



Antônio Poteiro

## Biografia

Antônio Batista de Souza arrived in Brazil as an infant. He lived in São Paulo, Minas Gerais and among the Carajás Indians on Bananal Island. In 1955, he settled permanently in Goiânia (GO). He worked as a cistern digger, baker, cook and cleaner before starting a pottery business in Araguari with his father, the ceramist Américo de Souza who made pots and other household items. This was why the nickname Poteiro was added to his name. From the development of the skill to make pots came a desire to produce more sculptural forms from clay. Poteiro carved saints, large urns with embossing, animals associated with the sacred, dreams that generate humanity. Rarely has the marriage of an earth art with themes of the creation of the world found an interpreter as extraordinary as Poteiro. "There is a Baroque theatricality in his work", writes critic Aline Figueiredo.

In fact, a large part of his work follows a religious theme. In 1973, inspired by Siron Franco, Poteiro started painting directly on canvas. He had no previous drawing experience but in a dramatic way began using primary colors with masterful balance. In addition to his religious focus, there is a sense of political criticism in many his works. In one of his "Last Suppers" drawings, for example, the table decoration is made with dollar and pound notes. "In painting", he declares in a 1977 interview with Frederico de Moraes, "I use the same themes as ceramics: God-only, God-scale, a handful of saints, regional themes, horseback riding, cirandas all with a little bit of fantasy out of my head". His work, although numerous, demonstrates a high level of achievement which places him among the most important artists in the country. Poteiro gained international prominence. He participated twice in the São Paulo International Biennial (1981 and 1991), exhibited in more than twenty countries and received numerous awards in art salons with wide recognition from the critics.

Source: Pequeno Dicionário do Povo Brasileiro, século XX I Lélia Coelho Frota – Aeroplano, 2005

**Individual Exhibitions:**

2020 Poteiro - A tribute, Galeria Estação, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2012 Tribute to Antônio Poteiro, MAG - Art Museum of Goiânia, Goiânia, GO, Brazil

2000 500 Years of Brazil by Antonio, the Brazilian Poteiro, Teatro Nacional Cláudio Santoro, Brasília, DF, Brazil

1997 Antônio Poteiro, Galeria Nara Roesler, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1996 Antônio Poteiro, Manoel Macedo Art Office, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil

1996 33 Years Retrospective: Ceramics and Painting, Jaime Câmara Foundation, Casa Grande Gallery, Goiânia, GO, Brazil

1994 Antônio Poteiro, São Paulo Art Gallery, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1991 Antônio Poteiro, French Embassy: Galeria Le Corbusier, Brasília, DF, Brazil

1987 Antônio Poteiro, Embassy of Portugal: Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Brasília, DF, Brazil

1987 Antônio Poteiro, Casino Art Gallery, Estoril, Portugal

1987 Antônio Poteiro, Versailles Art Gallery, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

1986 Antônio Poteiro, Brazilian-American Cultural Institute, Washington, United States

1985 Antônio Poteiro, Bonino Gallery, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

1985 Antônio Poteiro, Guayasamin Foundation, Guayaquil, Ecuador

1985 Antônio Poteiro, Guayasamin Foundation, Quito, Ecuador

1985 Antônio Poteiro, Guayasamin Foundation, Cuenca, Ecuador

1984 Antônio Poteiro, São Paulo Art Gallery, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1983 Antônio Poteiro, Bonino Gallery, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

1982 Antônio Poteiro, Oscar Seraphico Art Gallery, Brasília, DF, Brazil

1981 Antônio Poteiro, Bonino Gallery, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

**Collective Exhibitions:**

2016 A Certain Look - Celma Albuquerque Collection, Galeria Estação, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2003 Humanities, Tina Zappoli Gallery, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil

2003 Treasures of the Caixa: Brazilian modern art in the collection of Caixa, Conjunto Cultural da Caixa, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

2002 Pop Brasil: popular and the popular in art, CCBB, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2001 Shape-and-Color as Light in the Naïfs, Itaú Cultural Gallery Brasília, DF, Brazil

