomie Ohtake visit Vilma Eid Collection
Casa Fiat de Cultura, Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil

2025 Instituto Tomie Ohtake visits Vilma Eid Collection - In every corner
Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

2024 Metamorphoses and Distances
Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

2019 Lincoln Kirstein's Modern
MoMA - The Museum of Modern Art, New York - NY, USA

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

2018
Horizons – Landscapes in the Collections
MAM/RJ - Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

2016
Intergazing: Poems from the Brazilian Soul
Museu Afro Brasil Emanoel Araujo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

The Hand of the Brazilian People
MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

2013
The Collector: brazilian and international art in Boghici Collection
MAR - Museu de Arte do Rio, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

2011
Naïve Art: with sugar and affection
Araraquara - SP, Brazil

Naïve Art: with sugar and affection
MACC - Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Campinas, Campinas - SP, Brazil

2004
Brazilian Naïve - special room “Mistura fina: a arte da necessidade”
Sesc Piracicaba - SP, Brazil

2003
Brazilian Art in the Fadel Collection: from the restlessness of modernity to the autonomy of language
CCBB - Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, Brasília - DF, Brazil

2002
Pop Brazil: Popular Art is the Popular in Art
CCBB - Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

2002

Brazilian Art in the Fadel Collection: from the restlessness of modernity to the autonomy of language
CCBB - Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Brazilian Art in the Fadel Collection: from the restlessness of modernity to the autonomy of language
CCBB - Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

2000

When Brazil was Modern: Visual Arts in Rio de Janeiro from 1905 to 1960
Paço Imperial, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

1995

Coleção Unibanco: commemorative exhibition for Unibanco's 70th Anniversary
MAM/RJ - Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

1994

Coleção Unibanco: commemorative exhibition for Unibanco's 70th Anniversary
Casa da Cultura de Poços de Caldas - MG, Brazil

1993

Mário faz 100 Anos: 100 obras primas da Coleção Mário de Andrade: pintura e escultura
IEB/USP - Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros, São Paulo – SP, Brazil

Brazil: 100 years of Modern Art
MNBA - Museu Nacional de Belas Artes, Rio de Janeiro – RJ, Brazil

1992

Brazilian Modern Art: works by 51 Brazilian Visual Artists
Instituto Moreira Salles de Poços de Caldas - MG, Brazil

Nature: Four Centuries of Art in Brazil
CCBB - Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, Rio de Janeiro – RJ, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

1987
Galeria de Arte Banerj
Rio de Janeiro – RJ, Brazil

1985
Tradition and Ruptures: Syntheses of Brazilian Art and Cultures
Fundação Bienal de São Paulo – SP, Brazil

1984
7º Salão Nacional de Artes Plásticas
Fortaleza – CE, Brazil

Salão de 31
Funarte, Rio de Janeiro – RJ, Brazil

1982
Brazil 60 years of Modern Art: Gilberto Chateaubriand Collection
CAM - Centro de Arte Moderna José de Azeredo Perdigão, Lisbon, Portugal

Brazil 60 years of Modern Art: Gilberto Chateaubriand Collection
Barbican Art Gallery, London, England, UK

1975
Exhibition Series of Contemporary Brazilian Painting by SPAM and CAM
Museu Lasar Segall, São Paulo – SP, Brazil

1972
Naïve Painting: A selection from the Museum Collection
MoMA - The Museum of Modern Art, New York - NY, USA

1971
Ways of looking
MoMA - The Museum of Modern Art, New York - NY, USA

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

1969

The Hand of the Brazilian People
MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

1960

Pan American Union
Washington, D.C., USA

1945

Exhibition of Modern Brazilian Paintings
Victory Art Gallery, Bath, England, UK

Exhibition of Modern Brazilian Paintings
Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery, Bristol, England, UK

Exhibition of Modern Brazilian Paintings
Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester, England, UK

Exhibition of Modern Brazilian Paintings
National Gallery, Edinburg, Scotland, UK

Exhibition of Modern Brazilian Paintings
Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow, Scotland, UK

20 artistas brasileños
Salas Nacionais de Exposições de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina

20 artistas brasileños
Museu Provincial de Belas Artes de La Plata, La Plata, Argentina

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

1945

20 artistas brasileños
Comissão Municipal de Cultura de Montevideo, Montevideo, Uruguay

