

## **MARIA AUXILIADORA**

ARTIST'S PORTFOLIO





### **BIOGRAPHY**

Maria Auxiliadora da Silva was an Afro-Brazilian artist born into a rural context, the daughter of workers and granddaughter of a woman who had been enslaved. This background deeply shaped her worldview and artistic production.

At an early age, she moved with her family to São Paulo, and in a family environment marked by creativity, she developed her talent alongside her 18 siblings, many of whom also pursued artistic paths.

Auxiliadora's work stands out for its resistance to simplistic categorizations.

Despite her connection to the group of Afro-Brazilian artists led by Solano Trindade in Embu das Artes, her production transcended what is commonly labeled as "folk art" or "primitive art."

Although she participated in Trindade's group, she eventually distanced herself due to what she saw as the excessive commercialization of local art. This distancing reflects the uniqueness of her vision, which rejected the subordination of her art to market demands.

Auxiliadora's art is deeply linked to the collective experience and memory of her community. Her distinctive technique, which combined oil paint, household repair putty (Wanda), and even strands of hair, gave her works a unique texture and relief.

Her use of pure, vibrant colors, often without tonal exploration or depth, became a hallmark of her style, something that impressed critics like Mário Schenberg, one of the key figures who helped project her career internationally.

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1935, Campo Belo - MG, Brazil | 1974, São Paulo - SP, Brazil



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The scenes portrayed in her paintings often explore the everyday life of Afro-Brazilians in its fullness: sambas, dance halls, parties, and moments of leisure, where workers, often anonymous, are shown in moments of joy and vitality.

However, these representations are not attempts to idealize or romanticize poverty. Auxiliadora's characters are always well-dressed, with carefully detailed clothing, expressing a form of resistance to the oppression faced by the Black community in Brazil.

Additionally, Maria Auxiliadora portrayed Afro-Brazilian religious rituals, especially those linked to Candomblé, a religious practice present in her family, though she distanced herself from it over time.

Her works carry a strong syncretic charge, blending African and Christian religious elements, and in many cases, her characters are depicted in closed spaces, reflecting the marginalization of these practices during the military dictatorship.

In short, the work of Maria Auxiliadora da Silva is a vibrant testament to the resilience and cultural transformation of her community. It offers us a worldview that defies imposed labels and invites us to imagine a life of fullness, where leisure, joy, and dignity take center stage in her representations.

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2022 Maria Auxiliadora

Galeria Mendes Wood, New York - NY, USA

2021 Maria Auxiliadora: on the terrace of the world

Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

2018 Maria Auxiliadora: daily life, painting and resistance

MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

1979 Maria Auxiliadora

Museu do Sol, Penápolis - SP, Brazil





2025/2026

Nossos Brasis: entre o sonho e a realidade

Centro Cultural Caixa, Brasíla - DF, Brazil

2025

Pop Brazil: avant-garde and new figuration 1960-70

Pinacoteca de São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

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 e 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



"Dos Brasis: Arte e Pensamento Negro"

Sesc Quitandinha, Petrópolis - RJ, Brazil

"Encruzilhadas da Arte Afro-Brasileira"

CCBB - Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil

"Lélia em nós: festas populares e amefricanidad"

Sesc Vila Mariana, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

"Women by women"

Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

2023 - 2024 "Encruzilhadas da Arte Afro-Brasileira"

CCBB - Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

2023 "Reverses and Transverses": Artists Outside the Mainstream (and Friends) at the Biennials

Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

2022 Carolina Maria de Jesus: Brazil for Brazilians

IMS - Instituto Moreira Salles, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

They Were Already Here

Galeria Base, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

2020 Women in folk art

Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

"Black Histories, Black Futures"

MFA - Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA



2018 - 2019	Lina Bo Bardi Tupí or not Tupí, Brazil 1946-1992 Fundação Juan March, Madrid, Spain
2018	Afro-Atlantic Histories  MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
2017 - 2018	Histories of Sexuality MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
2016	Histories of Childhood MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
2015	Picture Gallery in Transformation  MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
2014	"Samba Spirit Modern Afro Brazilian Art" MFA - Museum of Fine Arts), Boston, USA
2009	Brazil Brazilian CCBB - Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil São Paulo - SP, Brazil
2005	It is our pleasure Galeria Brasiliana, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
2002	Pop Brazil: Brazilian outsider Art CCBB - Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, São Paulo - SP, Brazil



2002 6° Bienal de Naifs do Brasil

Sesc Piracicaba, Piracicaba, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

