



AURELINO DOS SANTOS

ARTIST'S PORTFOLIO



BIOGRAPHY

Aurelino dos Santos was primarily dedicated to painting, with geometrization standing as the most distinctive feature of his practice. His works presented an idealized architecture, composed of planes, shapes, and a rich chromatic palette.

He developed landscapes that could be perceived simultaneously from multiple perspectives — from above and in profile — employing vibrant colors and drawing on references that spanned a range of artistic movements, including Baroque, Concrete Art, and Neo-Concrete Art.

Self-taught and of modest means, Aurelino found in painting his most authentic form of expression, achieving a remarkable level of sophistication despite the absence of formal training.

In his compositions, he organized the city in a singular way, using geometric elements to construct urban landscapes marked by precision and harmony.

Aurelino's career began unexpectedly in the 1960s, while he was working as a bus fare collector. A quiet encounter with the sculptor Agnaldo Manoel dos Santos, his neighbor at the time, sparked his desire to paint.

He would later recall the pivotal moment when, standing by the sea at Farol da Barra, he began tracing lines across a blank canvas. This simple gesture marked the beginning of a trajectory that would establish him as a significant figure in Brazilian art.

Agnaldo was the first to recognize his talent, acquiring his works. Shortly thereafter, Lina Bo Bardi — architect and then director of the Museum of Modern Art of Bahia — played a decisive role in bringing visibility to his production.

This early recognition proved fundamental in establishing Aurelino as an artist.

AURELINO DOS SANTOS

1942 - 2026, Salvador - BA, Brazil

BIOGRAPHY

In a gesture Aurelino would fondly recall, Lina Bo Bardi offered him fifteen canvases to paint, marking the beginning of a series of exhibitions that brought him out of anonymity and into the art world.

His work gained visibility through group exhibitions, including a notable presentation in the foyer of the Teatro Castro Alves, and he gradually became integrated into Bahia's artistic circle.

Although his early trajectory was shaped by figures such as Agnaldo Manoel dos Santos, Lina Bo Bardi, Mario Cravo Jr., and Sante Scaldaferri, Aurelino went on to develop a distinct visual language of his own. His unmistakable style — combining geometric structures with a palette that ranged from restrained monochromes to vibrant chromatic compositions — invited viewers into a world of quiet contemplation and visual resonance.

His landscapes, at times enigmatic, reflected both the simplicity of everyday life and the complexity of a creative mind that expressed itself through repetition, the elasticity of forms, and the expressive use of color.

Aurelino dos Santos's work stood as a tribute to the power of self-taught creativity and to the transformative capacity of art.

It ultimately affirmed that the act of creation transcended formal knowledge and language, finding its essence in the intimate dialogue between the artist and his work.

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1942 - 2026, Salvador - BA, Brazil



SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022** Aurelino: On the urban margins
Galeria Simões de Assis, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2020** Aurelino dos Santos: Obsessive Construction
MuN - Museu Nacional da República, Brasília - DF, Brazil
- 2019** Aurelino dos Santos - The Letter is what makes the world
MAM/BA - Museu de Arte Moderna da Bahia, Salvador - BA, Brazil
- 2013** Aurelino | paintings
Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2011** Transfiguration of the Royal
Museu Afro Brasil Emanoel Araújo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 2025 - 2026** Gilberto Chateaubriand: uma coleção sensorial
MAM RJ - Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 2025** Weaving the Morning: Modern Life and Nocturnal Experience in Brazilian Art
Pinacoteca de São Paulo, São Paulo – SP, Brazil
- In every corner - Casa Fiat de Cultura and Instituto Tomie Ohtake visit Vilma Eid Collection
Casa Fiat de Cultura, Belo Horizonte – MG, Brazil
- 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
- 2023** "Reverses and Transverses": Artists Outside the Mainstream (and Friends) at the Biennials
Galeria Estação, São Paulo – SP, Brazil
- 2021** The Lyric Machine
Galeria Luisa Strina, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2020** Orixás
MuN - Museu Nacional da República, Brasília - DF, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 2020** Luso Afro Brazil: Art, History and Memory
Museu Afro Brasil Emanuel Araújo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2019** Southern Geometries, from Mexico to Patagonia
Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris, France
- 2016** The hand of the Brazilian people 1969/2016
MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2014** Quase figura, Quase forma
Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2012 - 2013** Janete Costa "Look"
Museu Janete Costa de Arte Popular, Niterói - RJ, Brazil
- 2012** 4 Spontaneous Artists
Museu Afro Brasil Emanuel Araújo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- Stubbornness of Imagination: Ten Brazilian artists
Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- Stubbornness of Imagination: Ten Brazilian artists
Centro Cultural Paço Imperial, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- Stories of Seeing: Show and Tell
Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris, France