Mostra de la pintura brasileña contemporánea
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Mostra de la pintura brasileña contemporánea
La Plata, Argentina

1944

Exhibition of modern brazilian paintings
Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK

Exhibition of Modern Brazilian Paintings
Norwich Castle and Museum, Norwich, England, UK

1943

The Latin-American Collection of the Museum of Modern Art
MoMA - The Museum of Modern Art, New York - NY, USA

1933

2ª Exposição de Arte Moderna da Sociedade Pró-Arte Moderna (SPAM)
Palacete Campinas, São Paulo – SP, Brazil

1931

Salão Revolucionário – XXXVIII Exposição Geral de Belas Artes
Escola Nacional de Belas Artes, Rio de Janeiro – RJ, Brazil

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

MoMA - The Museum of Modern Art
New York - NY, USA

Tate London
London, UK

MAM/RJ - Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro
Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros da Universidade de São Paulo – IEB-USP
Mário de Andrade Collection, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

El Museo del Barrio
New York - NY, USA

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

2019 Lincoln Kirstein's Modern
Catalog, MoMA - Museu de Arte Moderna de Nova Iorque, Nova Iorque, EUA

1985 Arte Ingênua Brasileira
Jacob Klintowitz, Marprint Ind. Grafica, São Paulo – SP, Brazil

1985 Tradição e rupturas: síntese de arte e culturas brasileiras
Fundação Bienal de São Paulo – SP, Brazil

1982 Brasil: 60 Anos de Arte Moderna - Coleção Gilberto Chateaubriand
Catálogo, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisboa, Portugal

1966 “Centenário de um Primitivo”
Celso Kelly, Revista Crítica de Arte

1964 Cidade e a roça e Três primitivos
Rubem Braga, Editora Sabiá, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

1953 Três Primitivos
Rubem Braga, Ministério da Educação e Cultura, Rio de Janeiro – RJ, Brazil

1945 20 artistas brasileños
Jorge Romero Brest, Museo Provincial de Belas Artes de La Plata, La Plata, Argentina

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

1943 The Latin-American Collection of the Museum of Modern Art
Lincoln Kirstein, Catalog, MoMA - Museum of Modern Art, New York - NY, USA

1941 “O anjo da pintura brasileira”
Francisco de Assis Barbosa, Diretrizes, Rio de Janeiro – RJ, Brazill

1939 “Artes de novembro”
Mário de Andrade, O Estado de S. Paulo, São Paulo – SP, Brazil

1936 “Exposição de Candido Portinari e de Cardoso Junior”
L. M., O Jornal, coluna “Bellas Artes”, Rio de Janeiro – RJ, Brazil

1943

KIRSTEIN, Lincoln.
The Latin-American collection of the Museum of Modern Art.
New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 1943.

