



SUANÊ

[Lúcia Suanê Carvalho Nóbrega]

ARTIST'S PORTFOLIO



BIOGRAPHY

Lúcia Suanê Carvalho Nóbrega (1922-2020), Suanê adopted her name during adolescence after receiving it from a shaman of the Fulni-ô people in Águas Belas, Pernambuco—a name meaning 'coming from the stars.' Great-aunt of the artist Tunga, Suanê settled in São Paulo in 1940, where she lived until her death at the age of 98. She began her artistic career in 1945, encouraged in her initial steps in painting by her husband, painter Nelson Nóbrega, with whom she shared a studio and mentored generations of artists over several decades.

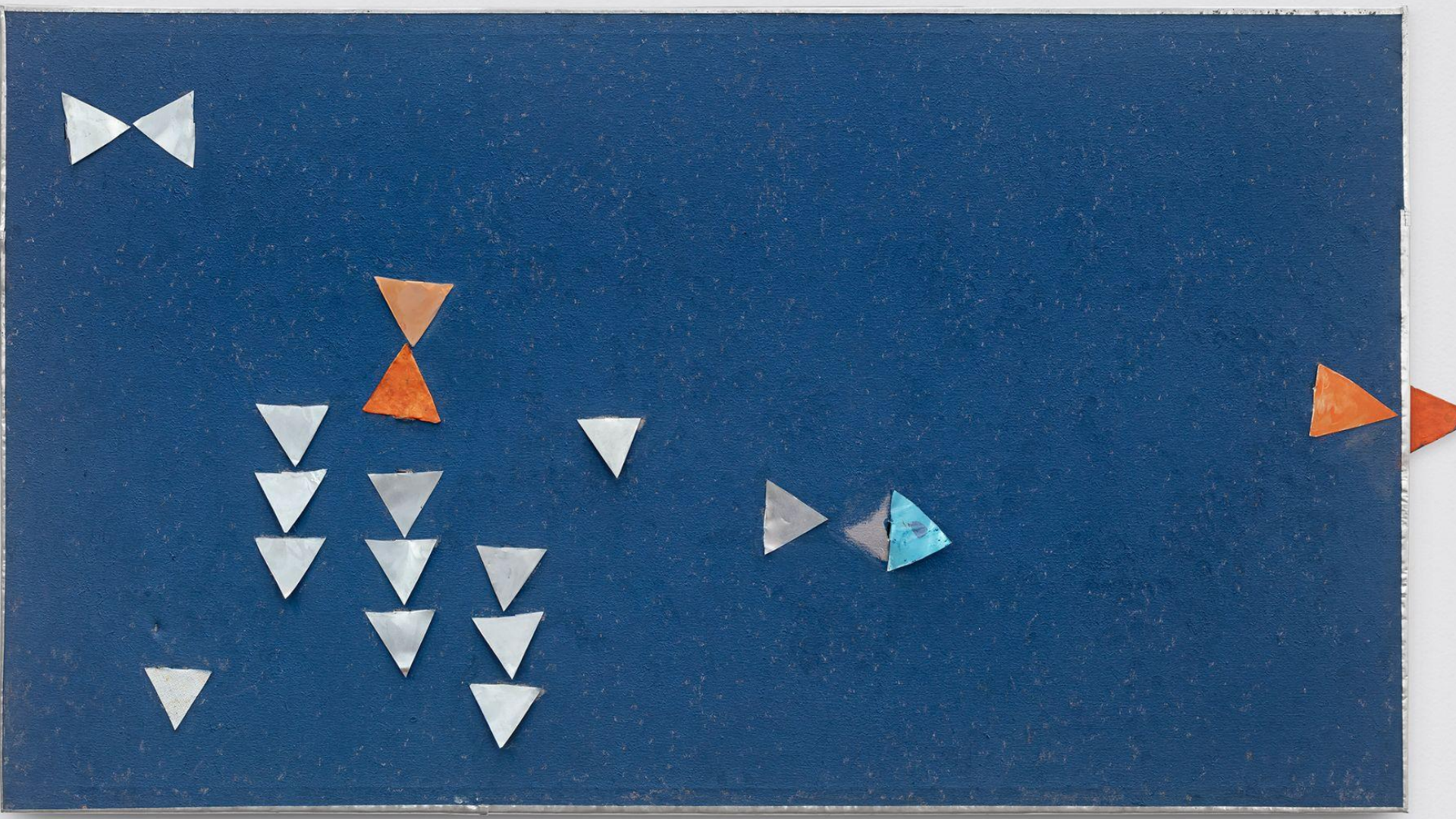
Since her first solo exhibition at Galeria Itá in 1946, Suanê stood out for her spontaneous and sensitive artistic language. Childhood memories from her family's sugar mill and elements of Pernambuco culture vividly materialized in her work, impacting São Paulo's art scene through their vibrant imagination and expressive intensity. Her recognition peaked in the 1950s when she participated in the 1st São Paulo International Biennial and the Salão Paulista de Arte Moderna, earning awards and receiving a commission to paint a fresco for the Capela do Morumbi, designed by modernist architect Gregori Warchavchik (1896-1972) and recommended by Lina Bo Bardi (1914-1992) and Pietro Maria Bardi (1900-1999).

