



AGNALDO MANOEL DOS SANTOS

ARTIST'S PORFTOLIO

BIOGRAPHY

ARTIST'S PORFTOLIO

Agnaldo Manoel dos Santos (1926-1962), born on the Island of Itaparica, Bahia, is widely recognized as one of the most notable sculptors of Brazilian modernism. His work reflects a unique synthesis of Afro-Brazilian cultural traditions and the languages of modern art, with a style deeply rooted in wood, his primary medium.

His artistic journey began in 1952 while working in the studio of sculptor Mario Cravo Júnior, where he displayed remarkable talent and embarked on a significant yet brief career, cut short by his untimely death at the age of 36. A self-taught artist, Agnaldo was influenced by African sculpture—discovered through Pierre Verger’s photographs—and by visual traditions from Brazil’s Northeast.

He developed a distinctive style that integrates elements of African and Brazilian cultures, creating sculptures that transition between masks and human figures, each imbued with profound meanings.

Guided by intuition, his creative process avoided preliminary sketches; he carved directly into the wood, respecting its natural characteristics.

Master Guarany, a celebrated sculptor of carrancas (figureheads), mentored Agnaldo in working with cedar, ensuring the durability and beauty of his pieces. The recognition of Agnaldo’s work was significantly bolstered by Lina Bo Bardi, who organized the 1961 exhibition Agnaldo: Sculptures at the Museum of Modern Art of Bahia.

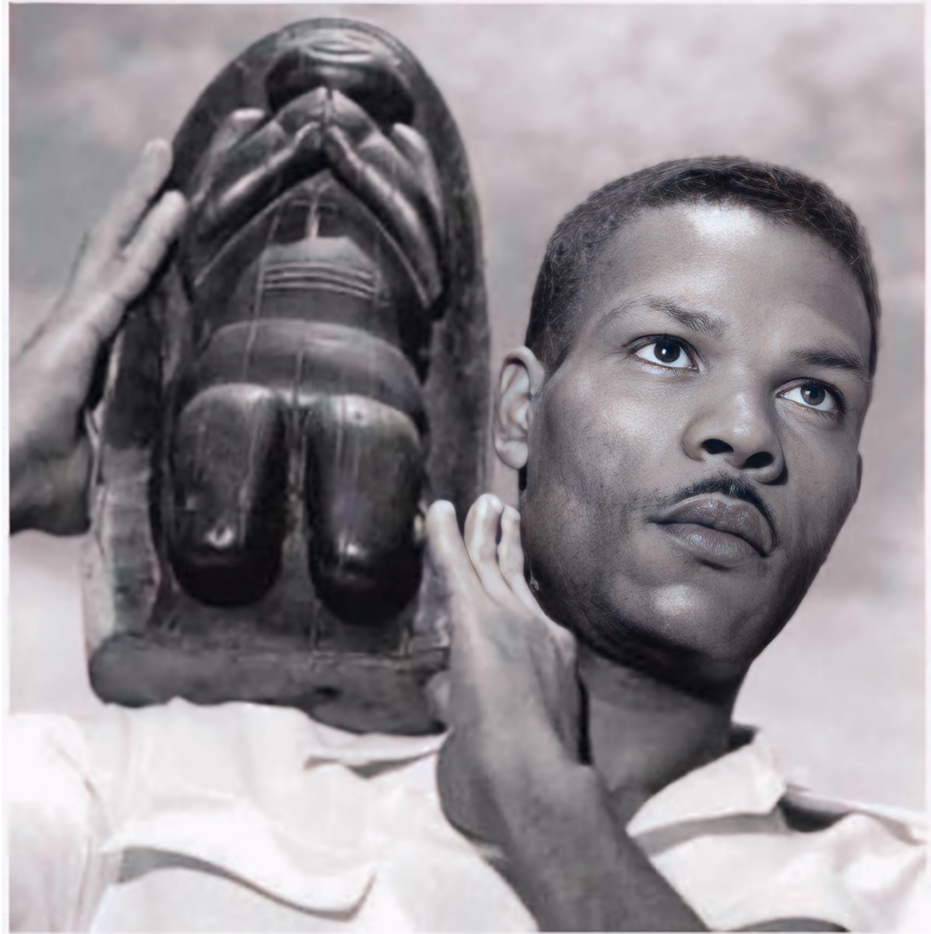
From there, his work began to gain international attention, being showcased at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis and in exhibitions in Nigeria that highlighted the cultural connections between Salvador and the African continent.