2001 Shape-and-Color as Light in Naïfs, Itaú Cultural Gallery, Penápolis, SP, Brazil

2000 Brasilidades, Light Centro Cultural, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

2000 Brazil + 500 Rediscovery Exhibition, Biennial Foundation, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2000 Brazilian Ceramics: building a language, British Brazilian Center, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1998 Exhibition of the Caixa Collection, Conjunto Cultural da Caixa, Curitiba, PR, Brazil

1998 16th National Exhibition of Fine Arts, MAM / RJ, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

1998 Exhibition of the Caixa Collection, at the Caixa Cultural Complex, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

1997 Exhibition of the Caixa Collection, Caixa Cultural Complex, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil

1997 Parallel Exhibition, Caixa Economica Federal Museum, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil

1997 Exhibition of the Caixa Collection, Caixa Cultural Complex, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1996 Brasilianische Kunst der Gegenwart, Bayer AG - Foyer Hochhaus W1, Leverkusen, Germany

1996 Brasilianische Kunst der Gegenwart, Bayer AG - Feierabendhaus, Dormagen, Germany

1996 Contemporary Brazilian Art, MAM / SP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1995 Brasília Collections, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Itamaraty Palace, Brasília, DF, Brazil

1995 Sons of Abaporu, Art of Brazil, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1994 Naïf Painting, Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Lisbon, Portugal

1992 A. Poteiro, Lorenzato, Rodelnégio, Manoel Macedo Art Gallery, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil

1992 Long live the Brazilian People, MAM / RJ, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

1992 The Ginza Art Space, Tóquio, Japan



- 1991 21st São Paulo International Biennial, Biennial Foundation, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1990 Painting, Presence and People in Brazilian Art, Museu da Casa Brasileira, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1989 3rd Havana Biennial, Havana, Cuba
- 1988 The Fascinating World of Naive Painters, Paço Imperial, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- 1988 Primitive Brazilian Painting Exhibition, The Ginza Art Space, Tokyo, Japan
- 1987 Brésil, Art Populaire Contemporain, Grand Palais, France, Paris
- 1987 Brésil-Naïfs, Galeria Bâb Rouah, Rabat, Morocco
- 1985 16th Panorama of Current Brazilian Art, MAM / SP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1984 7th National Exhibition of Plastic Arts, MAM / RJ, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- 1983 80 Years of Brazilian Art, Clóvis Salgado Foundation, Palácio das Artes, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil
- 1983 80 Years of Brazilian Art, MACC, Campinas, SP, Brazil
- 1983 80 Years of Brazilian Art, MAC / PR, Curitiba, PR, Brazil
- 1983 14th Panorama of Current Brazilian Art, MAM / SP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1982 80 Years of Brazilian Art, MAB / FAAP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1981 16th International Biennial of São Paulo, Fundação Bienal, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1980 4th Biennale Internazionale Naïf, Lombardia, Italy
- 1980 4th Biennale Internazionale Naïf, Fiera, Italy
- 1980 4th Biennale Internazionale Naïf, Ente, Italy
- 1980 Naïf Painting Salon, Cassino Estoril Art Gallery, Estoril, Portugal
- 1980 Collective, promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Philippines
- 1980 Collective, promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Romania
- 1980 Collective, promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Hannover, Germany
- 1980 Collective, promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, Düsseldorf, Germany
- 1978 Four Artists from Goiás, Institute of Higher Studies, Mexico City, Mexico
- 1978 Four Artists from Goiás, Casa de Cultura de Monterrey, Mexico City, Mexico
- 1978 Four Artists from Goiás, Instituto Ateneu Fuentes de Saltillo, Mexico City, Mexico

- 1978 Ceramics and Painting, SESC Activity Center, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- 1978 Brazilian Naïf Painters, Naïve Art Gallery, San Francisco, United States
- 1978 1st Latin American Biennial of São Paulo, Biennial Foundation, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1976 Brazilian Popular Art / Jacques de Benqué Collection, MAM / RJ, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- 1976 13th National Biennial, Biennial Foundation, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1976 Ceramics of the Sesi Salon, Sesi, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1974 1st Biennale Internazionale Naïf, Como, Italy
- 1972 Ceramics collective, Salomé Gallery, New Orleans, United States
- 1968 Ceramics, Museum of Popular Art, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- 1967 Ceramics, Museum of Salvador, Salvador, BA, Brazil

