



MARIA AUXILIADORA

ARTIST'S PORFTOLIO

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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M. AUXILIADORA SILVA
S. PAULO
74

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 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

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

2025

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

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

2024

"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

2021

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

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 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 Brasileira, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2002** Pop Brazil: Brazilian outsider Art
CCBB - Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 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

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 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
Paço Municipal, Santo André - SP, Brazil
- 1970** 6° Contemporary Art Salon of Campinas
Museu de Arte Contemporânea José Pancetti, Campinas - SP, Brazil
- 3° 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
Paço Municipal, Santo André - SP, Brazil
- 1968** 2° 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



Drops | Maria Auxiliadora

[↗ \(Click to watch\)](#)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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

María 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

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Museu Afro Brasil Emanuel 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



EXHIBITIONS



Photo: João Liberato

2023

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

Galeria Estação, São Paulo – SP, Brazil

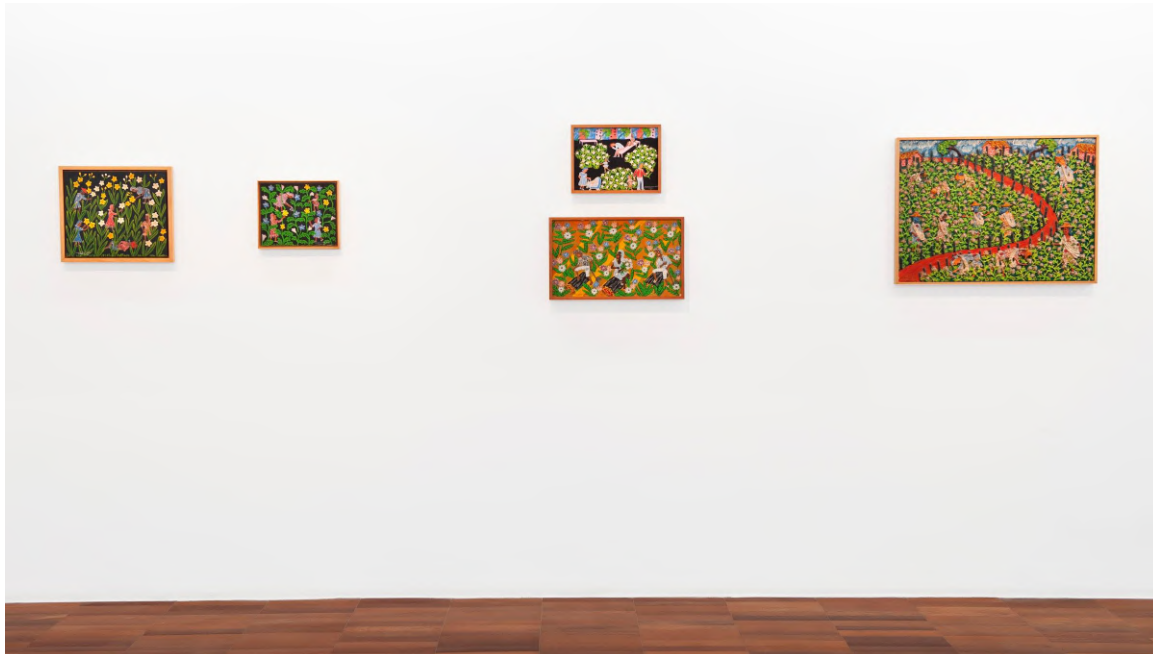


Photo: João Liberato

2021

Maria Auxiliadora: on the terrace of the world

Galeria Estação, São Paulo – SP, Brazil



Photo: João Liberato

2021

Maria Auxiliadora: on the terrace of the world

Galeria Estação, São Paulo – SP, Brazil



Photo: João Liberato

2021

Maria Auxiliadora: on the terrace of the world

Galeria Estação, 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



Photo: MASP

