



G.T.O.

ARTIST'S PORTFOLIO



BIOGRAPHY

Master of a universal language, Geraldo Teles de Oliveira – G.T.O. – uses only the human figure in a schematic and repeated form, jointly with circular and rectangular geometric symbols, to build the image of himself in the large metaphysical construction of his sculpture. His work is organized on the vertical or in the middle of a circle. The plurality of his figures eventually built well-balanced formally united images. In G.T.O.'s Rodas Vivas the center is normally suggested but almost never configured, similar to oriental mandalas. In *Mitopoética de nove brasileiros* (1975), I also noticed the emulation between abstract and figurative in the construction of his plastic language. The multiple figures result in a single mesh that dissolves them in a pattern of filled and empty spaces.

In the blocks formed by the figures, the extremities – hands, feet, and heads – touch the human network to form endless links. The open hand, or touching another figure, is the main link between the bodies. Beards and hair are associated with this connotation of spirituality and irradiate energy. G.T.O. told me about on figure: “This is Jesus Christ, bringing the people in his beard”. The hat, besides being a sign of manhood, accentuates the importance of the head and, by extension, thought. His shoes, in addition to their phallic significance, also represent the point of human contact with the earth. They are on a level crossing, and are also connecting points between human modules. The head, also a symbol of manhood in medieval art with which G.T.O.'s art has a natural affinity is an emblem of the mind and spiritual life.

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The inverted human figure, also inhabiting Rodas Vivas, shows the ambivalence of the opposites, placed above and below a horizontal axis. The phenomenon world is then a process of perpetual inversion: war/peace, paradise/hell. G.T.O. said: “I put everything into my art, good and bad, bad and good, because it has everything”. The sun, the moon, the rod and arrow also appear in his work alongside the dominant human. Indians appear in a very favorable light to the artist’s caboclo view – grandson of Aimoré Indian woman. “I made an Indian because I’m also from the same race”. They are portrayed with feathers radiating from their head. They help destroy prehistoric monsters like the Tarantula, and are on the side of order: “Here the people are building a church and the Indian is helping”. The idea of solidarity in communal work is very common in G.T.O.’s sculpture when he links the figures together.

An encounter, meeting, festival, collective celebration also, seen clearly in the names he gives to several of his works: Dança de reinado, Our Lady of the Rosary Festivals, Our Lady of Mercês, Our Lady of Aparecida, of Bom Jesus. Sometimes what he calls epiphany festivals reminds us of congado dances, from the description made by the artist of “bells” on the revelers’ legs. Clarival do Prado Valladares (1977) discovered in his work features that can be identified with African and especially Nigerian carved relief and took it to the 1977 Lagos Festival. His first work was the outcome of a dream he had in 1965, and since then he considers sculpture a divine legacy and mission. G.T.O. spent his childhood and youth in Divinópolis, in the state of Minas Gerais. When he was 28 years old, he moved as a molder, tinsmith and caster.

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On his return to Divinópolis, in 1951, he got a job as a night watchman in São José hospital where he was admitted for health care. At the request of the priest, he carved an image for the Church of Bom Jesus, near his home. G.T.O.'s work was revealed by an architect from Minas Gerais and soon sold by art galleries.

His excellence was already a national unanimity by the end of the 1960s. He participated in various collective exhibitions in American and European countries, and was nominated for the 1969 and 1971 São Paulo Biennials. In 1973 he took part in a major exhibition about Brazil in Brussels and then in Paris.

He is part of *Entre Dois Séculos*, by Roberto Pontual (1987), a summary of Brazilian 20th century art in the Gilberto Chateaubriand collection. Works by him are found in the main popular art museums in Brazil. A family workshop was created around him, very common in the popular environment where an outstanding artist appears, and where his son Mário Teles and grandson Geraldo Fernandes de Oliveira make sculptures with different elements from those of their father and grandfather.

Source: Little Dictionary of the Brazilian People's Art – 20th Century, by anthropologist and poet Lélia Coelho Frota

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SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 1995** Five Years Without New G.T.O Dreams
Galeria Paulo Campos Guimarães, Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil
- 1987** GTO: twenty years of dreams
Museu Histórico, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 1987** GTO: twenty years of dreams
Museu Histórico, Divinópolis - MG, Brazil
- 1968** Galeria do Copacabana Palace
Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 1967** Galeria Guignard
Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil



COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 2025** Weaving the Morning: Modern Life and Nocturnal Experience in Brazilian Art
Pinacoteca de São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2025** In every corner: Casa Fiat de Cultura and Instituto Tomie Ohtake visit Vilma Eid Collection
Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil
- 2025** Instituto Tomie Ohtake visits Vilma Eid Collection - In every corner
Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2023** "Reverses and Transverses": Artists Outside the Mainstream (and Friends) at the Biennials
Galeria Estação, São Paulo – SP, Brazil
- 2021** They Were Already Here
Galeria Base, São Paulo – SP, Brazil
- 2020 - 2021** Highlight
Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 2016** Between looks: poetics of the Brazilian soul
Museu Afro Brasil Emanuel Araújo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 2012- 2013** Janete Costa “The Gaze”
Museu Janete Costa de Arte Popular, Niterói - RJ, Brazil
- 2012** Minas Gerais Sculptors
Câmara Municipal - Espaço Cultural Eduardo Gomes – Itapeva - SP, Brazil
- 2011** Minas Gerais Sculptors
Museu Paulo Setúbal, Tatuí - SP, Brazil
- 2011** Minas Gerais Sculptors
Taisa Palhares, Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2010** Pure Blends
Pavilhão de Culturas Brasileiras, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2007** The size of Brazil - Mostra de Arte Popular
Sesc Paulista, Curador Janete Costa, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2007** Encounter between the seas - Bienal de São Paulo- Valencia
Convento del Carmo, Valencia, Spain
- 2006-2007** Live the cultura live the Brazilian people
Museu Afro Brasil Emanuel Araújo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 2006** WE ARE – the Brazilian's folks creations
Centro Cultural Santander - Porto Alegre - RS, Brazil
- 2005** Brazilian, brazilians
Museu Afro Brasil Emanuel Araújo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2004** Brazil: 100 years of modern art
MNBA – Museu Nacional de Belas Artes, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 2004-2005** Forms, Colour and Expression
Galeria Estação, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2002** Pop Brazil: brazilian outsider art
CCBB - Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2001** Primitives and Naifs: homage to Zlzi Sapateiro
Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil
- 2001** Popular Expression
Centro Cultural Light, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2001** Brazil: body and soul
Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Nova York, USA

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 2000** Brazil + 500 Rediscovery Exhibition
Pavilhão da Bienal, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1995** The Night Heirs: fragments of the black's imaginary
Centro de Cultura de Belo Horizonte, Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil
- 1993** Brazil: 100 years of modern art
MNBA – Museu Nacional de Belas Artes, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 1993** People of the Earth
Galeria Jacques Ardières, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1990** Exhibition sponsored by Companhia Vale do Rio Doce
Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 1988** 2° Wood in the “Mineira” style
Galeria Trem de Minas, Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil
- 1987** 1° Wood in the “Mineira” style
Galeria Trem de Minas, Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 1986** Art in wood
Museu do Folclore, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 1985** Art Brut
hall do Cine Metr pole Gaumont, S o Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1984** 1^o Visual Arts Salon of the Cl vis Salgado Foundation
Fund o Cl vis Salgado: Pal cio das Artes, Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil
- 1982** A century of sculpture in brazil
MASP - Museu de Arte de S o Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, S o Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1981** 8^o Global Winter Salon
MAM SP - Museu de Arte Moderna de S o Paulo, S o Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1981** 16^o International Biennial of S o Paulo
Fund o Bienal, S o Paulo - SP, Brasil
- 1981** 8^o Global Winter Salon
MAM SP - Museu de Arte Moderna de S o Paulo, S o Paulo - SP, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 1981** 8º Global Winter Salon,
Fundação Palácio das Artes, Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil
- 1979** Latin American Biennial Myths and Magic
São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1979** 6º Global Winter Salon
Fundação Clóvis Salgado: Companhia de Dança de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte - MG,
Brazil
- 1978** 42ª Biennial of Venice
Venice, Italy
- 1978** 1º Salon of Arts of the State Council of Culture
Palácio das Artes, Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil
- 1977** 5º Salão Global de Inverno
MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1977** 5º Global Winter Salon
MNBA – Museu Nacional de Belas Artes, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 1977** 2º World and African Festival of Black Art and Culture
Lagos, Nigeria
- 1977** 5º Global Winter Salon
Fundação Cultural do Distrito Federal, Brasília - DF, Brazil
- 1977** 5º Global Winter Salon
Fundação Palácio das Artes, Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil
- 1978** 13ª International Biennial of São Paulo
Fundação Bienal, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1974** Galeria Montparnasse
Paris, France
- 1974** Galeria Iemanjá
Paris, France
- 1974** Biennial Human Forms
Museu Rodin, Paris, France