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 2009** Madrid Art Fair
Pabellón de Cristal, Madrid, Spain
- 2007** Encounter Between Two Seas: Biennial São Paulo-Valencia
Convento del Carmo, Valencia, Spain
- 2006** Live Culture Live the Brazilian People
Museu Afro Brasil Emanoel Araújo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2002** Pop Brazil: folk art and folk in art
CCBB - Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2000** 500 Rediscovery Show
Pavilhão da Bienal, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1995** The Heirs of the Night: fragments of the black imaginary
Centro de Cultura de Belo Horizonte, Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil
- 1994** Brazilian-Afro Art and Religiosity
Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt, Germany
- The Heirs of the Night: fragments of the black imaginary
Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

2025

Weaving the Morning: Modern Life and Nocturnal Experience in Brazilian Art
Pinacoteca de São Paulo, São Paulo – SP, Brazil

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 2024 | Metamorphoses and Distances
Galeria Estação, São Paulo – SP, Brazil |
| 2023 | "Reverses and Transverses": Artists Outside the Mainstream (and Friends) at the Biennials
Galeria Estação, São Paulo – SP, Brazil |
| 2019 | Géometries Sud
Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris, France |
| 2018 | Brazilian outsider art: a contemporary survey
Publisher WMF Martins Fontes, São Paulo - SP, Brazil |
| 2016 | A mão do povo brasileiro 1969/2016
MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil |
| 2013 | Aurelino Paintings
Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil |
| 2012 - 2013 | Janete Costa Look
Museu Janete Costa de Arte Popular, Niterói - RJ, Brazil |
| 2012 | Transfiguration of the Royal
Museu Afro Brasil Emanoel Araújo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil |
| | Stubbornness of Imagination: Ten Brazilian artists
Publisher WMF Martins Fontes, São Paulo - SP, Brazil |

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2012** **Histoires de Voir: Show and Tell**
Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris, France
- 2007** **Encounter Between Two Seas: Biennale São Paulo - Valencia**
Convento del Carmo, Valencia, Spain
- 2006** **Live Culture Live the Brazilian People**
Museu Afro Brasil Emanoel Araújo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2002** **POP BRAZIL: The art in popular and folk art**
CCBB - Centro Cultura Banco do Brasil, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2000** **500 - Rediscovery Show**
Pavilion of the Biennale, São Paulo- SP, Brazil
- 1995** **The Heirs of the Night: fragments of the imaginary black**
Pinacoteca de São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1994** **Art and african Brazilian religiosity**
Editora Brasileira de Frankfurt, Brazil
- 1988** **Hand Afro - Brazilian: Meaning of Historical and Artistic Contribution**
Emilio Odebrecht Foundation , São Paulo - SP, Brazil

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo
São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Instituto Inhotim
Brumadinho - MG, Brazil

