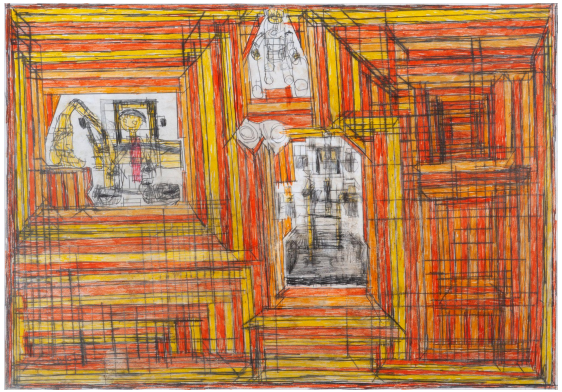


JOSEF HOFER

ARTIST'S PORTFOLIO



Foto: ©murauer franz

JOSEF HOFER

1945, Wegscheid, Germany - 2026,
Ried im Innkreis, Austria

BIOGRAPHY

Josef Hofer is internationally recognized as one of the most prominent figures in contemporary Art Brut. His work is defined by drawing as an essential language and by the development of a deeply self-referential visual universe in which body, identity, and perception are intertwined. In compositions of intense expressive force, human figures occupy the center of the image and seem to continually push against the limits of the frame. Firm contours, dense areas of color, and a singular spatial construction transform the surface of the paper into a field for investigating human experience.

Often signing his works as Pepi, Hofer constructs an autobiographical iconography that transcends personal narrative to reach a universal dimension.

His drawings articulate physical presence and interiority, turning the body into a space that is at once self-representation and psychological projection. The frames and margins that structure many of his compositions do not function merely as formal boundaries but as active elements of his visual language, establishing a constant tension between containment and freedom.

As noted by philosopher and art historian Michel Thévoz, Josef Hofer exists “in a state of grace,” in which the body seems to seek liberation from the limits imposed by the frame. The explicit sensuality of many of his figures, combined with the spontaneity of his line and the intensity of his color, gives his work a singular power, placing it prominently within the international field of Art Brut.