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 1973** **Brasil Export 73**
Bruxelas, Belgium
- 1970** **Art/Brazil/Today: 50 years after**
Galeria da Collectio, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1970** **Pre-Biennial of São Paulo**
Fundação Bienal, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1970** **The Evolutionary Process of Art in Minas**
Palácio das Artes, Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil
- 1970** **2º Contemporary Art Salon - prêmio aquisição**
Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil
- 1969** **10ª International Biennial of São Paulo**
Fundação Bienal, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1969** **1º Contemporary Art Salon**
Museu de arte da Pampulha, Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil
- 1968** **Naïve Art**
Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Museu da Casa do Pontal

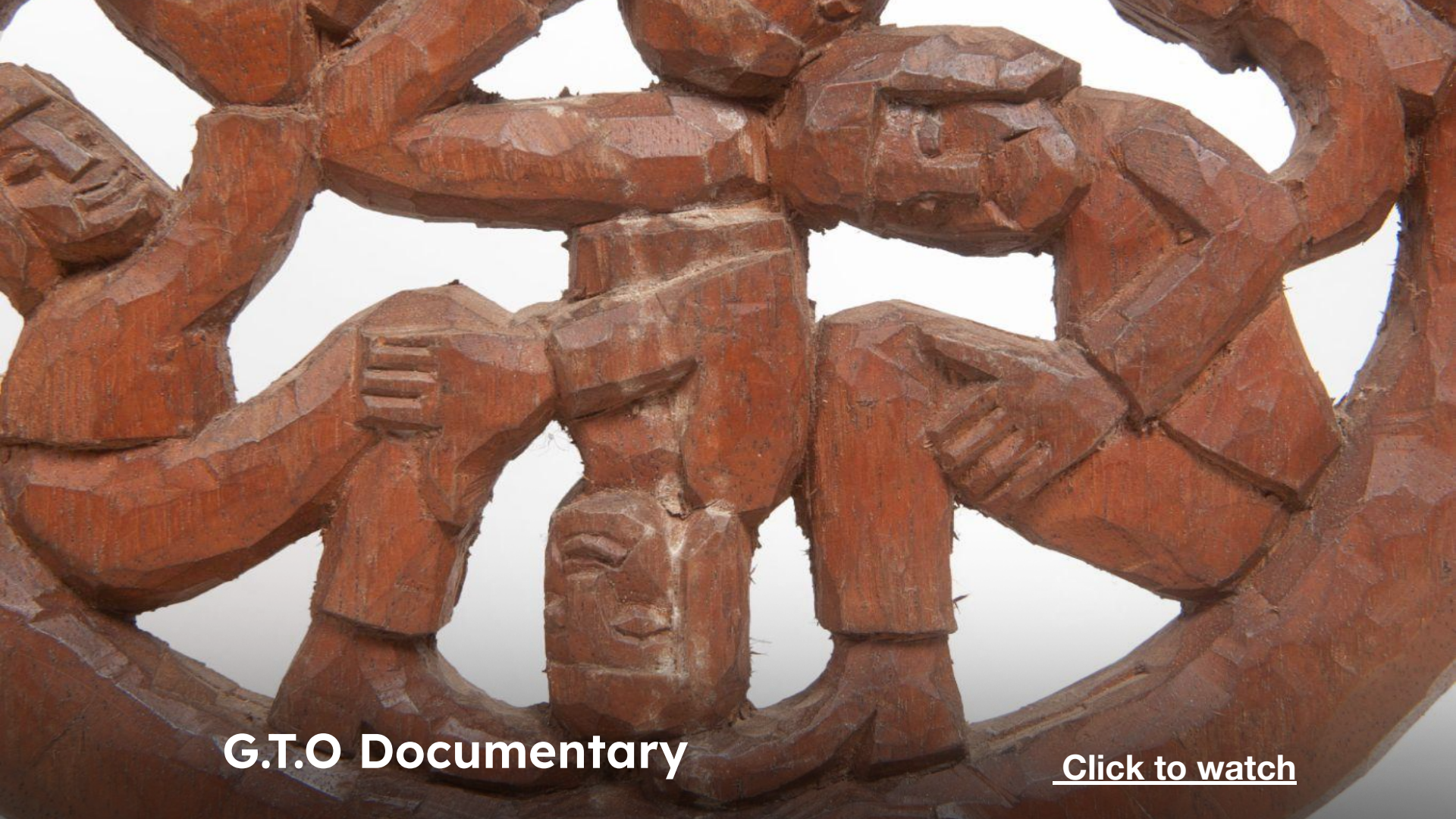
Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

MAM RJ - Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro

Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Museu Afro Brasil Emanuel Araújo