Throughout various phases, Suanê's artwork reveals a continuous dialogue between the materiality of the world and a transcendental dimension of existence. While her early works explored religious scenes, still lifes, and portraits, from the late 1980s onwards, her paintings increasingly evoked visions of the sky and the cosmos. In her final productive years, between 2006 and 2019, she incorporated new materials such as fabrics, ropes, wood, plastic, and metal sheets, creating cutouts and openings in her supports, resulting in works that transcended traditional canvas boundaries and evoked infinity.

Suanê left behind a valuable legacy present in prominent institutional collections, including the Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, MASP, and MAM/BA, as well as private collections in Brazil and abroad. Her artistic journey, still being rediscovered, reaffirms her essential place in Brazilian modern art history as an artist who transformed ordinary materials into expressions of the cosmos and the vastness of human imagination.

Suanê
[Lúcia Suanê Carvalho Nóbrega]

1922, Água Preta - PE | 2020, São Paulo - SP, Brazil



INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITIONS

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2025 | Lúcia Suanê, the Final Stage
Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil |
| 2024 | “The Cosmic Pernambuco of Suanê”
MAC USP - Museu de Arte Contemporânea da
Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil |
| 2007 | “Sertões”
Galeria Paulo Darzé, Salvador - BA, Brazil |
| 2005 | Solo Exhibition
Grifo Galeria de Arte, São Paulo - SP, Brazil |
| 1988 | Solo Exhibition
Galeria Paulo Vasconcellos, São Paulo - SP, Brazil |
| 1974 | Solo Exhibition
Galeria Altamira, Brussels, Belgium |
| 1964 | Solo Exhibition
Galeria São Luís, São Paulo - SP, Brazil |
| 1946 | Solo Exhibition
Galeria Itá, São Paulo - SP, Brazil |

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

2025

Qualquer forma é outra forma

Simões de Assis - Apartamento 61, 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 - BH, Brazil

2025

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

2023

“Entreatos”

MAM/BA - Museu de Arte Moderna da Bahia, Salvador - BA, Brazil

“Reverses and Transverses - artists beyond boundaries (and friends) at the
biennials”

Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

2022

“Arte Moderna na Metrópole: 1947 - 1951”

Centro Cultural CPFL, Campinas - SP, Brazil

2017

“O Mercado de Arte Moderna em São Paulo: 1947-1951”