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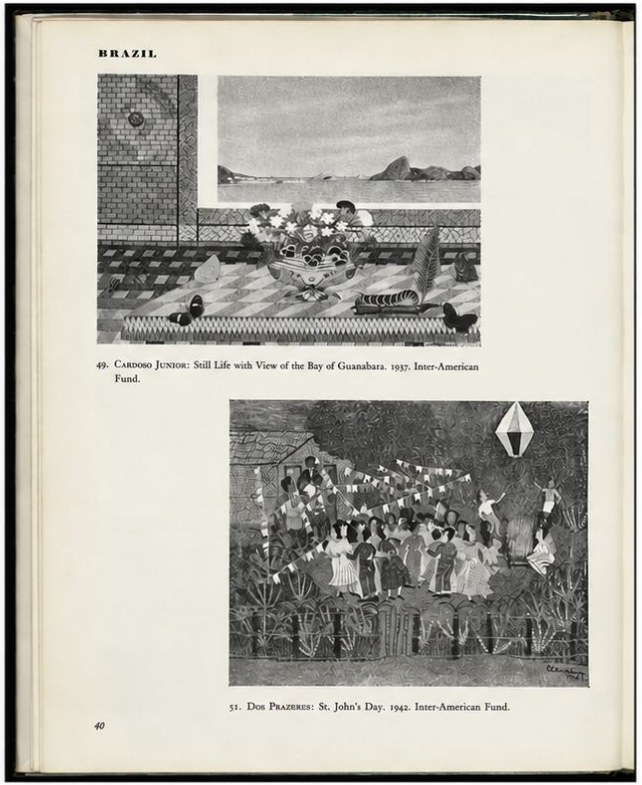
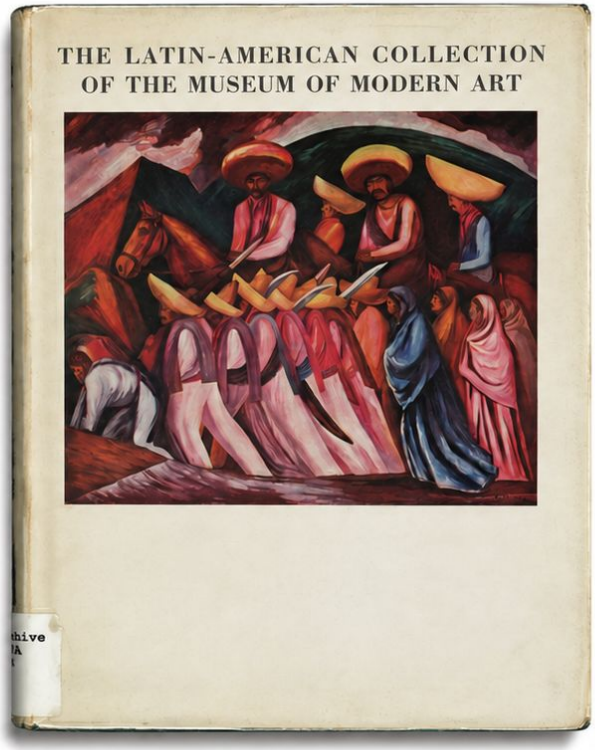


BRAZIL

49. Cardoso Junior: Still Life with View of the Bay of Guanabara. 1937. Inter-American Fund.

51. Dos Prazeres: St. John's Day. 1942. Inter-American Fund.

40



THE LATIN-AMERICAN COLLECTION
OF THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

EXHIBITIONS

Photo: ©Filipe Berndt

2026

Cardosinho: Acervo Especial

Sala Especial - Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Photo: ©Ruy Teixeira

2025

Instituto Tomie Ohtake visita coleção Vilma Eid: Em cada canto

Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo - SP, Brasil

Photo: © Martin Seck - Courtesy El Museo del Barrio - NY

2022

Popular Painters and Other Visionaries

El Museo del Barrio
New York - NY, USA

Photo: Robert Gerhardt

2019

Lincoln Kirstein's Modern

MoMA - The Museum of Modern Art - New York
New York, USA

Photo: Robert Gerhardt

2019

Lincoln Kirstein's Modern

MoMA - The Museum of Modern Art
New York, USA

Photo: James Mathews

1971

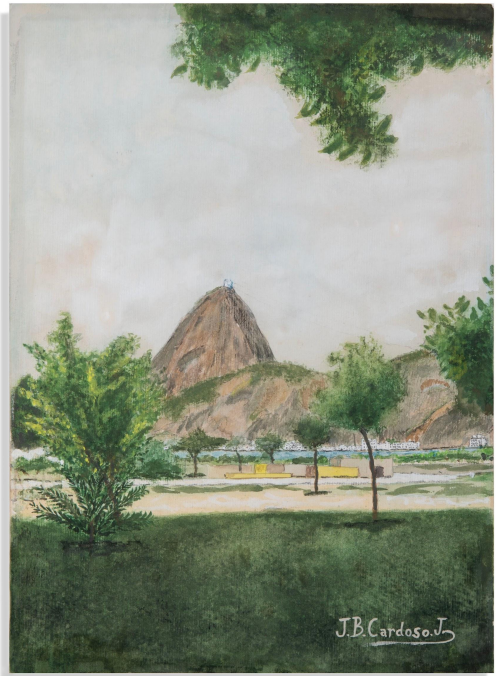
Ways of Looking

MoMA - The Museum of Modern Art
New York, USA

DEGREES

1885 Philosophy
Pontifical Gregorian University - Rome, Italy

WORK



José Bernardo Cardoso Júnior - Cardosinho
1861, Coimbra - Portugal | 1947, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Untitled, 1931 - 1947
Watercolor on paper
32 x 23 cm | 12.59 x 9.05 in
Photo: João Liberato

