

José Antônio da Silva

Biography

José Antonio da Silva

1909, Sales de Oliveira | SP - Brazil

1996, São Paulo | SP – Brazil

José Antônio da Silva was born in upstate São Paulo, son of the oxcart driver Isaac Antônio da Silva, and it was only when this great 20th century Brazilian painter was 37 years old when he first had room to create. Before this, he had a tough struggle to survive never-ending hard work. The mobility and instability of life as a worker on the land are mirrored in the endless travels of his father, and himself later, over the countryside. Taking meals to his father on a farm; haymaking with a hoe in hand; stripping coffee berries from the trees; digging earth with a spade; delivering sleepers and railroad tracks; cutting sugarcane and molasses extractor in a sugar mill; attending in a small store on the edge of the forest; bargaining for forest land to plant coffee and cotton; raising donations for a spiritist center in the city of São José do Rio Preto, São Paulo State, and already married with five children, Silva built a ranch on the banks of a creek, where he “would chop trees” for the landowner. On this ranch began to do pencil

drawings, and wallpapered all the walls in his home with them. After other heavy jobs, he finally settled in São José do Rio Preto as waiter and chamber boy. That was when his life took a turn for the better. In 1946 he sent Boizinhos, an oil painted on flannel, with two other works to São José Culture Center contest and won first prize.

Forty years living in São Paulo countryside left strong marks in Silva's painting. The landscape prevails, where man appears toiling on the land, or at leisure: playing viola, dancing at parties, participating in religious or pagan festivals. Retrato Livre de Mordaça (Private Coll, 1978) reveal through his free brushstrokes, vibrant, building with color, the spontaneous expressionism and transport with which Silva creates. He is, however, a remarkable draftsman, showing the same spontaneity and immediateness of painting in his drawings. In 1978 Carlos Augusto Calil produced the short film about the artist and his work Quem não conhece o Silva? (Who doesn't know Silva?). On his 80th birthday, he had already been paid homage by various local governments in São Paulo State, the Museum Of Contemporary Art of the University Of São Paulo (USP) held a retrospective of his work, which won the top prize in 1990 in the category awarded by the São Paulo Art Critics' Association. The tributes paid to him from both public and private sectors continued until his death in 1996 in the city of São Paulo.

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



Who doesn't know Silva | A documentary about the painter José Antônio da Silva

[Clique Here](#)

Individual Exhibitions Nacional (Brazil):

2021 José Antônio da Silva: Landscape and Culture, viewing room Galeria Estação, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2018 I was born Wrong and I'm Right - José Antônio da Silva, Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2017 Jose Antônio da Silva, Galeria Almeida e Dale, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2013 José Antônio da Silva in two times, Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Universidade de São Paulo (MAC-USO), São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2009 José Antônio da Silva - Tribute to the Centenary of Birth, Pinacoteca da Associação Paulista de Medicina, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2009 I was born Wrong and I'm Right - José Antônio da Silva, Galeria Estação, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2004 The way of the cross by José Antônio da Silva, Museu de Arte da Bahia, Bahia, Brazil

2003 José Antônio da Silva, Galeria Jacques Ardies, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2001 José Antônio da Silva, Ricardo Camargo Galeria, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1994 The passion and death of Our Lord according to Silva, Museu de Arte Sacra, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1994 José Antônio da Silva - Eighty-five years of life and art, Ibilce-Unesp, São José do Rio Preto, SP, Brazil

1988 José Antônio da Silva - Forty Years of Painting, Renot Art Dealer, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1970 Individual, MAM, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1966 José Antônio da Silva, Galeria São Luisa, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

Collective Exhibitions Nacional (Brazil):

2023 "Reverses and Transverses": Artists Outside the Mainstream (and Friends) at the Biennials, galeria Estação, Sao Paulo – SP | Brazil

2022 Cristina Canale and José Antônio da Silva - Two Poetics, Estação Gallery, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2022 Brazilian stories, MASP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2021 They Were Already Here, Galeria Base, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2020 Bailão de Dois: dialogue between two artists, Galeria Estação, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2019 Folk Art - Arte Naïf – no museum less, Escola de Artes Visuais do Parque Lage, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