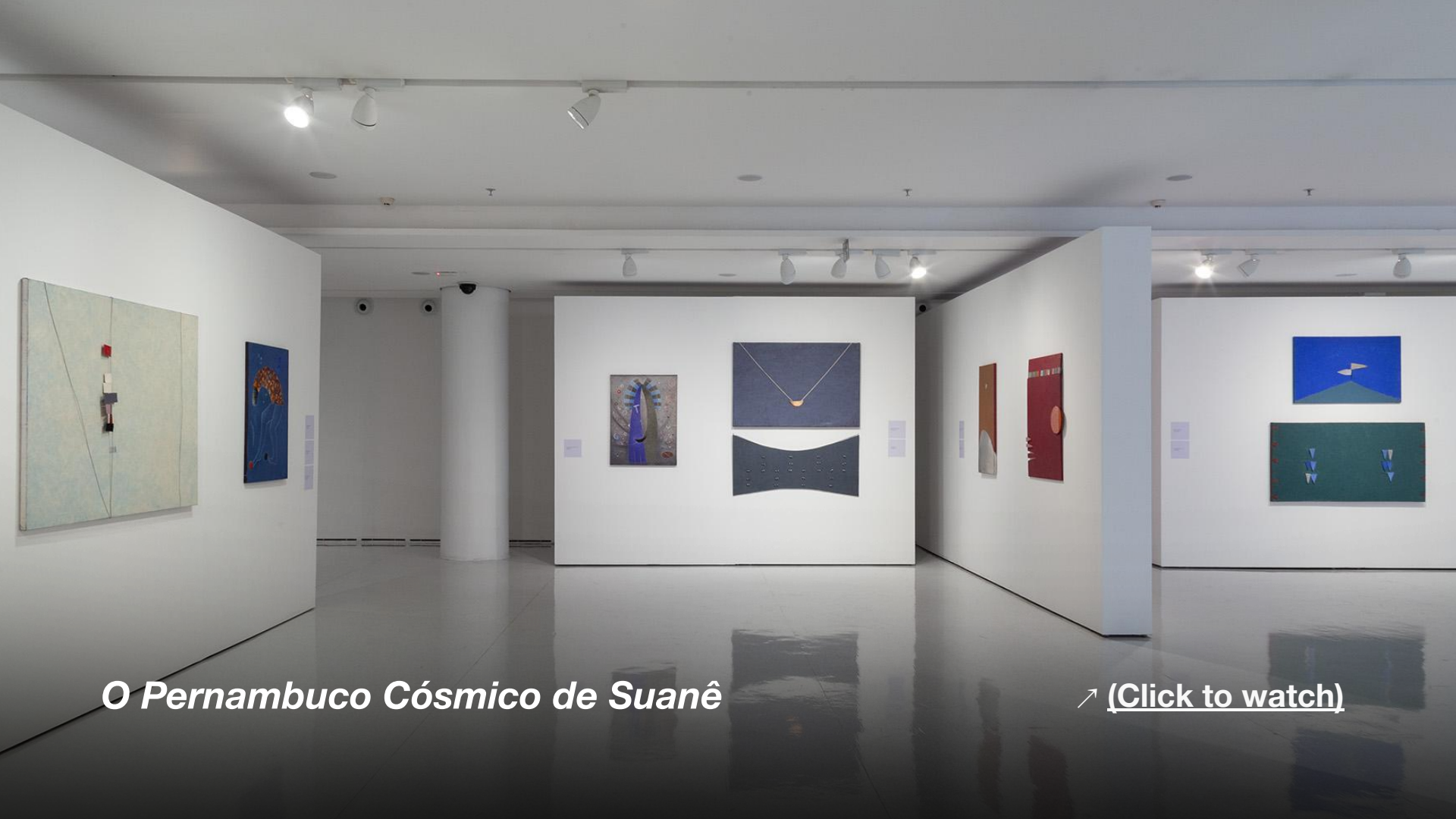
MAM/SP - Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2015 | "Núcleo inicial"
MASC - Museu de Arte de Santa Catarina, Florianópolis - SC, Brazil |
| 2012 | "O Retorno da Coleção Tamagni: até as estrelas por caminhos difíceis",
MAM/SP - Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil |
| 2003 | "Um Difícil Momento de Equilíbrio"
MAM/SP - Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil |
| 2000 | "A Cena Muda"
MASC - Museu de Arte de Santa Catarina, Florianópolis - SC, Brazil |
| 1996 | "Mulheres Artistas no Acervo"
MAC USP - Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil |
| 1989 | 20o Panorama de Arte Atual Brasileira
MAM/SP - Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil |
| 1966 | "3 premissas"
MAB/FAAP - Museu de Arte Brasileira, São Paulo - SP, Brazil |
| 1959 | Coletiva beneficente
Galeria Atrium, São Paulo - SP, Brazil |

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 1955** Ilustrações para o livro “Poemas” de Ascenso Ferreira
Recife - PE, Brazil
- 1951** Inauguração de afresco na Capela do Morumbi
São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- I Salão de Arte Moderna de São Paulo
Prêmio Pintura, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1a Bienal Internacional de São Paulo
Prêmio Aquisição do Museu Paulista, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1949** “Exposição de Pintores de São Paulo”
Edifício Capanema, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- Exposição Feminina de Arte organizada pela pintora Gerda Brentani
São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- XII Salão do Sindicato de Artistas Plásticos
São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1948** “Artes Plásticas”
Galeria Domus, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1947** Exposição coletiva
Galeria Itapetininga, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- “Senhoras de Pintores Conhecidos”
Galeria Domus, São Paulo - SP, Brazil



O Pernambuco Cósmico de Suanê

↗ (Click to watch)