José Bernardo Cardoso Júnior - Cardosinho
1861, Coimbra - Portugal | 1947, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Untitled, 1931 - 1947
Oil on canson paper on cardboard
27 x 36 cm | 10.62 x 14.17 in
Photo: João Liberato

José Bernardo Cardoso Júnior - Cardosinho
1861, Coimbra - Portugal | 1947, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Untitled, 1931 - 1947
Oil on Canson paper with a texture for oil painting
35 x 50 cm | 13.77 x 19.68 in
Photo: João Liberato

José Bernardo Cardoso Júnior - Cardosinho
1861, Coimbra - Portugal | 1947, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

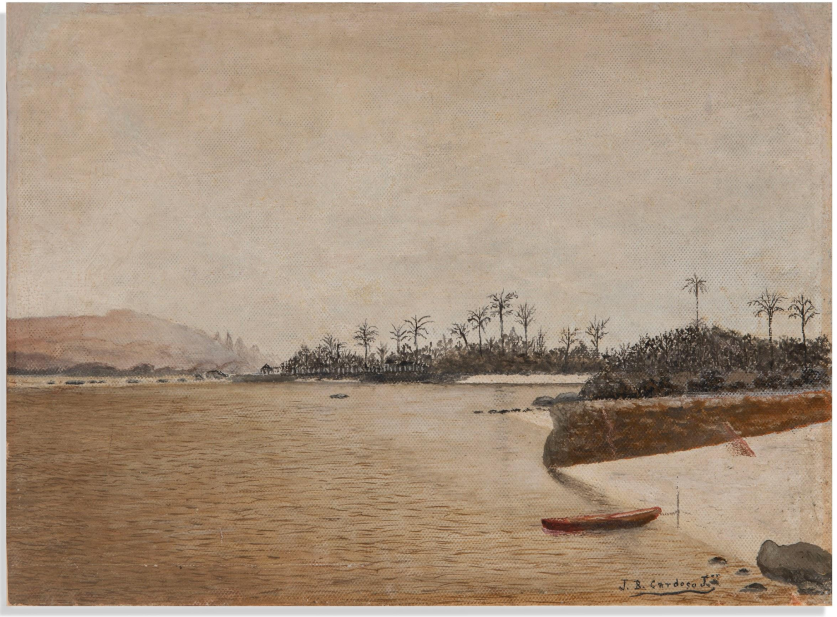
Untitled, 1931 - 1947
Oil on cardboard mounted on MDF panel
37 x 46 cm | 14.56 x 18.11 in
Photo: João Liberato

José Bernardo Cardoso Júnior - Cardosinho
1861, Coimbra - Portugal | 1947, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Untitled, 1931 - 1947
Oil on Canson paper with a texture for oil painting
27 x 36 cm |10.62 x 14,17 in
Photo: João Liberato

José Bernardo Cardoso Júnior - Cardosinho
1861, Coimbra - Portugal | 1947, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Untitled, 1931 - 1947
Oil on wood
23 x 53 cm | 9.05 x 20.86 in
Photo: João Liberato



José Bernardo Cardoso Júnior - Cardosinho
1861, Coimbra - Portugal | 1947, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

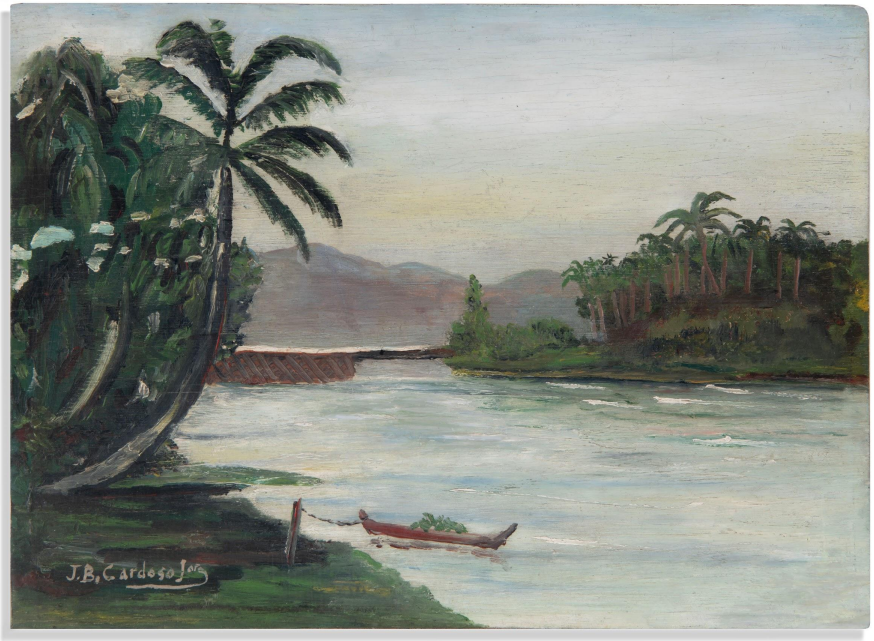
Untitled, 1931 - 1947
Oil on Canson paper with a texture for oil painting on cardbord
26 x 36 cm | 10.23 x 14.17 in
Photo: João Liberato

