



VÉIO | CÍCERO ALVES DOS SANTOS

ARTIST'S PORFTOLIO



BIOGRAPHY

ARTIST'S PORFTOLIO

Cícero Alves dos Santos, known as Véio, is an iconic figure in Brazilian folk art and a significant contemporary artist.

A self-taught master of wood sculpture, his work transcends the boundaries between folk and contemporary art, merging the memory of traditions with vibrant and modern expressiveness.

His creative process is visceral and intuitive, marked by a sensitive dialogue with his materials. Véio uses logs, roots, and pieces of wood found in nature, respecting their natural forms and textures.

He believes that the wood already holds the figures he seeks to reveal, and with simple tools like a pocketknife, he transforms these materials into enigmatic sculptures.

His works navigate between the figurative and the abstract, creating fantastic, anthropomorphic, and hybrid beings that evoke both collective memories and contemporary narratives.

Véio's artistic research connects oral histories, traditions, and the imagination of Brazil's Northeast with universal themes.

His sculptures, often painted in vibrant, intense colors, preserve the cultural memory of the sertão while exploring symbolism and layers of interpretation.

These pieces are imbued with poetry and critique, questioning the relationships between humanity and the natural world, between past and present.

Recognized nationally and internationally, Véio occupies a unique position in the art world.

His works are part of major public collections in Brazil and abroad, establishing him as an essential voice in understanding the richness of folk culture and its profound connection to contemporary art.

VÉIO
Cícero Alves dos Santos

1948, Nossa Senhora da Glória | SE - Brazil



INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITIONS

- 2021** Véio
Galeria de Arte Cícero Alves dos Santos, Sesc Santos, Santos - SP, Brazil
- 2018** Véio - the imagination of wood
Itaú Cultural, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2017** Véio suddenly into the world
Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- Véio suddenly into the world
Gustavo Rebello Arte, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 2016** Véio
SEEDS Gallery, London, England

INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITIONS

- 2015** Desdobramentos
Sesc Santo Amaro, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- Becoming Marni
56th Venice Biennale, Abbey of San Gregorio, Venice, Italy
- 2014** Cícero Alves dos Santos – Véio | Sculptures
Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2010** Véio | Esculturas
MAP – Museum of Popular Art, Diadema - SP, Brazil
- 2006** Nação lascada: arte e metáfora de Véio
CNFCP - Centro Nacional de Folclore e Cultura Popular, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 2003** The things we own
Espaço Cultural da Assembléia Legislativa, Aracajú - SE, Brazil
- 1999** The art and the knowledge
Espaço Cultural da Assembléia Legislativa de Sergipe, Aracajú - SE, Brazil
- 1991** Northeast
Centro de Cultura Tancredo Neves, Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil
- 1986** Véio and Sergipe
Centro de Convenções de Natal, Natal - RN, 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

2023 - 2024

Brasil Futuro: as formas da democracia
MAR - Museu de Arte do Rio, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

2023

Brasil Futuro: as formas da democracia
Solar Ferrão, Salvador – BA, Brazil

Brasil Futuro: as formas da democracia
Espaço Cultural Casa das Onze Janelas, Belém – PA, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

2023

Brasil Futuro: as formas da democracia

MuN - Museu Nacional da República, Brasília - DF, Brazil

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

Galeria Estação, São Paulo – SP, Brazil

2021

POCORART World Exhibition, Chance and Necessity and...

Tokyo, Japan

Eles já Estavam Aqui

Galeria Base, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Les Citoyens Uno sguardo di Guillermo Kuitca sulla collezione della

Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Milão, Italy

1981/2021: Contemporary Brazilian Art in the Andrea and José Olympio Pereira Collection

CCBB - Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

2020

Realce (obras do acervo)

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

2019

Arte Naif: Nenhum Museu a Menos

Escola de Artes Visuais do Parque Lage, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Animal

Galeria Marcelo Guarnieri, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 2019** Quimera
Galeria do Lago, Museu da República, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 2018** “Between Art and Design”, um diálogo entre as obras de “Veio” e Oscar Niemeyer
Etel Milano, Milan, Italy
- 2017** Modos de Ver o Brasil: Itaú Cultural 30 Anos
Oca, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- Bestiários
CCSP - Centro Cultural São Paulo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2016** Entreolhares: poéticas d’alma brasileira
Museu Afro Brasil Emanuel Araújo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- Le Musée Préparé – La Collection de la Fondation Cartier Pour l’Art Contemporain
Musée des Augustins, Le Printemps de Septembre, Toulouse, France
- Os Muitos e o Um: Arte Contemporânea Brasileira
Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2015** A particular collection - Contemporary art at Pinacoteca collection
Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 10th Mercosul Biennial
Porto Alegre - RS, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

2014

Frestas Trienal de Arte

Sesc Sorocaba, Sorocaba - SP, Brazil

Tatu: Futebol, Adversidade e Cultura da Caatinga

MAR - Museu de Arte do Rio, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Almost a figure, almost a shape

Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Vivid Memories

Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris, France

2013

Crossed worlds: Art and Popular Imaginary

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

2012

Histoires de Voir

Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris, France

Stubbornness of Imagination - Ten Brazilian Artists

Paço Imperial, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

Stubbornness of Imagination - Ten Brazilian Artists

Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

IV Bienal Brasileira de Design

Palácio das Artes, Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

2012

Exposição Artistas e Arteiros

Centro Cultural Taiguara, Poá – SP, Brazil

Exposição Artistas e Arteiros

MACC – Museu de Arte e Cultura de Caraguatatuba – Caraguatatuba – SP, Brazil

2011

Exposição Artistas e Arteiros

Espaço Cultural Almeida Junior, Itú – SP, Brazil

2010

Brazilian Art beyond the system

Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Exposição Artistas e Arteiros