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

MAC USP - Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Universidade de São Paulo

São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo

São Paulo - SP, Brazil

MCSP - Museu da Cidade de São Paulo

São Paulo - SP, Brazil

MAM/SP - Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo

São Paulo - SP, Brazil

MASC - Museu de Arte de Santa Catarina

Florianópolis - SC, Brazil

MAPA - Museu de Arte Primitiva de Assis

São Paulo - SP, Brazil

MAM/BA - Museu de Arte Moderna da Bahia

Salvador - BA, Brazil

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

2025

Lúcia Suanê, a última etapa

Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

2024

“O Pernambuco Cósmico de Suanê”

MAC USP - Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

2023

“Reversos e Transversos”

Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

2019

Suanê: Artebiografia, Hernani Maia Costa e Francisco de Sales Gaudêncio

São Paulo – SP, Brazil

EXHIBITIONS





Photo ©Cortesia Simões de Assis

2025

Qualquer forma é outra form

Galeria Simões de Assis - Apartamento 61, São Paulo - SP, Brazil



Photo ©Filipe Berndt

2025

Lúcia Suanê, the Final Stage

Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil



Photo ©Filipe Berndt

2025

Lúcia Suanê, the Final Stage

Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil



Photo ©Filipe Berndt

2025

Lúcia Suanê, the Final Stage

Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil



Photo ©Filipe Berndt

2025

Lúcia Suanê, the Final Stage

Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

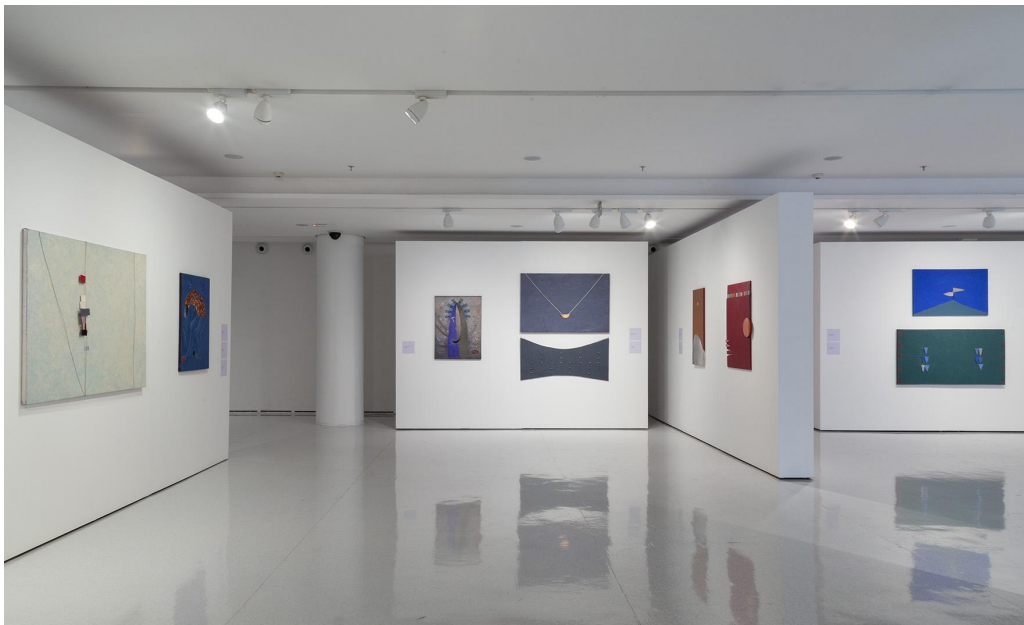


Photo ©Ana Viotti

2024

The Cosmic Pernambuco of Suanê

MAC USP - Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

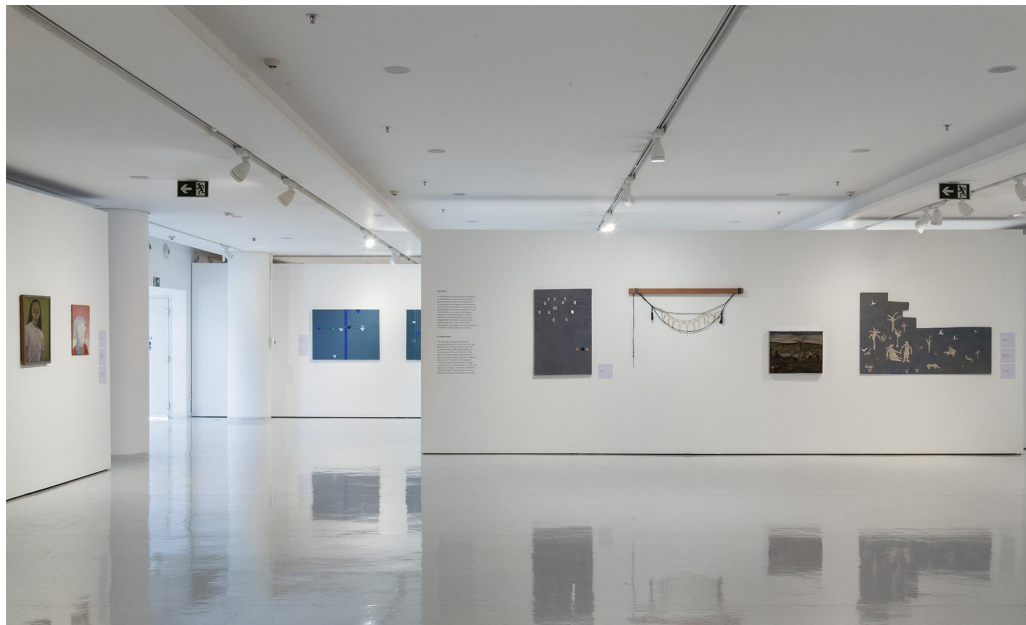