José Bernardo Cardoso Júnior - Cardosinho
1861, Coimbra - Portugal | 1947, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Untitled, 1931 - 1947
Oil on canvas
38 x 61 cm | 14.96 x 24.01 in
Photo: João Liberato

José Bernardo Cardoso Júnior - Cardosinho
1861, Coimbra - Portugal | 1947, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Untitled, 1931 - 1947
Oil on canson paper on plywood
36 x 53 cm | 14.17 x 20.86 in
Photo: João Liberato



José Bernardo Cardoso Júnior - Cardosinho
1861, Coimbra - Portugal | 1947, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Untitled, 1931 - 1947
Oil on plywood
24 x 33 cm | 9.44 x 12.99 in
Photo: João Liberato

José Bernardo Cardoso Júnior - Cardosinho
1861, Coimbra - Portugal | 1947, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Untitled, 1931 - 1947
Oil on plywood with a texture for oil painting
38 x 45 cm | 14.96 x 17.71 in
Photo: João Liberato

José Bernardo Cardoso Júnior - Cardosinho
1861, Coimbra - Portugal | 1947, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Untitled, 1931 - 1947
Oil on canvas
38 x 61 cm | 14.96 x 24.01 in
Photo: João Liberato

THE GALLERY

Established in 2004 in São Paulo, Brazil, Galeria Estação inaugurated a curatorial program serving a wide-reaching community of noncanonical artistic voices. By creating trans-generational bridges between emerging contemporary and pioneering self-taught artists, Galeria Estação has inspired an integrative network of creative figures and makers from varied geographies and educational backgrounds.

Since 2008, the gallery's innovative artistic program, housed in a state-of-the-art architectural building, has exhibited contemporary Brazilian artists whose cultural backgrounds and vernacular practices complement the primacy of self-taught art —examining the country's under represented artistic styles, working methods, and historical narratives and legacies.

Galeria Estação's artistic director and founder, Vilma Eid, in collaboration with a distinguished group of invited guest curators, have proposed unexpected dialogues in presentations that have transcended traditional accounts of the development of abstract and figural genres in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, initiating the past and present of Brazilian art.

As a result, Galeria Estação is an institutional reference in Brazil, a force for preserving Latin American memories and narratives otherwise dismissed, marginalized, or overlooked in the historiographies of Brazilian art.

Galeria Estação advances its mission to provide unprecedented opportunities for viewers to experience expansive local and global visions of Brazilian art.

Galeria Estação exhibits a large stable of self-taught artists: Agnaldo dos Santos, Agostinho Batista de Freitas, Amadeo Luciano LORENZATO, Artur Pereira, Chico da Silva, Chico Tabibuia, Conceição dos Bugres, Elza O.S, Geraldo Teles Oliveira – G.T.O, Gilvan SAMICO, Itamar Julião, Izabel Mendes da Cunha, José Antonio da Silva, Madalena dos Santos Reinbolt, Maria Auxiliadora, Mirian Inêz da Silva, Sebastião Theodoro Paulino da Silva – RANCHINHO, Suanê and Zica Bergami.

The growing roster of contemporary artists include: Higo José, José Bezerra, Julio Vilani, Rafael Pereira, Santídio Pereira, Cicero Alves dos Santos - Véio.

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