Combining inventiveness and technical precision, his sculptures embody a dialogue between the popular and the modern, cementing his role as one of the great figures of 20th-century Brazilian sculpture.

Agnaldo’s works are part of important collections and exhibitions, underscoring his relevance in both national and international art scenes. Praised by critics as an intuitive creator, his pieces reflect the resonances of the African diaspora and a quest for universal expressions through art.

AGNALDO MANOEL DOS SANTOS

1926, Ilha de Itaparica - BA | 1962, Salvador - BA, Brazil



INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITIONS

- 2023** Agnaldo Manoel dos Santos – The Conquest of Modernity
MAM/BA - Museu de Arte Moderna da Bahia, Salvador - BA, Brazil
- 2022 - 2023** Agnaldo Manuel dos Santos – The Conquest of Modernity
MAR - Museu de Arte do Rio, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 2021** Agnaldo Manuel dos Santos – The Conquest of Modernity
Almeida&Dale Galeria, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2019** Agnaldo dos Santos
Paulo Darzé Galeria, SP-Arte, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITIONS

- 1992** Agnaldo dos Santos: the unconscious revealed
Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1988** Agnaldo dos Santos: Sculptures
Núcleo de Artes do Desenbanco, Salvador - BA, Brazil
- 1966** Solo Exhibition (special hors concours room)
1ª Bienal da Bahia, Salvador - BA, Brazil
- 1963** Solo Exhibition
Galeria Querino, Salvador - BA, Brazil
- 1961** Agnaldo's Sculptures
MAM/BA - Museu de Arte Moderna da Bahia, Salvador - BA, Brazil
- 1959** Solo exhibition
Galeria Ralf, Salvador - BA, Brazil
- 1958** Solo exhibition
Galeria Oxumaré, Salvador - BA, Brazil
- Solo exhibition
Galeria Gea, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 1956** Solo exhibition
Petite Galeria, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

2025

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

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 2023** "Reverses and Transverses": Artists Outside the Mainstream (and Friends) at the Biennials
Galeria Estação, São Paulo – SP, Brazil
- Black Orpheus: Jacob Lawrence e o Clube Mbari
Toledo - OH, USA
- Black Orpheus: Jacob Lawrence e o Clube Mbari
New Orleans - LA, USA
- 2022** Black Orpheus: Jacob Lawrence e o Clube Mbari
Norfolk - VA, USA
- “Margens de 22: presenças populares”
Sesc Carmo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- Brazilian stories
MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- “Raio-que-o-parta: ficções do moderno no Brasil”
Sesc 24 de Maio, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2021** Terra and Temperature
Almeida&Dale Galeria, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- They Were Already Here
Galeria Base, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- Memory is an invention
MAM/RJ - Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 2019** "Entre Aiyê e o Orum"
Caixa Cultural Salvador, Salvador - BA, Brazil
- 2018** Exhibition Lina Bo Bardi Tupí or not tupí?
Fundación Juan March, Madrid, Spain
- Afro-Atlantic History**
MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2016** The Hand of the Brazilian People
MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2012 - 2013** Janete Costa "Um Olhar"
Museu Janete Costa de Arte Popular, Niterói - RJ, Brasil
- 2012** Samba Session: Afro-Brazilian Art and Film
Arthur Ross Gallery , Philadelphia - PA, USA
- 2010** "Elos da Lusofonia"
Museu Histórico Nacional, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- "Elos da Lusofonia"
Museu Afro Brasil Manoel Araújo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- "AFRO MODERNISM - JOURNEYS THROUGH THE BLACK ATLANTIC"
TATE Liverpool, Liverpool, UK