JOSEF HOFER

1945, Wegscheid, Germany - 2026,
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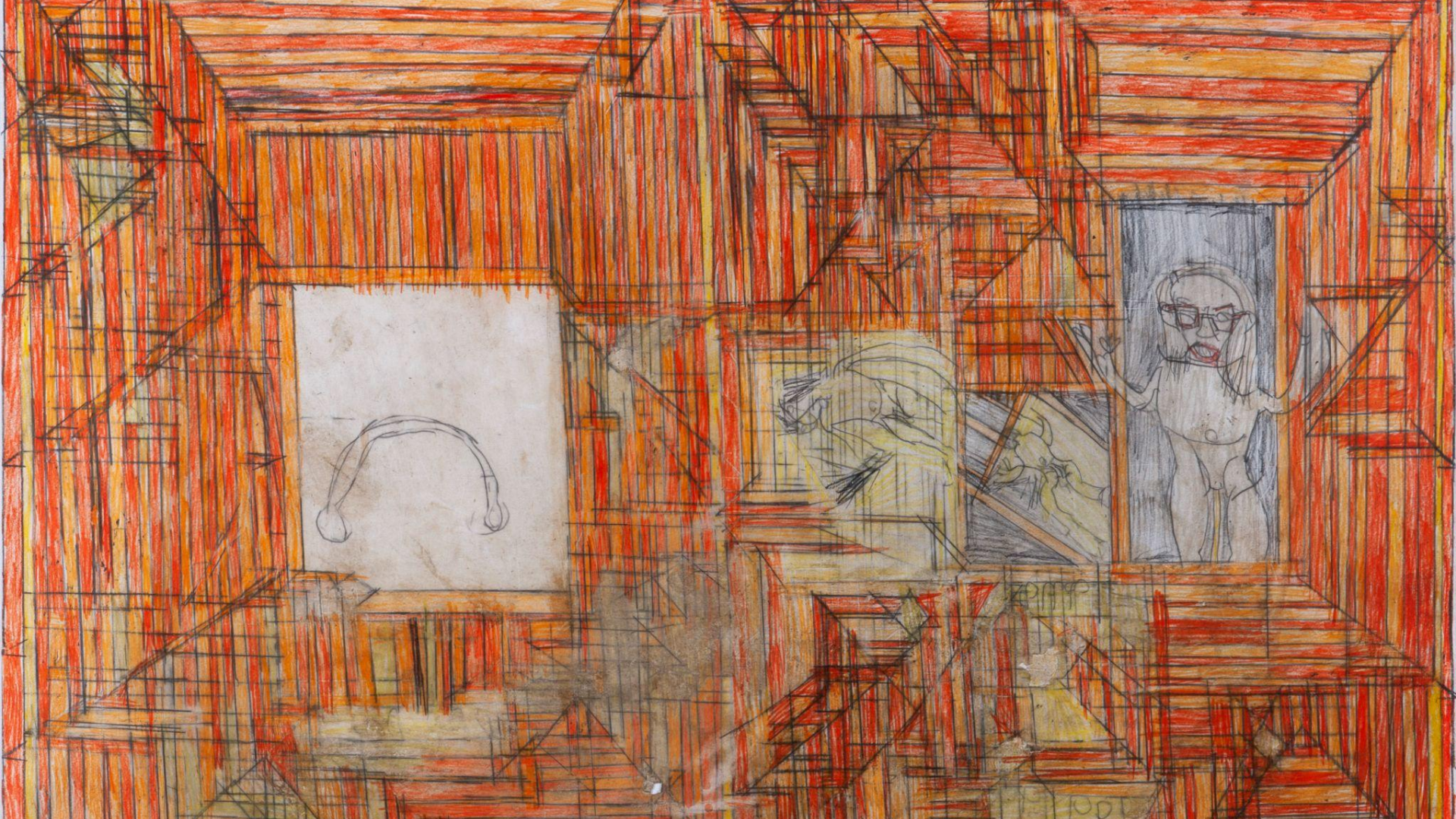
BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1945 in Wegscheid, Bavaria, Hofer spent his childhood and youth on a farm in Upper Austria, living in relative isolation. From the 1980s onward, he became a resident of an institution in Ried im Innkreis, where art historian Elisabeth Telsnig recognized his interest in drawing and began encouraging his artistic practice, a decisive factor in the development of his career.

Since the retrospective held at the Collection de l'Art Brut in Lausanne in 2003, his work has gained broad international recognition. In 2010, it was presented by the Museum of Everything in Turin and was the subject of a retrospective in Prague. In 2011, the Collection de l'Art Brut dedicated an important monographic exhibition to him, accompanied by a key publication.

In 2014, he participated in the exhibitions Le Mur – œuvres de la collection Antoine de Galbert and Art Brut – Collection abcd / Bruno Decharme at La Maison Rouge in Paris. In 2022, his drawings were included in the exhibition POWER(LESS) at the DOX Centre for Contemporary Art in Prague and were presented at the Museu Nacional Soares dos Reis in Porto, alongside a major retrospective of more than 250 works at the Kunstmuseum Thurgau / Ittinger Museum in Warth, Switzerland.

His work is part of major international public and private collections, including the Centre Pompidou in Paris, as well as the collections of Antoine de Galbert (France), Alexandre Shaker (Switzerland), and Arnulf Rainer (Austria), who described him as "one of the greatest contemporary Art Brut artists."



SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2026	Josef Hofer: The Figure in the Mirror Galerie Christian Berst, Paris, France
2019	Josef Hofer Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
2018	Josef Hofer Galerie am Stein, Schärding am Inn, Austria
2018	Transmutations Galerie Christian Berst, Paris, France
2015	Josef Hofer Direct Art Gallery, Düsseldorf, Germany
2015	The Schiele Incident Galerie Christian Berst, Paris, France
2014	Josef Hofer Galerie am Stein, Schärding am Inn, Austria
2013	Josef Hofer Kremsmuseum, Krems, Austria

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2012	Josef Hofer und der Spiegel Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne, Switzerland
2012	Josef Hofer Galerie Art Cru, Berlin, Germany
2012	Josef Hofer TAK Gallery, Poznań, Poland
2012	Josef Hofer TAK Gallery, Poznań, Poland
2011	Josef Hofer Galerie am Stein, Schärding am Inn, Austria
2011	Josef Hofer, Alter Ego Galerie Christian Berst, Paris, France
2011	Josef Hofer Galerie Latal, Zurich, Switzerland

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2010	Josef Hofer Austrian Cultural Forum, Prague, Czech Republic
2008	Josef Hofer Galerie am Stein, Schärding am Inn, Austria
2008	Josef Hofer Galerie Christian Berst, Paris, France
2007	Josef Hofer Galerie Latal, Zurich, Switzerland
2007	Josef Hofer Annahof, Augsburg, Germany
2005	Josef Hofer Galerie am Stein, Schärding am Inn, Austria
2003	Josef Hofe Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne, Switzerland

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2025	The Enspirited: Tribal Art and Art Brut in Conversation Galerie Christian Berst, Paris, France
2025	Art Brut: Dans l'intimité d'une collection — La donation Decharme au Centre Pompidou Grand Palais, Paris, France
2025	The Lack Galerie Christian Berst, Paris, France
2024	Variations D'été Galerie Christian Berst, Paris, France
2023	Brut Treasures Galerie Christian Berst, Paris, France
2022	Do the Write Thing: Read Between the Lines #3 Galerie Christian Berst, Paris, France
2022	POWER(LESS) DOX Centre for Contemporary Art, Prague, Czech Republic
2021	Art Brut: Frame Work Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne, Switzerland

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2020	In the Flesh: Veritables Bodies Galerie Christian Berst, Paris, France
2020	In Abstracto #2 Galerie Christian Berst, Paris, France
2018	Leben in Art Brut: Sammlung Hannah Rieger Bregenz, Austria
2018	The Museum of Everything Hobart, Australia
2018	Do the Write Thing 2: Read Between the Lines Galerie Christian Berst, Paris, France
2017 - 2018	3rd Biennale de l'Art Brut Lausanne, Switzerland
2017	Hétérotopies: Architectures habitées Galerie Christian Berst, Paris, France
2016	Josef Hofer au Salon du dessin érotique Salo IV, Paris, France

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2014 – 2015	Art Brut: Collection abcd/Bruno Decharme La Maison Rouge, Paris, France
2014	Le Mur: Œuvres de la collection Antoine de Galbert La Maison Rouge, Paris, France
2014	Art Brut: Breaking the Boundaries, Oliva Creative Factory São João da Madeira, Portugal
2014	Cadré et Recadré Galerie Kabinet T, Zlín, Czech Republic
2013	Red House Today Art Museum, Beijing, China
2010	The Museum of Everything Pinacoteca Giovanni e Marella Agnelli, Turin, Italy
2006	Art Brut genio y delirio, Collecíon de Art Brut de Lausana Círculo de Bellas Artes, Madrid, Spain
2005	Arnulf Rainer et sa collection de l'Art Brut à la Maison Rouge Fondation Antoine de Galbert, La Maison Rouge, Paris, France
2003	Art Brut: Frame Work Collection de l'Art Brut, Lausanne, Switzerland



Cenografia exposição Josef Hofer

©Denise Andrade

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

LaM – Lille Métropole Museum of Modern
Contemporary and Outsider Art, Villeneuve-d'Ascq, France

Musée National d'Art Moderne
Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