Museu de Antropologia do Vale do Paraíba, Jacareí – SP, Brazil

Pavilhão das Culturas Brasileiras: Puras Misturas

Pavilhão de Culturas Brasileiras, São Paulo – SP, Brazil

2009

Imaginary Voices

CNFCP - Centro Nacional de Folclore e Cultura Popular, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

2006 - 2007

Viva Cultura viva

Museu Afro Brasil Emanuel Araújo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

2001

Tudo junto

Galeria Pé de Boi, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain
Paris, France

Pavilhão das Culturas Brasileiras
São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo
São Paulo - SP, Brazil

MAR - Museu de Arte do Rio
Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

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

Museu Afro Brasil Emanuel Araújo
São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Acervo Sesc de Arte
São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Itaú Cultural
São Paulo - SP, Brazil

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2020** Realce (obras do acervo)
Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio MAM, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 2019** "Trees" Fondation Cartier pour l'art Comtemporain
EBS, Verona, Italy
- 2018** Arte Popular Brasileira: olhares contemporâneos
WMF Martins Fontes, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- VÉIO
Itaú Cultural, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2017** Catálogo da exposição "VÉIO – De surpresa no mundo"
Lis Gráfica, São Paulo, SP -Brazil
- 2015** Mensagem de uma nova América
Fundação Bienal de Artes Visuais do Mercosul, Porto Alegre - RS, Brazil
- 2014** Cícero Alves dos Santos [Véio]
WMF Martins Fontes, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2010** Catálogo da exposição "Véio | Esculturas"
Lis Gráfica, São Paulo - SP, Brazil



EXHIBITIONS



Photo: André Seiti

2018

Vóio - the imagination of wood

Itaú Cultural
São Paulo - SP, Brazil



2017

Véio suddenly into the world

Gustavo Rebello Arte
Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil

2016

VÉIO

SEEDS Gallery
London, England





Photo: Courtesy Marni

2015

Becoming Marni | 56th Venice Biennale

Abbey of San Gregorio
Venice, Italy



Photo: Courtesy Marni

2015

Becoming Marni | 56th Venice Biennale

Abbey of San Gregorio
Venice, Italy



Photo: Courtesy Marni

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Becoming Marni | 56th Venice Biennale

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Becoming Marni | 56th Venice Biennale

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Venice, Italy



WORK



Cícero Alves dos Santos - Véio

1948, Nossa Senhora da Glória – SE, Brazil, Brazil

Acaninãna, 2010

Acrylic paint and wood

320 x 14 x 54 cm | 125.98 x 5.51 x 21.25 in

Photo: Germana Monte-Mór



Cícero Alves dos Santos - Véio

1948, Nossa Senhora da Glória – SE, Brazil

O quexada, 2012

Carved and painted wood

36 x 17 x 17 cm | 14.17 x 6.69 x 6.69 in

Photo: Germana Monte-Mór



Cícero Alves dos Santos - Véio

1948, Nossa Senhora da Glória – SE, Brazil

Black Soul, 2012

Carved and painted wood

100 x 49 x 38 cm | 39.37 x 19.29 x 14.96 in

Photo: Germana Monte-Mór



Cícero Alves dos Santos - Véio

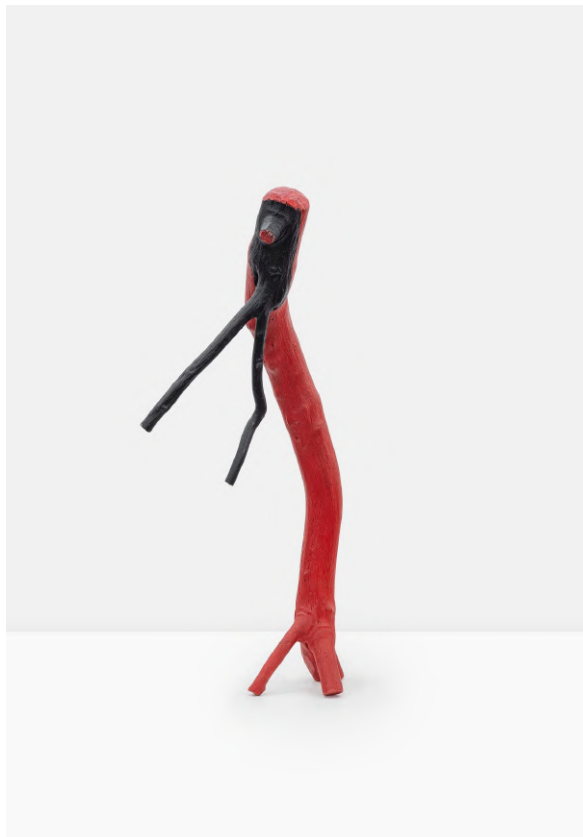
1948, Nossa Senhora da Glória – SE, Brazil

Untitled, 2012

Carved and painted wood

70 x 134 x 121 cm | 27.55 x 52.75 x 47.63 in

Photo: Germana Monte-Mór



Cícero Alves dos Santos - Véio

1948, Nossa Senhora da Glória – SE, Brazil

Tripod, 2014

Carved and painted wood

95 x 38 x 17 cm | 37.40 x 14.96 x 6.69 in

Photo: ©Filipe Berndt

Cícero Alves dos Santos - Véio
1948, Nossa Senhora da Glória – SE, Brazil

O mascarado, 2014
Carved and painted wood
80 x 40 x 13 cm | 31.49 x 15.74 x 5.11 in
Photo: ©João Liberato



Cícero Alves dos Santos - Véio
1948, Nossa Senhora da Glória – SE, Brazil

Untitled, 2015
Carved and painted wood
104 x 70 x 65 cm | 40.94 x 27.55 x 25.59 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.



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