



JÚLIO MARTINS DA SILVA

ARTIST'S PORFTOLIO

BIOGRAPHY

ARTIST'S PORFTOLIO

Júlio Martins da Silva (1893, Icarai - RJ – 1978, Rio de Janeiro - RJ) emerges as a singular figure in Brazilian folk art, a visual storyteller whose works capture scenes of daily life and collective memory.

Deeply rooted in Rio de Janeiro's urban experience, his work is marked by an authenticity that transcends academic techniques, opening space for a spontaneous dialogue with Brazilian popular culture.

As documented in *Pequeno Dicionário do Povo Brasileiro, Século XX* by Lélia Coelho Frota and the 1978-1979 documentary "O que eu estou vendo vocês não podem ver" directed by Carlos Augusto Calil, Júlio Martins da Silva's paintings reflect an aesthetic that synthesizes the simplicity and complexity of Rio de Janeiro's social dynamics in the 20th century.

His works can be seen as pictorial chronicles, imbued with a visual lyricism that evokes the life of streets, markets, popular festivals, and religious manifestations.

More than mere representations, his paintings serve as testimonies of an era, capturing Brazil's urban, cultural, and social transformations.

The absence of formal artistic training did not limit Júlio Martins da Silva's work. On the contrary, it amplified an intuitive expressiveness directly connected to lived experiences and oral traditions.

As Lélia Coelho Frota highlights, his work eloquently demonstrates the power of folk art as a vehicle for preserving and reinterpreting history and national identity.

With his unique perspective and rare ability to capture the spirit of his time, Júlio Martins da Silva remains a fundamental reference for understanding Brazilian folk art.

His works, rich in meaning, transcend exhibition spaces, conveying stories that continue to resonate within contemporary Brazilian culture.

JÚLIO MARTINS DA SILVA

1893, Icarai - RJ | 1978, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil



SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2012** A gift-wrapped world. Júlio Martins da Silva | paintings
Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1984** Júlio Martins da Silva paintings
Art Gallery of The Brazilian-American Cultural Institute, Washington - D.C., USA
- 1973** Solo Exhibition
Galeria Intercontinental, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- Solo Exhibition
MHN - Museu Histórico do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 1969** Solo Exhibition
Galeria Escada, 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 e Distances
Galeria Estação, São Paulo – SP, Brazil
- East of Eden
Galeria Estação & Galeria Milan, São Paulo – SP, Brazil
- 2023** “Reverses and Transverses: artists beyond boundaries (and friends) at the biennials”
Galeria Estação, São Paulo – SP, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 2019** **Nossos Naifs Brasileiros**
Evandro Carneiro Arte, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 2016** **Entre Olhares d'alma brasileira**
Museu Afro Brasil, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2010** **Arte Naif – Com açúcar e com afeto**
Centro Cultural Professor Daud Jorge Simão, São José do Rio Preto - SP, Brazil
- Pavilhão das Culturas Brasileiras: Puras Misturas**
Pavilhão de Culturas Brasileiras, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2006** **Viva Cultura Viva do Povo Brasileiro**
Museu Afro Brasil, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2002** **Pop Brasil: a arte popular e o popular na arte**
Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil CCBB São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2000** **Brasil + 500 Mostra do Redescobrimento. Arte Popular**
Fundação Bienal, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 1988** **O Mundo Fascinante dos Pintores Naïfs**
Paço Imperial, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 1982** **Futebol: interpretações**
Galeria de Arte Banerj, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil



Júlio Martins | What am I seeing?

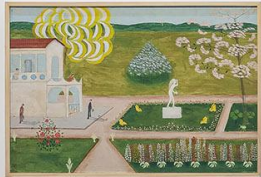
↗ [Click to watch](#)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2024** **Metamorphoses e Distances**
Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2023** **East of Eden**
Galeria Estação & Galeria Milan, São Paulo – SP, Brazil
- 2023** **“Reverses and Transverses: artists beyond boundaries (and friends) at the biennials”**
Galeria Estação, São Paulo – SP, Brazil
- 2018** **Arte popular brasileira: olhares contemporâneos**, Editora WMF Martins Fontes
São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2012** **A gift-wrapped world. Júlio Martins da Silva | paintings, Paulo Pasta and Vilma Eid**
Lis Gráfica, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2007** **Viva a Cultura Viva do Povo Brasileiro**
Museu Afro Brasil, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2002** **Pop Brasil: a arte popular e o popular na arte**
Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil CCBB São Paulo, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2000** **Mostra do Redescobrimento - Brasil 500 anos | Arte Popular**, Takano Editora
São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1988** **A mão Afro-Brasileira: Significado da Contribuição Artística e Histórica**
Fundação Emílio Odebrecht, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1978** **Mitopoéticas de 9 artistas brasileiros**, autora Leila Coelho Frota, editora Funarte
Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