Collection de l'Art Brut
Lausanne, Switzerland

Art et marges musée
Brussels, Belgium

Arnulf Rainer Museum
Baden, Austria

The Museum of Everything
London, United Kingdom

PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

ABCD / Bruno Decharme Collection
Paris, France

Antoine de Galbert Collection
Paris, France

Antoine Frérot Collection
Paris, France

Carmen and Daniel Klein Collection
Zurich, Switzerland

Hannah Rieger Collection
Vienna, Austria

Treger Saint Silvestre Collection
São João da Madeira, Portugal

Sylvie and Stéphane Corréard Collection
Paris, France

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

2021 Outsider Art: Past, Present & Perspectives, Natascha Kirchner, Michael Imhof Verlag
Petersberg, Germany

2020 Art et Marges Musée
Art et Marges Musée, CFC-Éditions, Brussels, Belgium

2020 Pathologie du cadre, quand l'art brut s'éclate, Michel Thévoz
Les Éditions de Minuit, Paris, France

2019 Josef Hofer, catálogo da exposição da Galeria Estação
São Paulo, Brazil

2016 Transmutations, exhibition catalogue
Galerie Christian Berst Art Brut, Paris, France

2015 The Schiele Incident: Recent Works by Josef Hofer, exhibition catalogue
Galerie Christian Berst Art Brut, New York, NY, United States

2013 L'Art Brut pluriel, Lucienne Peiry
Flammarion, Paris, France

2012 Josef Hofer, exhibition catalogue, TAK Gallery
Poznań and Warsaw, Poland

2012 Josef Hofer und der Spiegel, exhibition catalogue
Galerie Art Cru, Berlin, Germany

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

2012	Collection de l'Art Brut, edited by Lucienne Peiry, Skira Flammarion, Lausanne, Switzerland
2011 – 2012	Josef Hofer: Alter Ego, exhibition catalogue Galerie Christian Berst, Paris, France
2011 – 2012	Josef Hofer, exhibition catalogue Galerie am Stein, Schärding am Inn, Austria
2010 – 2011	Art Brut – Josef Hofer, exhibition catalogue Austrian Cultural Forum, Prague, Czech Republic
2009	Outsider Art: From the Margins to the Marketplace, David Maclagan Reaktion Books, London, United Kingdom
2008	Josef Hofer, exhibition catalogue Galerie am Stein, Schärding am Inn, Austria
2007	Fascicule 22, Michel Thévoz, Collection de l'Art Brut Lausanne, Switzerland
2007	Kunst von Innen – Art Brut in Austria, Angelica Bäumer Holzhausen Verlag, Vienna, Austria
2003	Josef Hofer, exhibition catalogue, Collection de l'Art Brut Lausanne, Switzerland