São Paulo - SP, Brazil



G.T.O Documentary

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SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2025** Weaving the Morning: Modern Life and Nocturnal Experience in Brazilian Art
Pinacoteca de São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2025** Instituto Tomie Ohtake visits Vilma Eid Collection - In every corner
Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2023** "Reverses and Transverses": Artists Outside the Mainstream (and Friends)
at the Biennials
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- 2012 - 2013** Janete Costa “The Gaze”
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Câmara Municipal - Espaço Cultural Eduardo Gomes – Itapeva - SP, Brazil
- 2007** Encounter between the seas - Bienal de São Paulo- Valencia
Convento del Carmo, Valencia, Spain
- 2006** Viva Cultura Viva do Povo Brasileiro
Museu Afro Brasil Emanuel Araújo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2005** Espaço Brasil, Catálogo
Carreau Du Temple, Paris, France

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

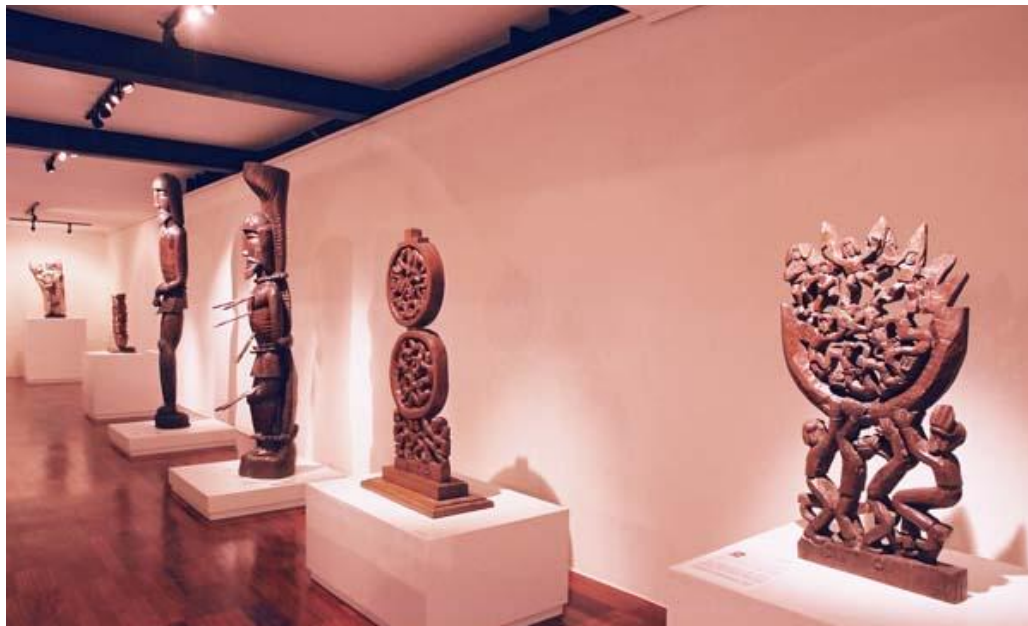
- 2005** Brasileiro, Brasileiros
Ipsis Gráfica e Editora, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2002** Pop Brasil: arte popular e o popular na arte, Jean Boghici, Ladi Biezus, Aline Figueiredo, Roberto Rugiero, Paulo Parda
CCBB, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2002** O Mundo da Arte Popular Brasileira
Museu da Casa do Pontal, Ed. Mauad, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 2000** Brazil + 500 Rediscovery Exhibition. Nelson Aguiar
Bial Foundation of São Paulo and Associação 500 Anos, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1995** Cinco anos sem novos sonhos de G. T. O.
Galeria Paulo Campos Guimarães: Biblioteca Pública Estadual Professor Luiz de Bessa, Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil
- 1995** Os Herdeiros da Noite: fragmentos do imaginário negro: 300 anos de Zumbi
Ministério da Cultura, Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1994** Arte Popular Brasileira: peças da coleção Casa do Pontal
Museu Casa do Pontal, Brasileira de Frankfurt, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 1987** Entre dois séculos: arte brasileira do século XX na coleção Gilberto Chateaubriand
Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 1986** Artistas da escultura brasileira
Volkswagen do Brasil, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1982** Um século de escultura no Brasil, Pietro Maria Bardi
MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1978** Mitopoética de 9 artistas brasileiros: vida, verdade e obra, Lélia Coelho Frota
Funarte, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 1973** Arte/Brasil/hoje: 50 anos depois, Roberto Pontual
São Paulo - SP, Brazil



EXHIBITIONS



2004

G.T.O

Forma, Cor e Expressão, Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brasil



2004

G.T.O

Forma, Cor e Expressão, Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brasil