Photo ©Ana Viotti

2024

The Cosmic Pernambuco of Suanê

MAC USP - Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

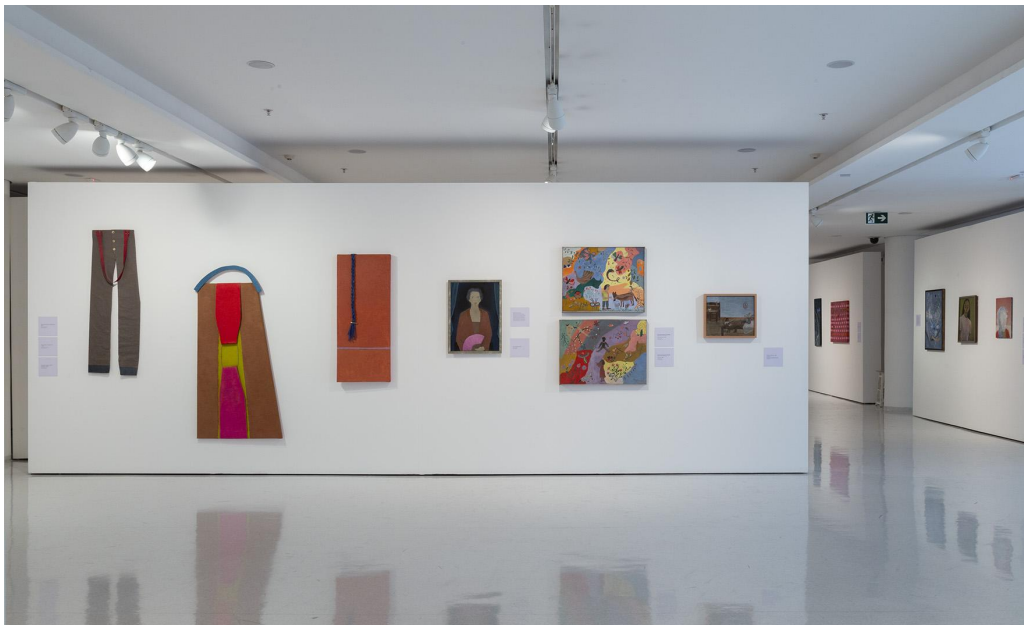


Photo ©Ana Viotti

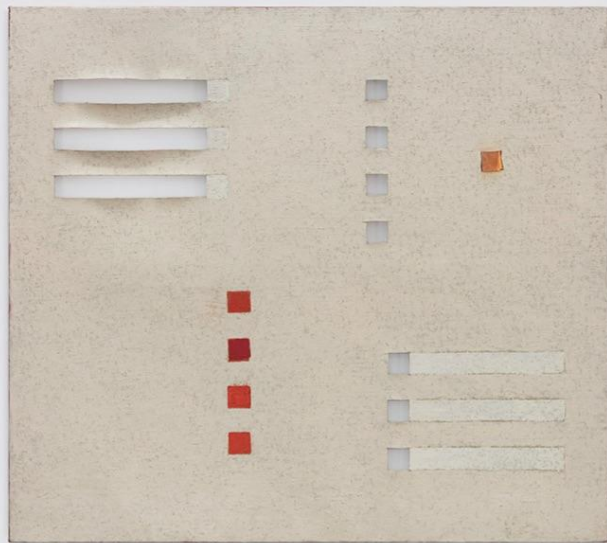
2024

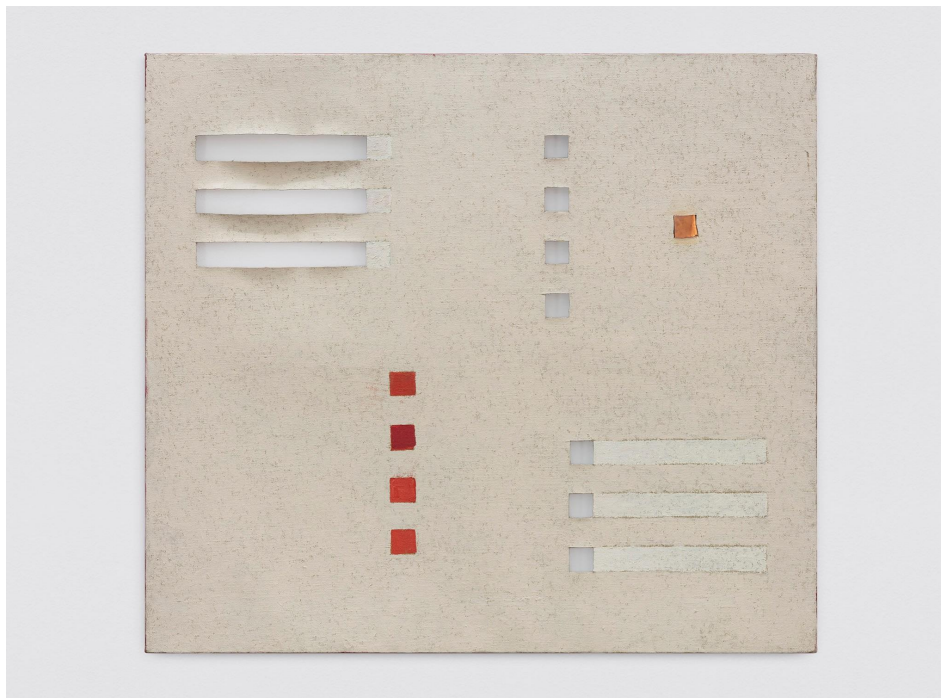
The Cosmic Pernambuco of Suanê

MAC USP - Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Universidade de São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

An abstract artwork featuring a dark grey textured background. A vertical yellow stripe runs down the center. Several thin, light-colored strings are stretched across the frame, some with small, colorful triangular flags (red, pink, white, grey) attached. Some strings end in small, knotted loops. The composition is minimalist and geometric.

ARTWORK





Suanê (Lúcia Suanê Carvalho Nóbrega)
1922, Água Preta - PE | 2020, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