**Public Collections:**

- MAM Rio, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- MAM SP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- Museu da Casa Brasileira, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- Municipal Museum of Obidos, Obidos, Portugal

**Selected Publications:**

2020 Poteiro - A tribute, Vilma Eid e Ana Avelar, Lis Gráfica, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2016 A Certain Look exhibition catalog - Celma Albuquerque Collection, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2005 Small Dictionary of the Art of the Brazilian People - 20th century, Lélia Coelho Frota, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2002 The World of Brazilian Popular Art, Angela Mascelani, Casa do Pontal Museum, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

2000 Brazil + 500 Rediscovery Exhibition: Popular Art, Catalog, Biennial Foundation, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1996 Fine Arts Brazil 96 - Júlio Louzada

1992 Fine Arts Brasil 92, Júlio Louzada

1990 L'Arbre ET Les NAFS, Jacques Brosse, Ed. Max Fourny, France

1987 Brazil Popular Art Today, MINC, Brazil / France Project, Paris, France

1987 La Cité et les Naifs, Gilles Mermet, Msée D "Art NAIF de L" Ile de France, Paris, France

1986 From the Collection - The Paths of Brazilian Art, Frederico de Moraes, Ed. Júlio Bogoricin Imóveis, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

1985 Artists of Brazilian Ceramics, Jacob Klintowitz, Ed. Raízes, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1985 The Midwest, Alain Draeger, with text by Bernardo Elis and Aline Figueredo, Banco Francês e Brasileiro S.A., Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

1984 Study on Antônio Poteiro, Ilka Canabrava, Fundação Getúlio Vargas - FGV, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

1983 General History of Art in Brazil, Walter Zanini, Ed. Walter Moreira Sales Institute, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1982 Ceramic Art in Brazil, Mary Di Yori, I Ibero-American Congress on Ceramics, Glass and Refractories, Malaga, Spain

1980 Ceramic Art in Brazil, Pietro Maria Bardi, Ed. Banco Sudameris Brasil S.A., São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1979 Fine Arts in the Midwest, Aline Figueredo, Ed. Museum of Art and Popular Culture, UFMT, Cuiabá, MT, Brazil

1978 Aspects of Brazilian Primitive Painting, Flávio de Àquino, Scala Editora, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1972 Regional division for the state and defense of folklore in the state of Goiás, Federal University of Goiás, Goiânia, GO, Brazil

Antônio Poteiro, presents his atelier and talks about his creative process.

[ Click on the image to watch the video ]