2011

G.T.O

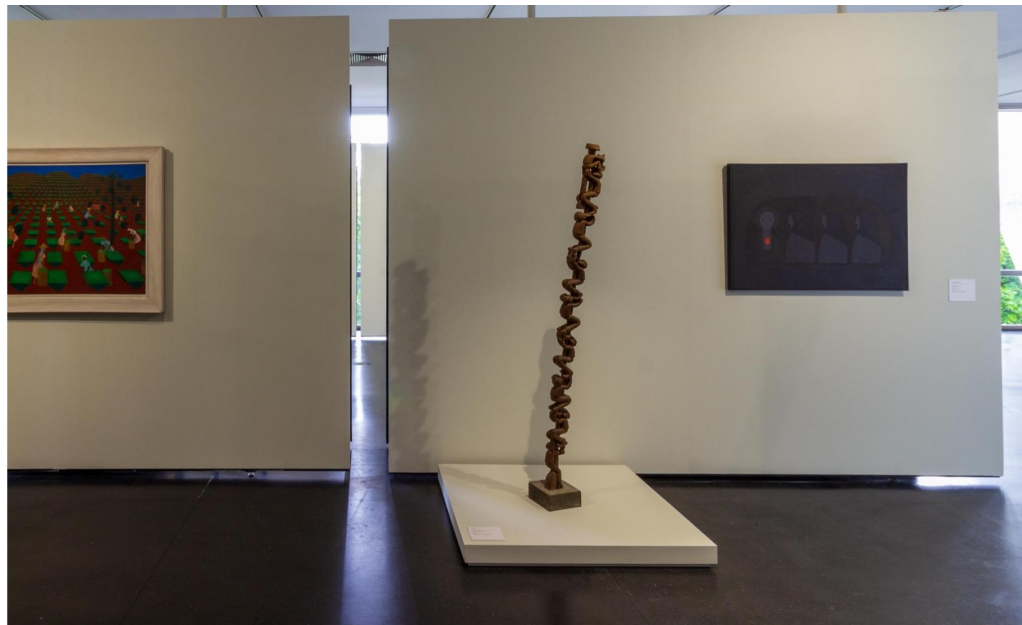
Escultores mineiros, Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brasil



2011

G.T.O

Escultores mineiros, Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brasil



2020 - 2021

G.T.O

Realce, MAM RJ - Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brasil

ARTWORK





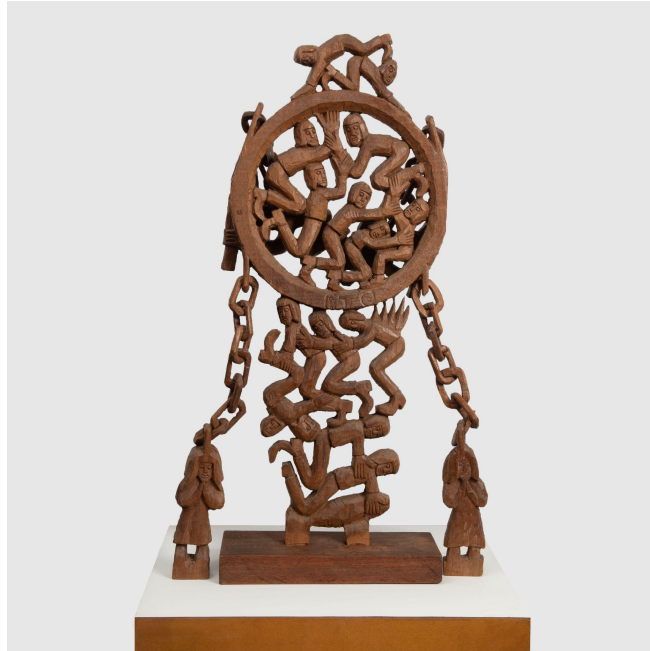
G.T.O (Geraldo Teles de Oliveira)
1913, Itapecerica - MG | 1990, Divinópolis - MG, Brasil

Untitled, Sem data | Undated
Wooden sculpture
102 x 29,5 x 15 cm | 40.15 x 11.41 x 5.9 in
Photo credit: ©João Liberato



G.T.O (Geraldo Teles de Oliveira)
1913, Itapecerica - MG | 1990, Divinópolis - MG, Brasil

Untitled, Sem data | Undated
Wooden sculpture
74 x 40 x 14 cm | 29.13 x 15.74 x 5.51 in
Photo credit: ©João Liberato



G.T.O (Geraldo Teles de Oliveira)
1913, Itapecerica - MG | 1990, Divinópolis - MG, Brasil

Untitled, s/d

Wooden sculpture

90 x 37 x 15 cm | 35.43 x 14.56 x 5.90 in

Photo credit: ©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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