2001 Folk Art

Galeria Jacques Ardies, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

2000 Brazil 500 Rediscovrey Show and more

Fundação Bienal de São Paulo - SP, Brazil

1999 The mystic in brazilian art

Sesc Itaquera - SP, Brazil

1994 Great exhibition of Brazilian Folk Art

São Paulo - SP, Brazil

1980 Images of Dance

Paço das Artes, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

People of the Earth

Paço das Artes, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

1975 Festival of colors

MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

1973 6° Contemporary Art Salon of Santo André

Paço Municipal, Santo André - SP, Brazil



1972 5° Contemporary Art Salon of de Santo André

Paço Municipal, Santo André - SP, Brazil

1971 17 Naïve Painters of São Paulo

São Paulo - SP, Brazil

4° Contemporary Art Salon of Santo André Paco Municipal, Santo André - SP, Brazil

1970 6° Contemporary Art Salon of Campinas

Museu de Arte Contemporânea José Pancetti, Campinas - SP, Brazil

3º Contemporary Art Salon of Santo André Paço Municipal, Santo André - SP, Brazil

1969 26° Salon Paranaense

Federação das Indústrias do Estado do Paraná, Curitiba - PR. Brazil

2° Contemporary Art Salon of Santo André Paco Municipal, Santo André - SP, Brazil

1968 2º Bienal Nacional de Artes Plásticas

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

1° Contemporary Art Salon of Santo André Paço Municipal, Santo André - SP, Brazil









2025 Weaving the Morning: Modern Life and Nocturnal Experience in Brazilian Art

Pinacoteca de São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

2020 Women in Folk Art: Vilma Eid and Fernanda Pitta

Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

**2018 - 2019** Lina Bo Bardi Tupí or not Tupí, Brazil 1946-1992

Fundação Juan March, Madrid, Spain

2018 Maria Auxiliadora: dialy life, painting and resistance

MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Histórias da sexualidade,

MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS



2018	Afro-Atlantic Histories Volume I MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
2016	Histories of Childhood MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
2015	Concreto e cristal: o acervo do MASP nos cavaletes de Lina Bo Bardi / organized by Adriano Pedrosa, Luiza Proença  1ª edição - Rio de Janeiro: Cobogó, MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
2000	Brazil 500 Rediscovery Exhibition Fundação Bienal de São Paulo - SP, Brazil
1988	A Mão Afro-Brasileira, Significado da contribuição Artística e Histórica Emanoel Araújo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
1978	Mitopoética de 9 artistas brasileiros-vida, verdade e obra Lélia Coelho Frota, Edição Funarte, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
1977	Maria Auxiliadora da Silva Pietro Maria Bardi, editora Giulio Bolaffi

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS



#### Museu Afro Brasil Emanoel Araujo

São Paulo - SP, Brazil

#### MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand

São Paulo - SP, Brazil

#### MFA - Museum of Fine Arts

Boston, USA

#### Musée d'Art Naïf et des Arts Singuliers

Laval, France

#### Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia

Madrid, Spain

# PUBLIC COLLECTIONS



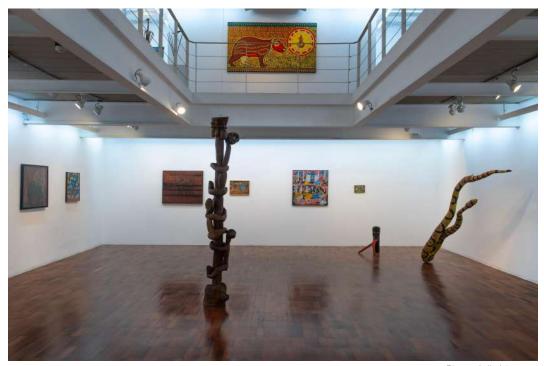


Photo: João Liberato

"Reverses and Transverses": Artists Outside the Mainstream (and Friends) at the Biennials



Photo: João Liberato

## Maria Auxiliadora: on the terrace of the world



Photo: João Liberato

## Maria Auxiliadora: on the terrace of the world



Photo: João Liberato

2021

## Maria Auxiliadora: on the terrace of the world



Photo: MASP

## Maria Auxiliadora: daily life, painting and resistance

MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil



Photo: MASP

#### 2018

## Maria Auxiliadora: daily life, painting and resistance

MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

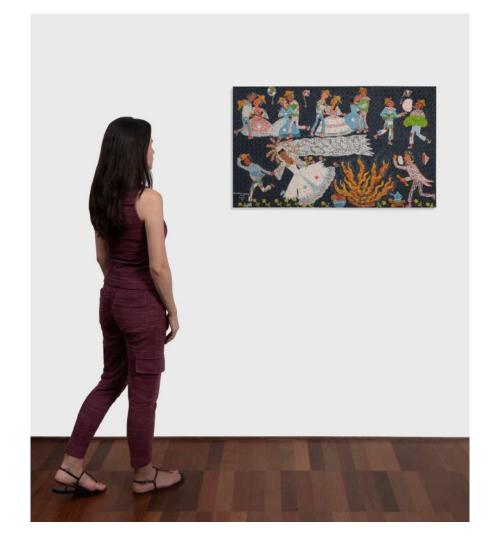






1935, Campo Belo - MG | 1974, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Untitled, 1974
Oil on canvas
60 x 100 cm | 23.62 x 39.37 in
Photo: ©João Liberato