Only in portuguese



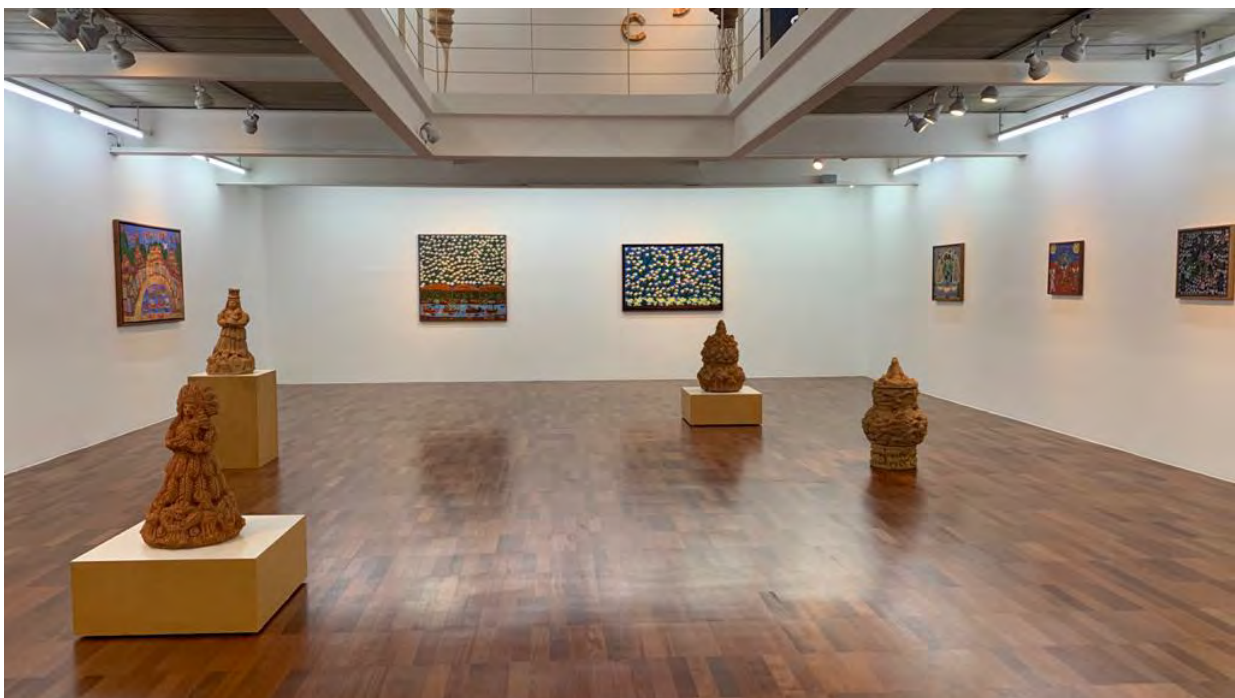
photo © Roberta Jugmann

Antônio Poteiro



## Exhibitions

In general, his subjects are diversified, but he draws attention to a personal relationship in the reading of biblical and historical themes, which are crossed by a syncretic background mysticism. In addition to it there is still an evident interest in social transformations, with citations to cultures originated from the Brazilian territory and comments on festivals and rituals, nature and work, rural and urban environments.









2014 SP-Arte Brasília, Iguatemi Brasília , Arena, Brasília, DF, Brazil



2013 SP-Arte, Pavilhão da Bienal - Parque do Ibirapuera , São Paulo, SP, Brazil

## Art Works



Antônio Poteiro  
1925, Santa Cristina da Posse

Untitled, Undated  
Ceramic

85 x 50 x 50 cm | 33.46 x 19.68 x 19.68 in





Antônio Poteiro  
1925, Santa Cristina da Posse

Untitled, Undated  
Ceramic

74 x 54 x 54 cm | 29.13 x 21.25 x 21.25 in





Antônio Poteiro  
1925, Santa Cristina da Posse

Rio de Janeiro, 1997  
Oil on canvas

90 x 140 cm | 35.43 x 55.11 in





Antônio Poteiro  
1925, Santa Cristina da Posse

Untitled, 1991  
Oil on canvas

150 x 130 cm | 59.05 x 51.18 in





Antônio Poteiro  
1925, Santa Cristina da Posse

Untitled, 1994 Oil on canvas

120 x 120 cm | 47.24 x 47.24 in





Antônio Poteiro  
1925, Santa Cristina da Posse

Untitled, 1982  
Oil on canvas

50 x 60 cm | 19.68 x 23.62 in



Antônio Poteiro  
1925, Santa Cristina da Posse

Untitled, 1980  
Oil on canvas

75 x 85 cm | 29.52 x 33.46 in



Antônio Poteiro  
1925, Santa Cristina da Posse

Untitled, 1980  
Oil on canvas

45 x 50 cm | 17.71 x 19.68 in



Antônio Poteiro  
1925, Santa Cristina da Posse

Untitled, 1985  
Oil on canvas

60 x 70 cm | 23.62 x 27.55 in





Antônio Poteiro  
1925, Santa Cristina da Posse

Untitled, 1994  
Oil on canvas

90 x 100 cm | 35.43 x 39.37 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, Germana Monte-Mór, Moisés Patrício, Santídio Pereira e Lilian Camelli.

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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