Museu Afro Brasil Emanuel Araújo
São Paulo - SP, Brazil

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

Cartier Foundation
Paris, France



EXHIBITIONS

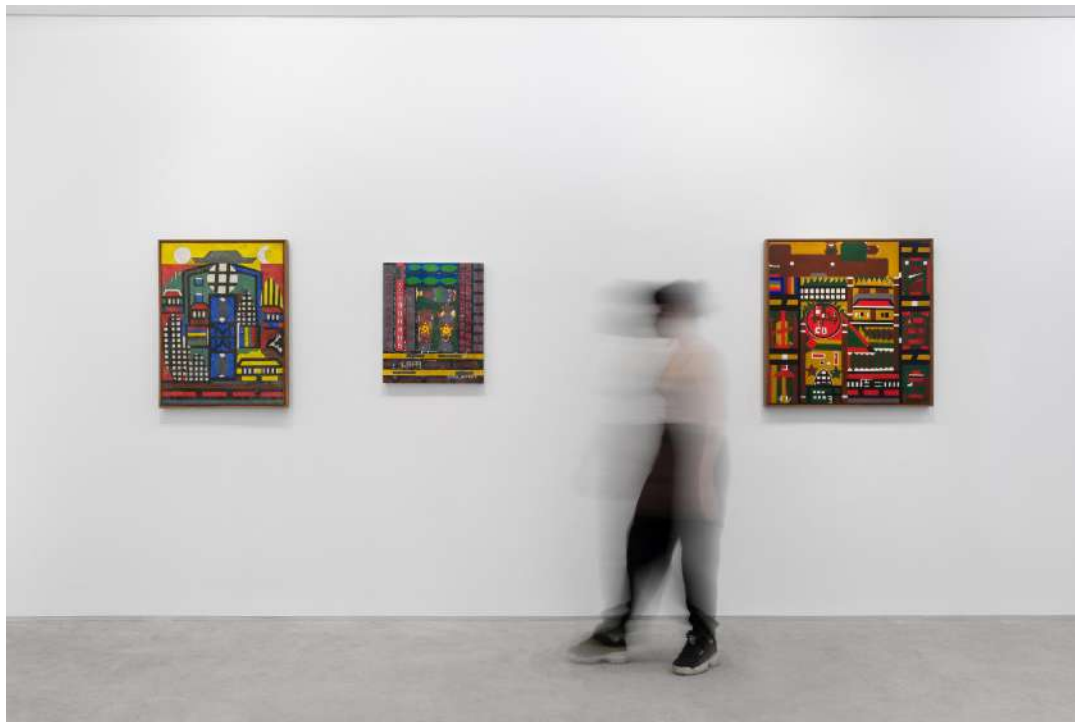


Photo: Galeria Simões de Assis

2022

Aurelino: On the urban margins

Galeria Simões de Assis, São Paulo - SP, Brazil



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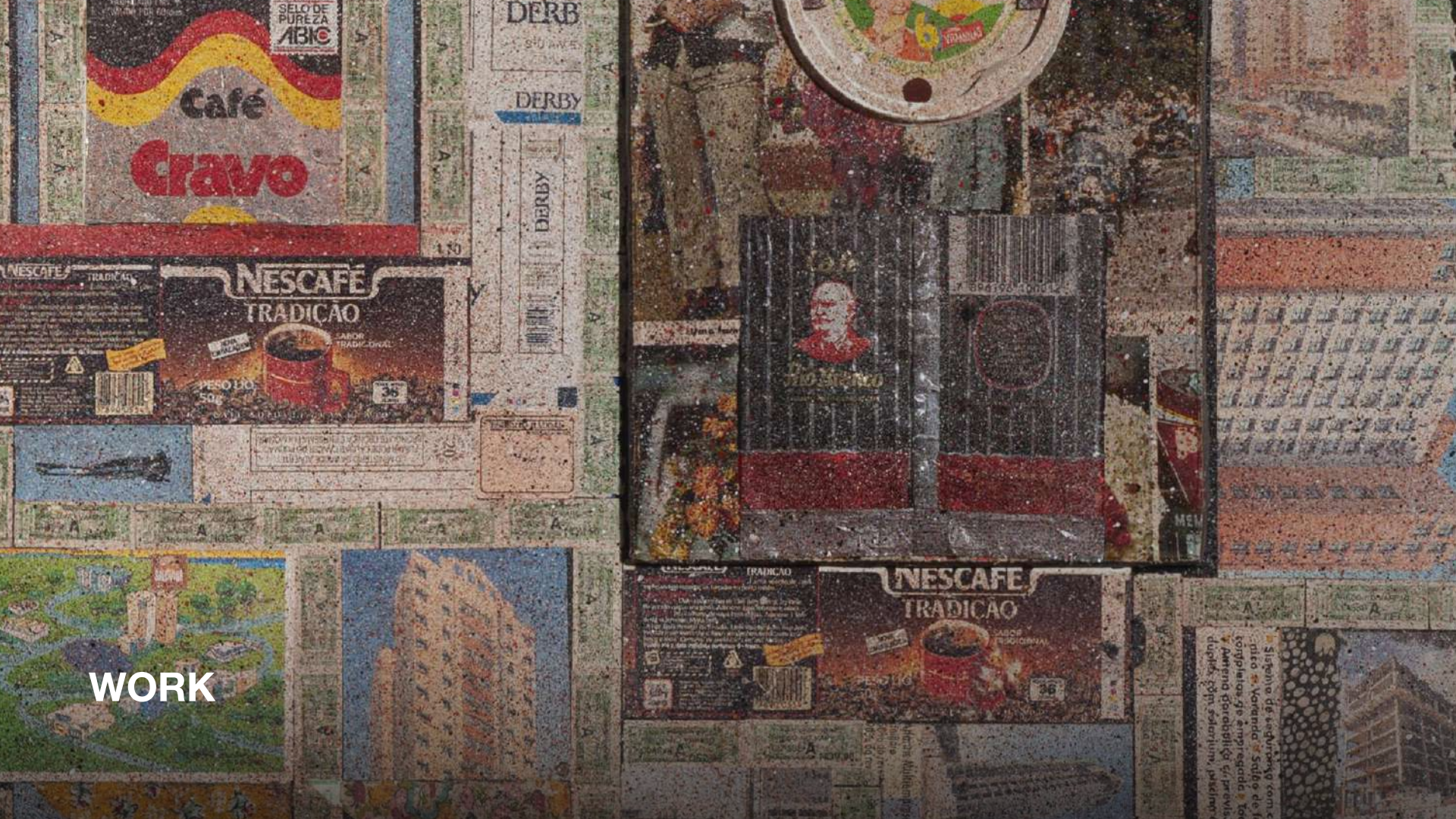
Photo: Galeria Luisa Strina