ARTWORK



Photo ©João Liberato

Josef Hofer
1945, Wegscheid - Baviera

Sem título, 2008
Desenho
44 x 60 cm | 17.32 x 23.62 in



Photo ©João Liberato

Josef Hofer
1945, Wegscheid - Baviera

Sem título, 2014
Desenho
50 x 70 cm | 19.68 x 27.55 in

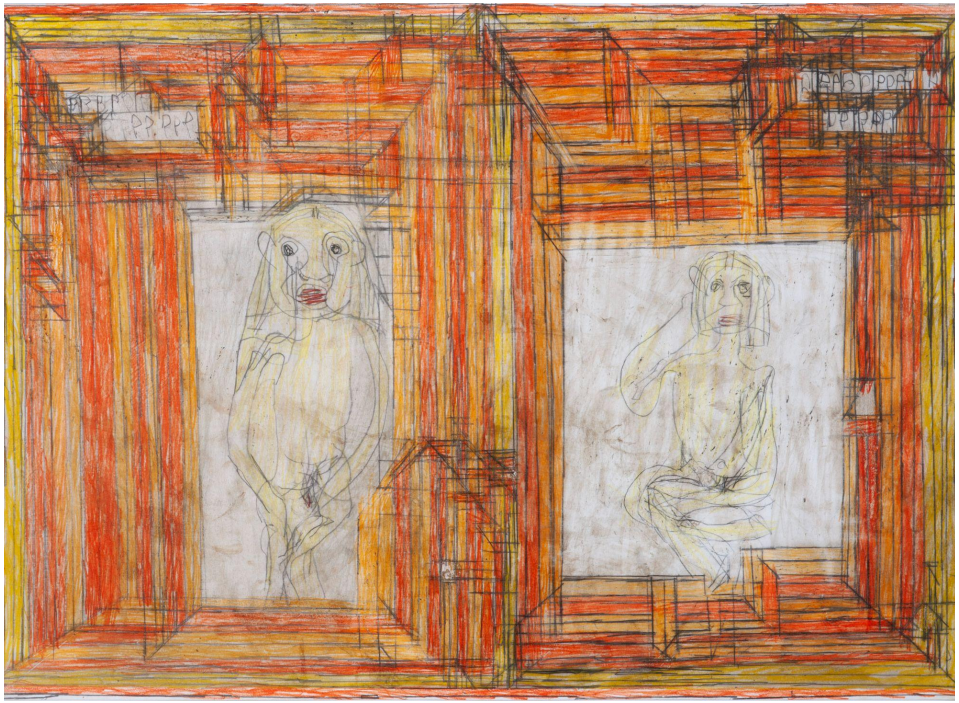


Photo ©João Liberato

Josef Hofer
1945, Wegscheid - Baviera

Sem título, 2007
Desenho
50 x 70 cm | 19.68 x 27.55 in



Photo ©João Liberato

Josef Hofer
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Sem título, 2009
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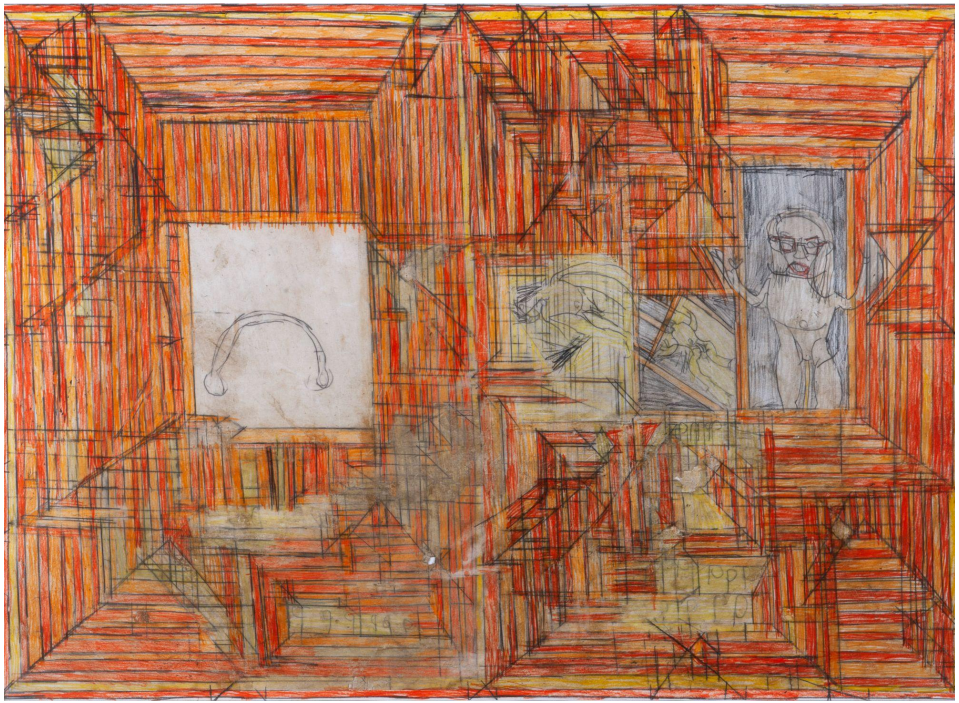


Photo ©João Liberato

Josef Hofer
1945, Wegscheid - Baviera

Sem título, 2001
Desenho
62.5 x 88 cm | 24.40 x 34.64 in



Photo ©João Liberato

Josef Hofer
1945, Wegscheid - Baviera

Sem título, 2012
Desenho
62.5 x 88 cm | 24.40 x 34.64 in


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.

GALERIA ESTAÇÃO

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.

GALERIA ESTAÇÃO

RUA FERREIRA DE ARAÚJO, 625 - PINHEIROS
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