**PUBLIC
COLLECTIONS**

Museu Afro Brasil Emanuel Araújo
São Paulo - SP, Brazil



EXHIBITIONS



Photo Filipe Berndt

2024

Metamorphoses e Distances

Galeria Estação
São Paulo - SP, Brazil



Photo Julia Thompson

2024

East of Eden

Galeria Estação
São Paulo - SP, Brazil



Photo Ana Pigosso

2024

Cotidiano, imaginação e paisagem: Galeria Estação, 20 anos

Instituto Çarê
São Paulo - SP, Brazil



Photo João Liberato

2023

“Reverses and Transverses: artists beyond boundaries (and friends) at the biennials”

Galeria Estação
São Paulo - SP, Brazil

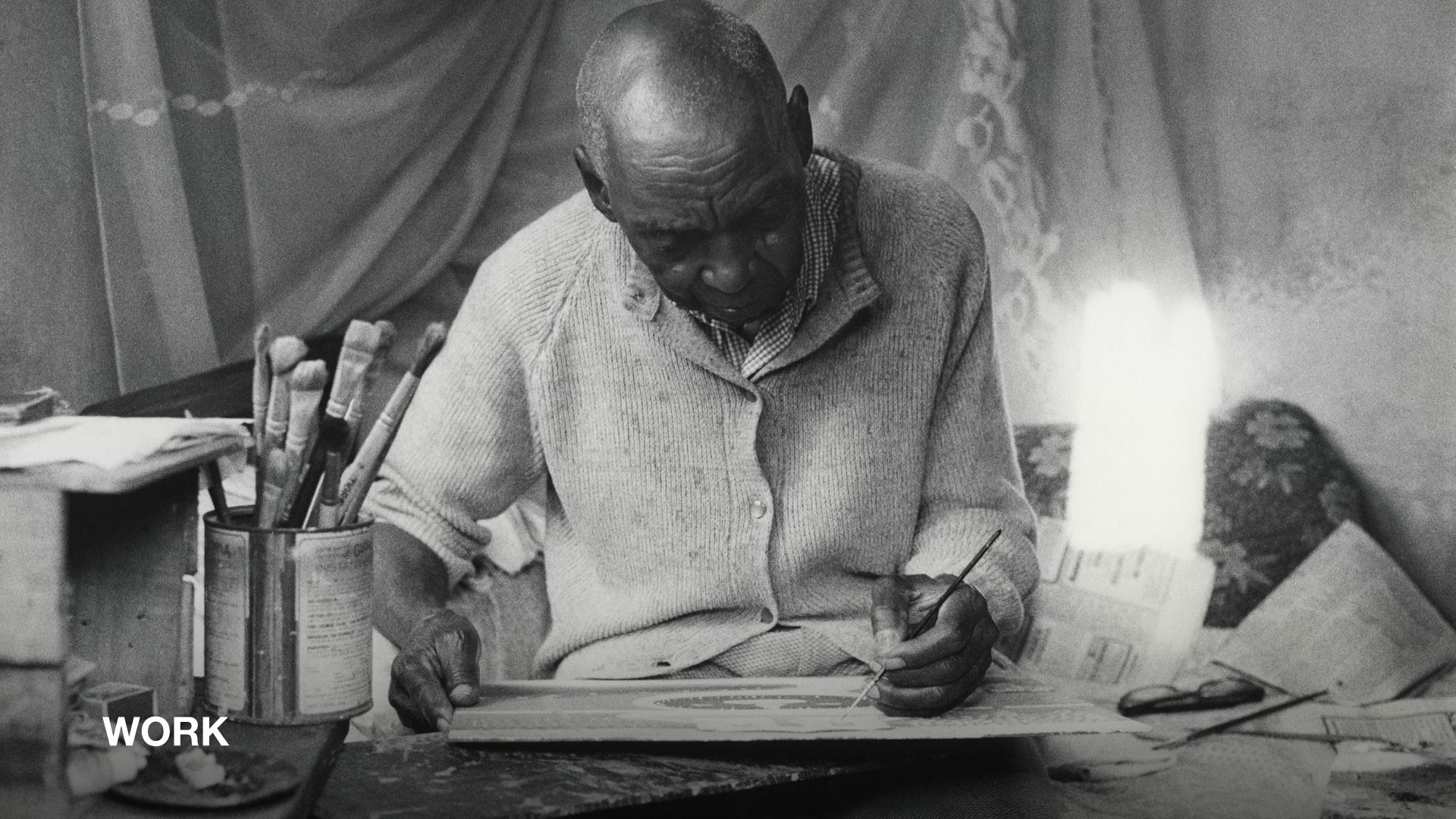


Photo Denise Andrade

2012

A gift-wrapped world. Júlio Martins da Silva | paintings

Galeria Estação
São Paulo - SP, Brazil



WORK



Júlio Martins da Silva

1893, Icaraí - RJ | 1978, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Untitled, Undated

Oil on canvas

51.5 x 67 cm | 20.07 x 26.37 in

Photo: ©João Liberato



Júlio Martins da Silva

1893, Icaraí - RJ | 1978, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Untitled, Undated

Oil on cardboard

44 x 53 cm | 17.32 x 20.86 in

Photo: ©João Liberato



Júlio Martins da Silva

1893, Icaraí - RJ | 1978, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Untitled, Undated

Oil on cardboard

42 x 50 cm | 16.53 x 19.68 in

Photo: ©João Liberato



Júlio Martins da Silva

1893, Icaraí - RJ | 1978, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Untitled, Undated

Oil on cardboard

40,5 x 49 cm | 15.74 x 19.29 in

Photo: ©João Liberato



Júlio Martins da Silva

1893, Icaraí - RJ | 1978, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Untitled, Undated

Oil on cardboard

40 x 63.5 cm | 15.74 x 24.80 in

Photo: ©João Liberato



Júlio Martins da Silva

1893, Icaraí - RJ | 1978, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Untitled, Undated