2021

The Lyric Machine

Galeria Luisa Strina, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

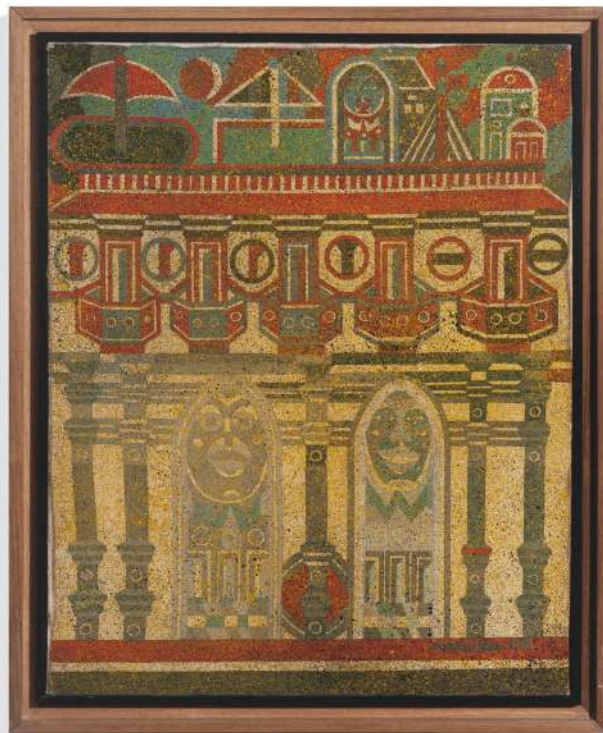
WORK





Aurelino dos Santos
1942, Salvador - BA, Brazil

Untitled, 1983
Oil on canvas
44 x 54 cm | 17.32 x 21.25 in
Photo: Filipe Berndt



Aurelino dos Santos
1942, Salvador - BA, Brazil

Untitled, 1978
Oil on canvas
46 x 38 cm | 18.11 x 15 in
Photo: João Liberato

Aurelino dos Santos
1942, Salvador - BA, Brazil

Untitled, 1996
Mixed technique on wood
55 x 55 cm | 21.65 x 21.65 in
Photo: João Liberato





Aurelino dos Santos
1942, Salvador - BA, Brazil

Untitled, 1979
Oil on canvas
50 x 40 cm | 19.68 x 15.74 in
Photo: João Liberato



Aurelino dos Santos
1942, Salvador - BA, Brazil

Untitled, 1979
Oil on canvas
42 x 49.5 cm | 16.54 x 19.49 in
Photo: João Liberato

Aurelino dos Santos
1942, Salvador - BA, Brazil

Untitled, 1996
Oil on cardboard
54 x 55 cm | 21.25 x 21.65 in
Photo: 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 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

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

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