2019 The Sacred in Modern Brazilian Art, Museu de Arte Sacra de São Paulo, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2019 The stupidity of men, Bergamin & Gomide Gallery, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2016 Collection in transformation, São Paulo Art Museum MASP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2016 Childhood stories, São Paulo Art Museum MASP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2018 the visionary Theon Spanudis and your group of artists, Galeria Berenice Arvani, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2017 Queer Museum: cartography of difference in Brazilian art, Farol Santander Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

2017 Modern Art Market in São Paulo: 1947 -1951, Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo MAM, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2015 MASP in process, São Paulo Art Museum MASP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2013 33ª Brazilian Art Parorama, Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo MAM, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2012 - 2013 Janete Costa “Um Olhar”, Janete Costa Museum, Niterói, RJ, Brazil

- 2009 Brazil Brasileiro, CCBB, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- 2008 Brasil Brasileiro, CCBB, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2007 Live Culture live the Brazilian People, Museu Afro Brasil, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2003 José Antônio da Silva, Jacques Ardies Gallery, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2002 Santa Ingenuidade, Unifio, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2002 POP Brasil: popular art and the popular in art, CCBB, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2002 Modernism: from the Week of 22 to the art section of Sérgio Milliet, CCSP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2002 Wild Mirror: modern art in Brazil in the first half of the 20th century, Nemirovsky Collection, MAM / SP, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1997 Feliz Aniversário, Museum of Primitivist Art, São José do Rio Preto, SP, Brazil
- 2001 Shape and Color as Light in the Naïfs, Itaú Cultural Gallery, Brasília, DF, Brazil
- 2000 Brazil + 500 Rediscovery Exhibition. Popular Art, Biennial Foundation, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2000 Naif Art, Jacques Ardies Gallery, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1999 Ingenuous Geniuses 70/80, Itaú Cultural Gallery, Brasília, DF, Brazil
- 1998 The Collector, MAM, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1998 The Art of Exhibiting Art, MAM, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1998 Brazilian Art in the MAM / SP Collection - Recent Donations, CCBB, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- 1997 Anthropophagic Appropriations, at Itaú Cultural, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1996 Figure and Landscape in the MAM Collection: tribute to Volpi, MAM, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1996 FIEO Expo: donation from Luiz Ernesto Kawall, Centro Universitário Fieo, Osasco, SP, Brazil
- 1995 Primavera, Rosa Gallery, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1995 Unibanco Collection: Unibanco's 70th anniversary commemorative exhibition, MAM / RJ, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

- 1994 Unibanco Collection: Unibanco's 70th anniversary commemorative exhibition, Poços de Caldas House of Culture, Poços de Calda, MG, Brazil
- 1992 The formation of the Modernist look: A selection, Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Universidade de São Paulo (MAC/USP), São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1992 Nature: four centuries of art in Brazil, CCBB, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- 1992 Retrospective, National Museum of Fine Arts (MNBA), Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- 1992 Retrospective, Paço das Artes, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1990 9th Brazil-Japan Contemporary Art Exhibition, Brazil-Japan Foundation, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1990 9th Brazil-Japan Contemporary Art Exhibition, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- 1990 Brasília Fine Arts Award, MAB / DF, Brasília, DF, Brazil
- 1990 9th Brazil-Japan Contemporary Art Exhibition, Brasília, DF, Brazil
- 1990 9th Brazil-Japan Contemporary Art Exhibition, Atami I Japan 1989 Individual, Mário de Andrade Library, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1990 Figurativism/Abstracionism: the Red in Brazilian painting, Itaú Cultural, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1989 As Mesas, Ranulpho Art Gallery, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1989 Retrospective - José Antônio da Silva: painter from Brazil, MAC / USP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1988 MAC 25 years: highlights from the initial collection, MAC / USP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1988 The Fascinating World of Naïfs, Paço Imperial, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- 1987 20th Contemporary Art Exhibition, Chapel Art Show, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1986 The landscape at the MAM Collection, MAM, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1986 Party of Colors, Rio Design Center, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- 1984 Tradition and Rupture - Synthesis of Brazilian Art and Culture, Bienal Foundation, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