Oil on plywood

40.5 x 59 cm | 15.74 x 23.22 in

Photo: ©João Liberato



Júlio Martins da Silva

1893, Icaraí - RJ | 1978, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Untitled, Undated

Oil on plywood

40 x 57 cm | 15.74 x 22.44 in

Photo: ©João Liberato



Júlio Martins da Silva

1893, Icaraí - RJ | 1978, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Untitled, Undated

Oil on canvas

48 x 63 cm | 18.89 x 24.80 in

Photo: ©João Liberato



Júlio Martins da Silva

1893, Icaraí - RJ | 1978, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Untitled, Undated

Oil on plywood

35 x 50 cm | 13.77 x 19.68 in

Photo: ©João Liberato



Júlio Martins da Silva

1893, Icaraí - RJ | 1978, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Untitled, Undated

Oil on plywood

39 x 59 cm | 15.35 x 23.22 in

Photo: ©João Liberato



Júlio Martins da Silva

1893, Icaraí - RJ | 1978, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Untitled, Undated

Oil on plywood

39 x 59 cm | 15.35 x 23.22 in

Photo: ©João Liberato



Júlio Martins da Silva

1893, Icaraí - RJ | 1978, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Untitled, 1973

Oil on plywood

58,5 x 69 cm com moldura | 22.83 x 27.16 in

48,8 x 38,5 sem moldura | 18.89 x 14.96 in

Photo: ©João Liberato



Júlio Martins da Silva

1893, Icaraí - RJ | 1978, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Barcos a vela, Undated

Oil on plywood

36,5 x 55 cm | 14.17 x 21.65 in

37 x 56,5 cm | 14.56 x 22.04 in (com moldura)

Photo: Filipe Berndt



Júlio Martins da Silva

1893, Icaraí - RJ | 1978, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Forest (Jungle), Undated

Oil on canvas

40 x 50 cm | 15.74 x 19.68 in



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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