1935, Campo Belo - MG | 1974, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Velório da Noiva, 1974 Gouache 50 x 100 cm Photo: ©João Liberato

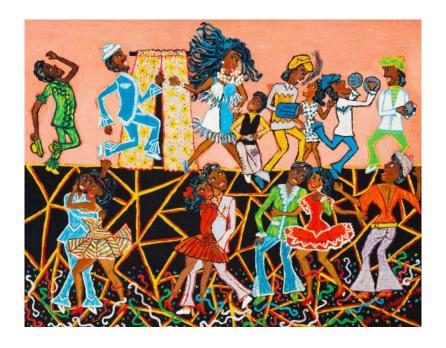




1935, Campo Belo - MG | 1974, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Untitled, 1974
Gouache on cardboard pasted on plywood 50,5 x 67 cm | 19.68 x 26.37 in
Photo: ©João Liberato

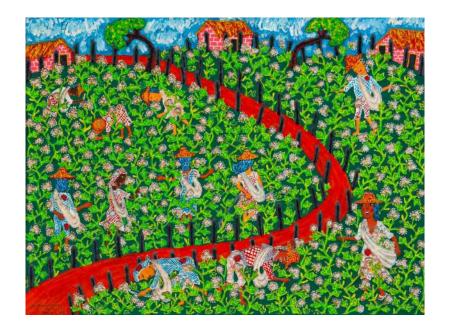




1935, Campo Belo - MG | 1974, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Untitled, 1968
Mixed media on canvas
50 x 65 cm | 19.68 x 25.59 in
Photo: ©João Liberato





1935, Campo Belo - MG | 1974, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Untitled, 1973
Mixed media on canvas
53 x 73 cm | 20.86 x 28.74 in
Photo: ©João Liberato





1935, Campo Belo - MG | 1974, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Untitled, 1973
Gouache on cardboard pasted on plywood
25 x 33 cm | 9.84 x 12.99 in
Photo: ©João Liberato





1935, Campo Belo - MG | 1974, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Untitled, 1970
Mixed media on canvas
50 x 70 cm | 19.68 x 27. 55 in
Photo: ©João Liberato

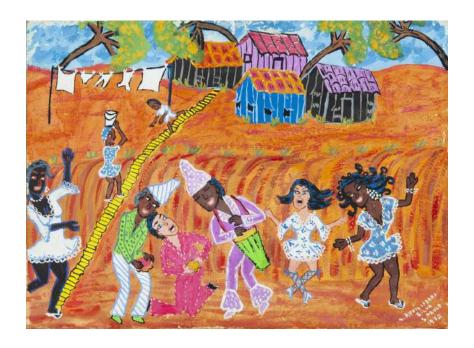




1935, Campo Belo - MG | 1974, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Nativity, 1972 Mixed media on canvas 16 x 24 cm | 6.29 x 9.44 in Photo: ©João Liberato





1935, Campo Belo - MG | 1974, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Untitled, 1972
Mixed media on cardboard on canvas
18 x 24 cm | 7.08 x 9.44 in
Photo: ©João Liberato





1935, Campo Belo - MG | 1974, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Untitled, 1973 Mixed media on wood 29,5 x 21 cm | 11.41 x 8.26 in

Photo: ©João Liberato





1935, Campo Belo - MG | 1974, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Untitled, 1970
Mixed media on paper on plywood
19 x 27 cm | 7.48 x 10.62 in
Photo: ©João Liberato

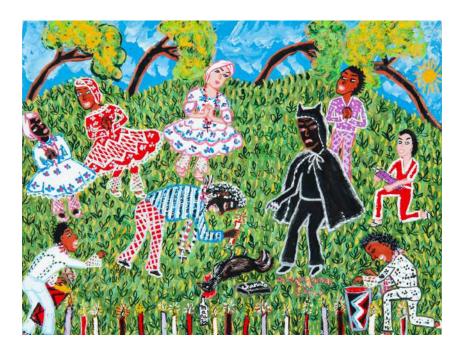




1935, Campo Belo - MG | 1974, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Untitled, 1973 Mixed media on paper 21 x 32 cm | 8.26 x 12.59 in Photo: @João Liberato





1935, Campo Belo - MG | 1974, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Untitled, 1972 Mixed media on paper 18 x 24 cm | 7.08 x 9.44 in Photo: ©João Liberato





1935, Campo Belo - MG | 1974, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Untitled, 1970
Mixed media on cardboard on plywood
16 x 23 cm | 6.29 x 9.05 in
Photo: ©João Liberato





1935, Campo Belo - MG | 1974, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Untitled, 1972 Mixed media on canvas 91 x 91 cm | 35.82 x 35.82 in Photo: ©João Liberato





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.