- 1983 80 Years of Brazilian Art, MAC, Curitiba, PR, Brazil
- 1983 80 Years of Brazilian Art, Fundação Clóvis Salgado. Palace of Arts, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil
- 1982 From Modernism to the Biennial, MAM / SP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1982 80 Years of Brazilian Art, Bauru, SP, Brazil
- 1982 80 Years of Brazilian Art, MAM, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1982 Soccer Universe, MAM, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- 1981 Transcendent Art, MAM, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1980 Pinacoteca of the State of São Paulo at Sesc, Galeria Sesc/Carmo, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1980 Transcendent Art, MAM, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1980 Earth People, Paço das Artes, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1980 Images of Dance, Paço das Artes, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1978 Constructivists and figuratives from Theon Spanudis Collection, Porto Seguro Art Center, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1976 Santeiros e Imaginário, Paço das Artes, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1976 8th Panorama of Current Brazilian Art, MAM, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1974 Collective, at Casa Grande Art Gallery, São José do Rio Preto, SP, Brazil
- 1974 Party of Colors, MASP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1973 6th Official Contemporary Art Exhibition, Piracicaba, SP, Brazil
- 1973 5th Panorama of Current Brazilian Art, MAM, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1972 Brazilian Theme, Paço das Artes, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1972 Art / Brazil / Today: 50 years later, Collectio Gallery, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1970 Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo 1970, Pinacoteca do Estado, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1969 1st Panorama of the Current Brazilian Art, MAM, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

- 1963 Contemporary painting and sculpture, Carlos Gomes Museum, Campinas, SP, Brazil
- 1963 Contemporary painting and sculpture, Centro de Ciências, Letras e Artes, Campinas, SP, Brazil
- 1962 Selection of Brazilian Art Works from the Ernesto Wolf Collection, MAM, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1959 8th Paulista Salon of Modern Art, Prestes Maia Gallery, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1958 Leirner Contemporary Art Award, Folha Art Gallery, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1958 7th Paulista Salon of Modern Art, Prestes Maia Gallery, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1957 6th Paulista Salon of Modern Art, Prestes Maia Gallery, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1957 12 artists from São Paulo, Folha Art Gallery, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1956 Brazilian Landscape from 1900 to the present day, Palácio dos Estados, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1956 5th Paulista Salon of Modern Art, Prestes Maia Gallery, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1956 6th Bahia Salon of Fine Arts, Salvador, BA, Brazil
- 1955 4th Paulista Salon of Modern Art, Prestes Maia Gallery, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1955 5th Bahia Salon of Fine Arts, Salvador, BA, Brazil
- 1954 Exhibition of the National Congress of Intellectuals, Goiânia, GO, Brazil
- 1953 Extraordinary Congress of the International Association of Art Critics, MASP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1953 3rd Bahia Exhibition of Fine Arts, Salvador, BA, Brazil
- 1949 12th Salon of the Fine Artists Union of São Paulo, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1949 Pintura Paulista, Ministry of Education and Health, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- 1947 Collective, Commercial Club of São José do Rio Preto, São José do Rio Preto, SP, Brazil
- 1946 Opening exhibition, House of Culture of São José do Rio Preto, São José do Rio Preto, SP, Brazil

International Exhibitions:

2018 - 2019 Exposición Lina Bo Bardi Tupí or not tupí ?, Fundación Juan March, Madrid, Spain

2012 Histoires de Voir, Cartier Foundation, Paris, France

1990 9th Brazil-Japan Contemporary Art Exhibition, Tokyo, Japan

1990 9th Brazil-Japan Contemporary Art Exhibition, Sapporo, Japan

1980 20 Brazilian Painters, Chilean Academy of Fine Arts, Santiago, Chile

1980 Ochenta Años de Arte Brasileño, Banco Itaú, Buenos Aires, Argentina

1976 Popular Painters and Sculptors of Brazil, Washington DC, United States

1972 Collective of the Museum of Sacred Art of São Paulo, Municipal Museum of Hispanic American Art Issac Fernandez Blanco, Buenos Aires, Argentina