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 2009** “Ocupando o Espaço”
MAB/FAAP - Museu de Arte Brasileira, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2007** “Encuentro entre dos Mares”
Bienal de São Paulo, Valência, Convento del Carmo, Valencia, Spain
- “Do Tamanho do Brasil”
Sesc Paulista, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2006 - 2010** The Nemirovsky Foundation Collection: The Collector's Look
Estação Pinacoteca, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2006** “SOMOS” - the popular Brazilian creation
Centro Cultural Santander, Porto Alegre - RS, Brazil
- “Viva Cultura Viva do Povo Brasileiro”
Museu Afro Brasil Emanuel Araújo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2005** Year of Brazil in France
Carreau du Temple, bairro de Marais, Paris, France
- Never to Forget. Black Memories, Memories of Blacks
MON - Museu Oscar Niemeyer, Curitiba - PR, Brazil
- 2004** Form, Color and Expression
Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 2004** The Century of a Brazilian Man: Roberto Marinho Collection
Paço Imperial, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 2002** Brazil Body and Soul
Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA
- Wild Mirror: Modern Art in Brazil in the first half of the 20th Century / Nemirovsky Collection
MAM/SP - Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- Pop Brasil: Folk Art and the folk in the Art
CCBB - Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- Brazilian Art in the Fadel Collection: from the restlessness of the modern to the autonomy of language
CCBB - Centro Cultural do Banco do Brasil, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- Brazilian Art in the Fadel Collection: from the restlessness of the modern to the autonomy of language
CCBB- Centro Cultural do Banco do Brasil, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2000** Brasil + 500 Rediscovery Exhibition
Biennial Pavilion, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1999** The Female Figure in the MAB Collection
MAB/FAAP - Museu de Arte Brasileira, 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

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 1994** **The Heirs of the Night: fragments of the black imaginary**
Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- Afro-Brazilian Art and Religiosity**
Frankfurt, Hessen, Germany
- 1992** **“Vozes da Diáspora”**
Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1988** **The afro-brazilian Hand**
MAM/SP - Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1984** **Tradition and Rupture, synthesis of Brazilian art and culture**
Biennial Pavillion, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1977** **Brazilians and their universe**
Funart, Brasília - DF, Brazil
- 1974** **Brazilians and their universe**
Funart, Brasília - DF, Brazil
- 1966** **Bienal Nacional de Artes Plásticas**
Convento de Nossa Senhora do Carmo, Salvador - BA, Brazil
- First World Festival of Black Arts**
Dakar, Senegal

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 1962** Agnaldo e Abelardo Zaluar
Petite Galeria, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- Brazilian Folk Art: Yesterday and Today
Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
- 1960** Agnaldo and Marques de Sá
Petite Galeria, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 1959** 8° Salão Nacional de Arte Moderna
Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 1958** Group Exhibition
Galeria Forte de Monte Serrat, Salvador - BA, Brazil
- 1957** We and Folk Arts
Galeria Oxumaré, Salvador - BA, Brazil
- 4° Bienal de São Paulo
Fundação Bienal, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1956** Modern Artist of Bahia
Galeria Oxumaré, Salvador - BA, Brazil
- 5° Salão Baiano de Belas Artes
Salvador - BA, Brazil



Drops Galeria Estação | *Agnaldo Manoel dos Santos*

↗ [\(Click here to watch\)](#)

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Museum of Fine Arts

Boston, MA, USA

University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia, PA, USA

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

Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Museu Afro Brasil Emanoel Araújo

São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Fundação Nemirovsky

São Paulo - SP, Brazil

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2021** Agnaldo Manuel dos Santos – The conquest of Modernity
Roberto Conduru and Thais Darzé texts, Almeida&Dale Galeria, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2018** Arte popular brasileira: olhares contemporâneos
Editora WMF Martins Fontes, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- Histórias Afro-atlânticas (vol. 1)
MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2012** Janete Costa Um Olhar
Museu Janete Costa de Arte Popular, Niterói - RJ, Brazil
- Samba Sessão: Afro-Brazilian Art and Film
Arthur Ross Gallery and University of Pennsylvania, USA
- 2007** Viva a Cultura Viva do Povo Brasileiro
Museu Afro Brasil Emanuel Araújo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2002** POP Brasil | A Arte popular e o popular na Arte
CCBB - Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2000** Mostra do Redescobrimto- Brasil 500 anos | Arte Popular, Takano Editora, Brazil
Takano Editora, Brazil
- 1995** Os Herdeiros da Noite: fragmentos do imaginário negro: 300 anos de Zumbi
Ministério da Cultura, Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1988** A Mão Afro-Brasileira | Significado da Contribuição Artística e Histórica
Museu Afro Brasil Emanuel Araújo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Agaldo dos Santos: esculturas. Núcleo das Artes do Desenbanco
Salvador - BA, Brazil
- 1984** Tradição e Ruptura, síntese de arte e cultura brasileiras
Fundação Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1983** Agaldo Manoel dos Santos: origem e revelação de um escultor primitivo
Afro-Ásia, Salvador - BA, Brazil
- 1974** 7 Brazilians and their universe | arts crafts origins permanencies, national government
publication
Brasília - DF, Brazil