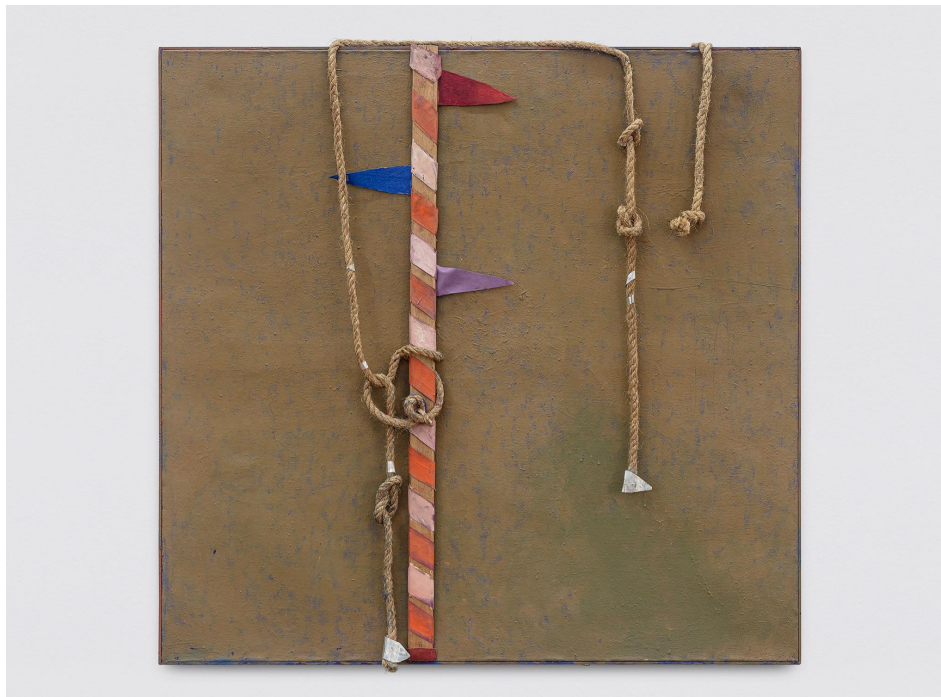
Pastoril do Cordão Encarnado, c. 2005

Oil and metal on canvas

125 x 140 cm | 49.2 x 55.1 in

Photo credit: Filipe Berndt





Suanê (Lúcia Suanê Carvalho Nóbrega)
1922, Água Preta - PE | 2020, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

The rope, déc. 2010
Oil, metal and cord on canvas
129 x 131 cm | 50.8 x 51.6 in
Photo credit: Filipe Berndt





Suanê (Lúcia Suanê Carvalho Nóbrega)
1922, Água Preta - PE | 2020, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Rain in Tuparetana, c. 2017
Oil and metal on canvas
122 x 129 cm | 48 x 50.8 in
Photo credit: Filipe Berndt





Suanê (Lúcia Suanê Carvalho Nóbrega)
1922, Água Preta - PE | 2020, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

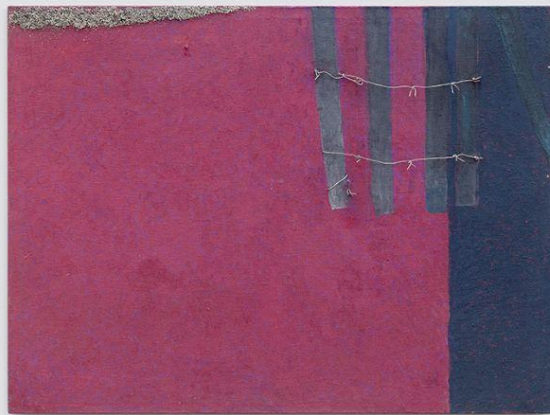
Party in the rain n.2, c. 2017
Oil and cord on canvas
80 x 130 cm | 31.5 x 51.2 in
Photo credit: Filipe Berndt

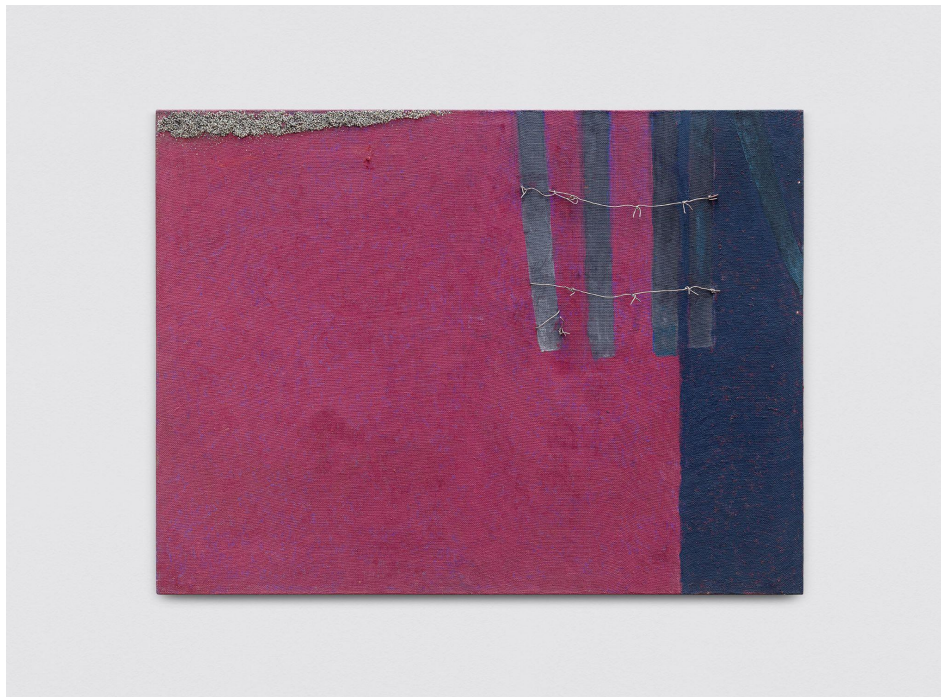




Suanê (Lúcia Suanê Carvalho Nóbrega)
1922, Água Preta - PE | 2020, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

