



Nino

Biography

Nino [João Cosmo Felix]

1920, Juazeiro do Norte | CE - Brazil

2002, Juazeiro do Norte | CE – Brazil

He cut sugarcane and worked as a blacksmith before turning to carving wood. He began his art by making toys. He was illiterate, lived in Juazeiro do Norte, Ceará, with his wife, Perpétua Cecília da Conceição, until his death. His work is found in major public and private collections in Brazil and abroad. In 1974 he made wooden animals amazingly painted brown with specks of black and white and the size never usually exceeded 70 cm. The tails, made from umburana or alumbark, were added to the carved creatures. In the 1980s, Nino gave a leap to larger sculptures, which might go beyond one meter high. In the single block of wood, Nino now skillfully included a new color invention. Birds, elephants, oxen, monkeys, rituals, such as weddings, and epiphany festivals are carved in relief at the top of the original block, which was painted in certain colors – pink, blue, red, green, yellow -, tempered and dosed by Nino, form an extraordinary gallery of single blocks from the backlands. Here, the force of the

symbolic is equal to the skill of the eye and hand, masts from the dream where nature and culture combine in a unique meeting, on a level with the best contemporary creation of the 20th century. He has held an individual exhibition in Rio de Janeiro. His work was a highlight of the international exhibition Brésil, Arts Populaires (Grand Palais, Paris, 1987), and in the Rediscovery Exhibition (São Paulo Biennial Foundation, 2000). His works are found in the top Brazilian museums of popular art.

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



Untitled, 70's
Paint and wood
80 x 25 x 16 cm | 31.49 x 9.84 x 6.29 in

Individual Exhibitions:

2016 Nino, Galeria Estação, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2001 Nino, the essential in its raw state, Pinacoteca of the State of São Paulo, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

Collective Exhibitions:

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

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

2021 Bailão de dois: dialogue between artists, Galeria Estação, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2020 What Master is it?, Centro Sebrae de Referência do Artesanato Brasileiro (CRAB), Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

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

2016 Between looks: poetics of the Brazilian soul, Museu Afro Brasil, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

- 2014 Almost figure, almost form, Galeria Estação, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2012 Stories of Seeing - Show and Tell, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris, France
- 2012 Janete Costa "A Look", Museums Janete Costa, Niterói, RJ, Brazil
- 2012 4 Spontaneous Artists, Afro Brasil Museum, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2011 Brazil in Popular Art - Casa do Pontal Museum collection, Brasília, DF, Brazil
- 2008-2009 The Imaginary of the Brazilian People Exhibition, Antiquarius Restaurant, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2007 The size of Brazil - Popular Art Exhibition, SESC Paulista, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2006-2007 Live Culture Live The Brazilian People, Afro Brazil Museum, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2006 SOMOS - the popular Brazilian creation, Santander Cultural Center, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil
- 2006 Imaginary Brazil, Galeria Estação, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2004-2005 Form, Color and Expression: a collection of Brazilian art, Galeria Estação, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2004 Naifs from Brazil Biennial, SESC, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2002 Pop Brazil: popular and folk art in art, Banco do Brasil Cultural Center, CCBB, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2001 Popular Expression, Light Cultural Center, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- 2000 Rediscovery Exhibition, Fundação Bienal, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1998 "Jangrada", Ceará Historical Museum, Fortaleza, CE, Brazil
- 1995-1996 The heirs of the night: fragments of the black imaginary, Belo Horizonte Cultural Center, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil
- 1994-1995 The heirs of the night: fragments of the black imaginary, Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1994 The heirs of the night: fragments of the imaginary, Espaço Cultural SOS Sul, Curitiba, PR, Brazil
- 1992 Brazilian: Discovery and Self-Discovery, Kunsthaus Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland
- 1992 Long live the Brazilian people I Crafts and folk art, Museum of Modern Art of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

Public Collections:

Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris, France

Selected Publications:

2018 Brazilian Popular Art: contemporary views, Vilma Eid and Germana Monte-Mór, WMF Martins Fontes Publisher, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2016 NINO, Vilma Eid and André Parente, Lis Gráfica, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2014 Almost figure, almost form, Vilma Eid, Socorro de Andrade Lima and Lorenzo Mammì, Lis Gráfica, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2012 Histoires de Voir - show and tell, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Editoriale Bortolazzi-Steil, Paris, France

2012 Janete Costa "Um Olhar", Mario Santos Lis Gráfica, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2007 The size of Brazil - Popular art show, SESC Paulista, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2006 Viva Cultura Viva do Povo Brasileiro, Afro Museum, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2004 Naifs from Brazil Biennial, SESC SP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2001 Nino I the essentials in a raw state, Emanuel Araujo, Pinacoteca de São Paulo, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2000 Rediscovery Exhibition, organized by Nelson Aguiar, Fundação Bienal, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1995 The heirs of the night, Belo Horizonte Cultural Center, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil

1992 Viva o Povo Brasileiro Catalog I Crafts and folk art, Museum of Modern Art of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

1980 O Reinado da lua- escultores populares do Nordeste, editora Salamandra, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

Exhibitions



2016 Nino, Galeria Estação, São Paulo, SP, Brazil







2020 What Master is it?, Centro Sebrae de Referência do Artesanato Brasileiro (CRAB), Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

Artworks



Mecaw, 70's
Wooden sculpture
132 x 9 x 26 cm | 51.96 x 3.54 x 10.23 in





Untitled,
Carved and painted wood
104 x 32 x 25 cm | 40.94 x 12.59 x 9.84 in



Untitled,
Carved and painted wood
102 x 19 x 38 cm | 40.15 x 7.48 x 14.96 in





Untitled, 70's
Wooden sculpture
102 x 30 x 25 cm | 40.15 x 11.81 x 9.84 in



Untitled, 70's
Carved and painted wood
96 x 30 x 16 cm | 37.79 x 11.81 x 6.29 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

Rua Ferreira de Araújo, 625 – Pinheiros, São Paulo, SP , Brazil – phone: (+5511) 3813-7253

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

www.galeriaestacao.com.br

contato@galeriaestacao.com.br