EXHIBITIONS



Photo: João Liberato

2023

Reverses and Transverses, Artists beyond boundaries (and friends) at the biennials

Galeria Estação
São Paulo - SP, Brazil



2021

Agnaldo Manoel dos Santos – The Conquest of Modernity

Almeida&Dale Galeria
São Paulo - SP, Brazil



2021

Agnaldo Manoel dos Santos – The Conquest of Modernity

Almeida&Dale Galeria
São Paulo - SP, Brazil



2019

Agnaldo dos Santos

Paulo Darzé Galeria
São Paulo - SP, Brazil



2019

Agnaldo dos Santos

Paulo Darzé Galeria
São Paulo - SP, Brazil



WORK



Agnaldo Manoel dos Santos

1926, Ilha de Itaparica - BA | 1962, Salvador - BA, Brazil

Saint, Déc 50 | 50's

Wooden Sculpture

46 x 18 x 16 cm | 18.11 x 7.08 x 6.29 in

Photo: ©Filipe Berndt



Agnaldo Manoel dos Santos

1926, Ilha de Itaparica - BA | 1962, Salvador - BA, Brazil

Untitled, 1962

Wooden Sculpture

42 x 18 x 24 cm | 16.53 x 7.08 x 9.44 in

Photo: ©João Liberato



Agnaldo Manoel dos Santos

1926, Ilha de Itaparica - BA | 1962, Salvador - BA, Brazil

Untitled, Déc 50 | 50's

Wooden Sculpture

87 x 24 x 24 cm | 34.25 x 9.44 x 9.44 in

Photo: ©Filipe Berndt



Agnaldo Manoel dos Santos

1926, Ilha de Itaparica - BA | 1962, Salvador - BA, Brazil

Untitled, Déc 50 | 50's

Wooden Sculpture

36 x 23 x 05 cm | 14.17 x 9.05 x 1.96 in

Photo: João Liberato



Agnaldo Manoel dos Santos

1926, Ilha de Itaparica - BA | 1962, Salvador - BA, Brazil

Untitled, Déc 50 | 50's

Wooden Sculpture

36 x 23 x 05 cm | 14.17 x 9.05 x 1.96 in

Photo: ©Filipe Berndt



Aginaldo Manoel dos Santos

1926, Ilha de Itaparica - BA | 1962, Salvador - BA, Brazil

Untitled, Déc 60 | 60's

Wooden Sculpture

31 x 19 x 19 cm | 12.20 x 7.48 x 7.48 in



Agaldo Manoel dos Santos

1926, Ilha de Itaparica - BA | 1962, Salvador - BA, Brazil

Untitled, Sem data | Undated

Wooden Sculpture

42 x 30 x 25 | 16.53 x 11.81 x 9.84 in



Agnaldo Manoel dos Santos

1926, Ilha de Itaparica - BA | 1962, Salvador - BA, Brazil

Untitled, Déc 50 | 50's

Wooden Sculpture

73 x 26 x 23 cm | 28.74 x 10.23 x 9.05 in



Agnaldo Manoel dos Santos

1926, Ilha de Itaparica - BA | 1962, Salvador - BA, Brazil

Untitled, Déc 50 | 50's

Wooden sculpture

38 x 15 x 18 cm | 14.96 x 5.90 x 7.08 in



Aginaldo Manoel dos Santos

1926, Ilha de Itaparica - BA | 1962, Salvador - BA, Brazil

Untitled

Wooden Sculpture

26 x 15 x 16 cm | 10.23 x 5.90 x 6.29 in



Agnaldo Manoel dos Santos

1926, Ilha de Itaparica - BA | 1962, Salvador - BA, Brazil

Maternity, Séc. XX

Wooden sculpture (cedar wood)

80 x 22 x 19 cm | 31.49 x 8.66 x 7.48 in



Agnaldo Manoel dos Santos

1926, Ilha de Itaparica - BA | 1962, Salvador - BA, Brazil

Untitled, Déc 50 | 50's

Wooden sculpture

75 x 19 x 23 cm | 29.52 x 7.48 x 9.05 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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