São Francisco River, c. 2010
Oil and metal on canvas
85 x 150 cm | 33.5 x 59.1 in
Photo credit: Filipe Berndt





Suanê (Lúcia Suanê Carvalho Nóbrega)
1922, Água Preta - PE | 2020, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Untitled, Série Sertões, c. 2005

Oil and metal on canvas

90 x 120 cm | 35.4 x 47.2 in

Photo credit: Filipe Berndt





Suanê (Lúcia Suanê Carvalho Nóbrega)
1922, Água Preta - PE | 2020, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Manaré, Série Mamulengo, c. 2015
Oil, metal and cord on canvas
125,5 x 131 cm | 49.4 x 51.6 in
Photo credit: Filipe Berndt

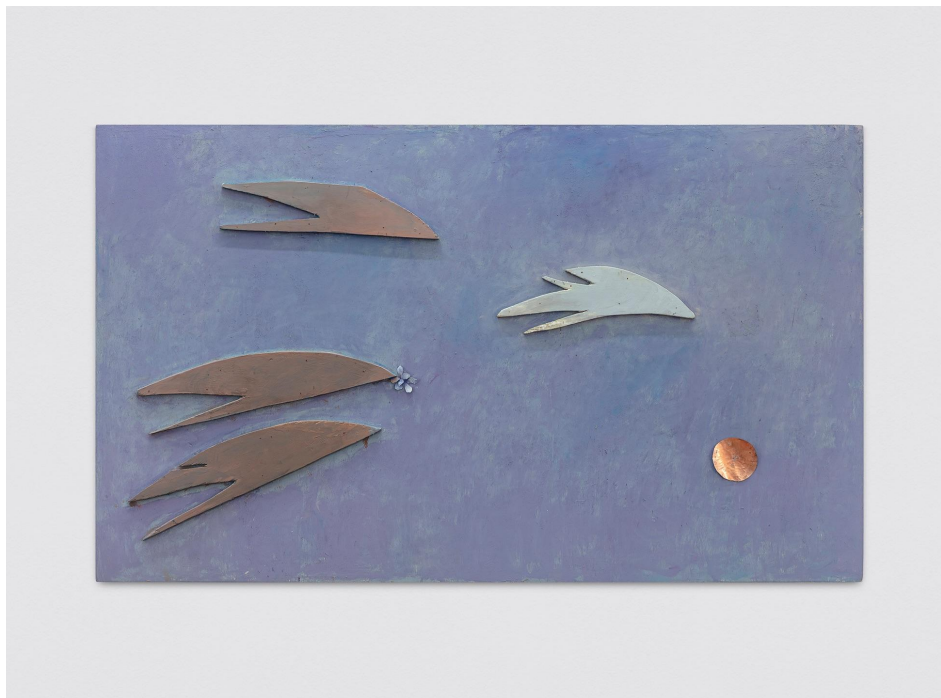




Suanê (Lúcia Suanê Carvalho Nóbrega)
1922, Água Preta - PE | 2020, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Barra da Guabiraba, 2017
Oil on wood
160 x 61 cm | 63 x 24 in
Photo credit: Filipe Berndt





Suanê (Lúcia Suanê Carvalho Nóbrega)
1922, Água Preta - PE | 2020, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Untitled, c. 2010

Mixed media

90 x 150 cm | 35.4 x 59.1 in

Photo credit: Filipe Berndt





Suanê (Lúcia Suanê Carvalho Nóbrega)
1922, Água Preta - PE | 2020, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Untitled, c. 2019

Mixed media

90 x 150 cm | 35.4 x 59.1 in

Photo credit: Filipe Berndt





Suanê (Lúcia Suanê Carvalho Nóbrega)
1922, Água Preta - PE | 2020, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

One of Mrs. Caraciola's Purses, c. 2016

Oil and metal on wood and canvas

103 x 116 cm | 40.6 x 45.7 in

Photo credit: Filipe Berndt



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 e Zica Bergami.

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

GALERIA ESTAÇÃO

RUA FERREIRA DE ARAÚJO, 625 - PINHEIROS

MONDAY TO FRIDAY, FROM 11 AM TO 7 PM, SATURDAY FROM 11 AM TO 3 PM

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