1957 Modern Art from Brazil, Lima, Peru

1957 Modern Art from Brazil, Santiago, Chile

1957 Modern Art from Brazil, Rosario, Argentina

1957 Modern Art from Brazil, Buenos Aires, Argentina

1955 Carnegie Institute International Exhibition, Pittsburgh, United States

1955 International Painting Exhibition, Ateneo de Valencia, Caracas, Venezuela

1952 Drawing and Engraving from Brazil, Santiago, Chile

Biennials:

2002 6th Naifs of Brazil Biennial, Sesc Piracicaba, Piracicaba, SP, Brazil

1989 20th International Biennial of São Paulo, Fundação Bienal, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1987 19th São Paulo International Biennial, Fundação Bienal, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1984 Mexico Biennial, Mexico City, Mexico

1984 Biennial of Japan, Tokyo, Japan

1967 9th São Paulo International Biennial, Fundação Bienal, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1966 1st National Biennial of Fine Arts, Salvador, BA, Brazil

1966 33rd Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

1965 8th International Biennial of São Paulo, Fundação Bienal, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1963 7th São Paulo International Biennial, Fundação Bienal, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1961 6th International Biennial of São Paulo, Ciccilo Matarazzo Sobrinho Pavilion, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1955 3rd São Paulo International Biennial, Pavilhão das Nações, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1954 2nd Hispanic-American Biennial, Havana, Cuba

1953 2nd São Paulo International Biennial, at the Pavilhão dos Estados, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1952 26th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

1951 1st São Paulo International Biennial, Trianon Pavilion, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

Public Collections:

Museum of Contemporary Art (MAC), São Paulo, SP

Museum of Art of São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand (MASP), São Paulo, SP

São Paulo Museum of Modern Art (MAM), São Paulo, SP

Pinacoteca of the State of São Paulo, São Paulo, SP

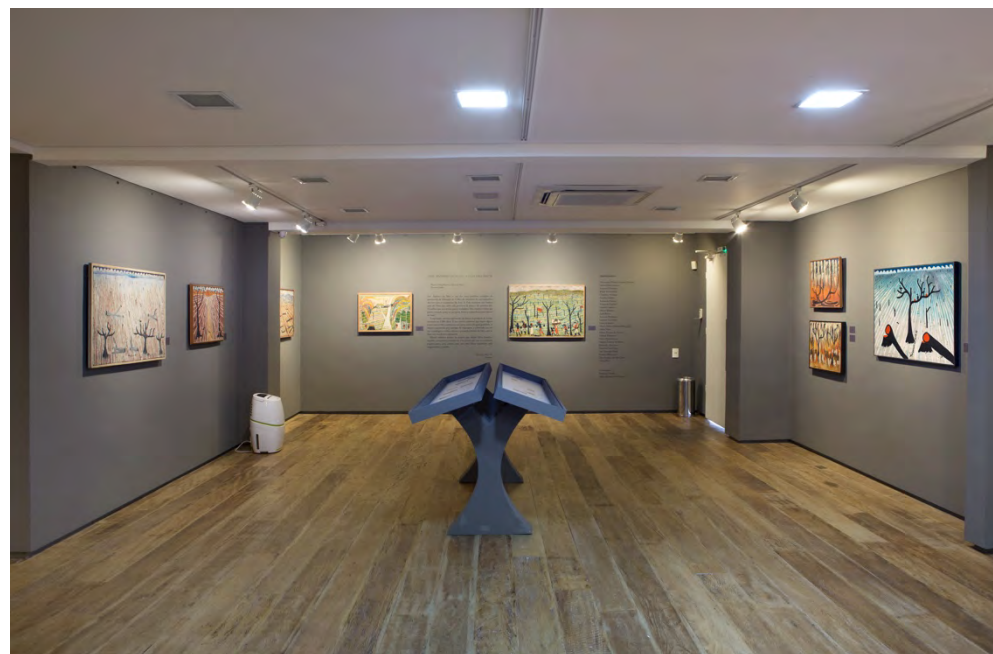
Selected Publications:

- 2021 Silva: um gênio na coleção Orandi Momesso, publisher Via Impressa, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2018 O círculo de Theon Spanudis, publisher Cultura Arte e Comunicação, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2017 Jose Antônio da Silva, Galeria Almeida e Dale, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2018 Brazilian popular art: contemporary views, Editora WMF Martins Fontes, São Paulo, SP
- 2012 Histoires de Voir, Cartier Foundation, Paris, France
- 2010 Pavilion of Brazilian Cultures: Puras Misturas, São Paulo, SP
- 2009 I was born Wrong and I'm Right, Catalog, Galeria Estação, São Paulo, SP
- 2007 Cheers to the Living Culture of the Brazilian People, AfroBrasil Museum, São Paulo, SP
- 2005 Small Dictionary of the Art of the Brazilian People - 20th century, Lélia Coelho Frota, São Paulo, SP
- 2000 Rediscovery Exhibition - Brazil 500 years I Arte Popular, Takano Editora, São Paulo, SP
- 1998 Silva - Painting, not the novel, Olivio Tavares, Metrón, São Paulo, SP
- 1998 Naive Art in Brazil, Jacques Ardies, Empresa das Artes, São Paulo, SP
- 1992 Modern Brazilian art: MAC / USP collection, Poços de Caldas House of Culture, Poços de Caldas, MG
- 1982 80 years of Brazilian art, Museum of Art of Bahia (MAB), Bahia, BA
- 1978 Mythopoetics of 9 Brazilian artists: life, truth and work, Lélia Coelho Frota, Rio de Janeiro, RJ
- 1975 Party of colors, MASP, São Paulo, SP

Exhibitions



2017 Jose Antônio da Silva, Galeria Almeida e Dale, São Paulo, SP, Brazil







2009 I was born Wrong and I'm Right - José Antônio da Silva, Galeria Estação, São Paulo, SP, Brazil



Artworks



Triumphal entry into Jerusalem, 1972
Oil on canvas
44 x 62 cm | 17.32 x 24.40 in



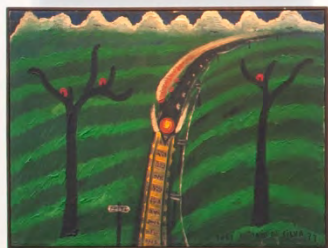
O tintureiro, 1972
Oil on canvas
41 x 62 cm | 16.14 x 24.40 in



Train, 1977
Oil on canvas
50 x 70 cm | 19.68 x 27.55 in



Untitled, 1979
Oil on canvas
53 x 97,5 cm | 20.86 x 38.18 in





Untitled, 1979
Oil on canvas
50 x 70 cm | 19.68 x 27.55 in



Untitled, 1975
Oil on canvas
50 x 80 cm | 19.68 x 31.49 in



With a collection among the most important of the country, Galeria Estação, inaugurated at the end of 2004, devoted itself to revealing and promoting the production of Brazilian non-scholar art. The gallery was responsible for including this language in the contemporary art scene, while editing publications and holding individual and collective exhibitions inside and outside the country.

Galeria Estação works with well-known self-taught artists from various regions of Brazil, such as Agostinho Batista de Freitas, Alcides dos Santos, Amadeo Luciano Lorenzato, Artur Pereira, Aurelino dos Santos, Chico Tabibuia, Cícero Alves dos Santos-Véio, GTO, Gilvan Samico, Itamar Julião, João Cosmo Felix-Nino, José Antônio da Silva, José Bezerra, Manuel Graciano, Maria Auxiliadora, Mirian Inês da Silva, Neves Torres, among others.

Currently the gallery has been incorporating to its cast artists belonging to the contemporary artistic circuit whose works interact with non-scholar creation, such as André Ricardo, José Bernnô, Julio Villani, Germana Monte-Mór, Moisés Patrício e Santídio Pereira.

Starting from this rare competence, the space is able to offer a historical and current panorama of a production that went beyond the limits of self-thought art, at the same time as it investigates names that, independently of the formation, work with elements from the same source.

Galeria Estação

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From Monday to Friday, from 11am to 7pm, Saturday from 11am to 3pm

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