2018

Maria Auxiliadora: daily life, painting and resistance

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



WORK



Maria Auxiliadora Silva

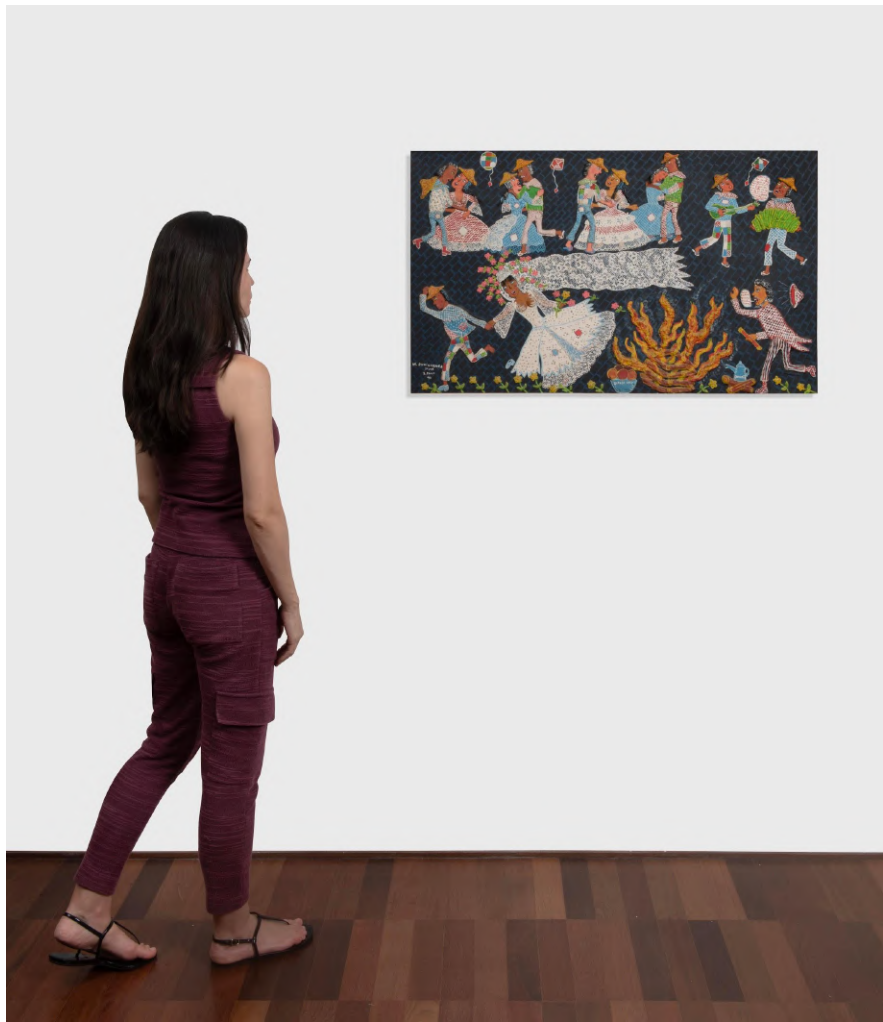
1935, Campo Belo - MG | 1974, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Untitled, 1974

Oil on canvas

60 x 100 cm | 23.62 x 39.37 in

Photo: ©João Liberato





Maria Auxiliadora Silva

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

Velório da Noiva, 1974

Gouache

50 x 100 cm

Photo: ©João Liberato



Maria Auxiliadora Silva

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



Maria Auxiliadora Silva

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



Maria Auxiliadora Silva

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



Maria Auxiliadora Silva

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



Maria Auxiliadora Silva

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



Maria Auxiliadora Silva

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



Maria Auxiliadora Silva

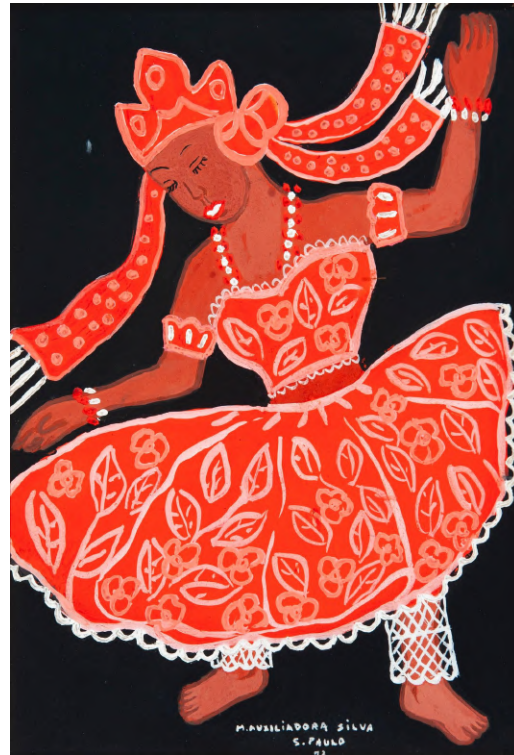
1935, Campo Belo - MG | 1974, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Untitled, 1972

Mixed media on cardboard on canvas

18 x 24 cm | 7.08 x 9.44 in

Photo: ©João Liberato



Maria Auxiliadora Silva

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



Maria Auxiliadora Silva

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



Maria Auxiliadora Silva

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



Maria Auxiliadora Silva

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



Maria Auxiliadora Silva

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



Maria Auxiliadora Silva

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



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, Heitor dos Prazeres, Itamar Julião, Izabel Mendes da Cunha, José Antonio da Silva, Madalena dos Santos Reinbolt, Maria Auxiliadora, Mirian Inês da Silva, Sebastião Theodoro Paulino da Silva – Ranchinho, Zica Bergami.

The growing roster of contemporary artists include: André Ricardo, Deni Lantz, Eduardo Ver, Germana Monte-Mór, José Bezerra, Julio Vilani, Santídio Pereira, Cicero Alves dos Santos - Véio.



GALERIA ESTAÇÃO

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