



José Bezerra

ARTIST'S PORTFOLIO



BIOGRAPHY

José Bezerra was born in 1952 in the city of Buíque, in the interior of Pernambuco, where the rural country abuts the wilderness. José had improvised careers as a farmer, a jockey, a manual laborer and many other career paths and activities as the result of his disadvantaged situation. He killed animals to eat. Felled trees to make firewood. Today these things make him unhappy and he tries to atone for them in his art.

About ten years ago José had a dream in which he was called to carry out the artistic work he is engaged in today. From that point forward he started to look at the woods that surrounded him and to interact with it. José does not sculpt in a traditional way by acting on a block of wood in order to achieve a defined shape. He seeks to see a figure that has already imbedded itself in the wood. With the rude intervention of a machete, rasp, chisel and handsaw, the trunk, branches and roots of the umburana tree José uncovers a figure while simultaneously maintaining its bond with the raw wood from which it started—all with the tools and gestures that he used to act on it.

This approach gives his sculptures an unusual intensity. José works mainly with twisted logs, typical of the local vegetation, like the umburana. This unorthodox approach, together with the few gashes that are indicative of it, produces a remarkable result. The oscillating definition of the figures joins the tortuosity of the wood. This relationship makes the viewer perceive forms that seem to struggle to emerge amidst the clash between vegetal matter and rude and parsimonious sculptural intervention. Hence, the singular expressiveness of his works. The animals, bodies and faces do not have the sweetness like much of the so-called popular art made by a preference and familiarity with the materials.

When talking about his art, the emphasis is on the role of imagination in what he does. Thus, the importance he attaches to the act of seeing images in the trunks and branches he finds through his site and imagination is an element that distances his pieces beyond simple realism. From there he transposes the daydreams that go through the clouds to the sky.

José Bezerra

1952, Buíque | PE – Brazil

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For José Bezerra, seeing means opening natural material like wood to possibilities that keep it away from a lazy identity with itself as well as from only utilitarian use.

The nature that emerges from his works has an intense life, an inexhaustible and tormented energy. It recalls Euclides da Cunha's descriptions of the Canudos region, in the first part of *Os sertões*, "The dirt": "(...) leafless trees, with twisted and dry branches, revolted, crisscrossed, pointing hard in space or stretching flexibly across the ground, reminiscent of an immense bruise, of torture, of agonizing flora"

But the angular expressiveness of his work stems from the understanding that the very medium that contributed decisively to the emergence of his work - the region of Vale do Catimbau and the rural activities that develop there - is about to be put down by the accelerated changes in the country's economic relations. In addition, I am convinced that the sculptor senses the extent of the tragedy that surrounds the entire planet, the threats that nature faces on a global scale like few others. Like any great artist, José Bezerra sees far and near.

Rodrigo Neves



SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2015** José Bezerra | Sculptures
Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2013** José Bezerra | Sculptures
Culture Center Matarazzo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2010** José Bezerra | Sculptures
Galeria Celma Albuquerque, Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil
- 2009** José Bezerra | Sculptures
Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2010** José Bezerra | Sculptures
Sesc - São Carlos - SP, Brazil
- 2010** José Bezerra | Sculptures
Sesc - Bauru - SP, Brazil
- 2010** José Bezerra | Sculptures
Paulo Setubal Museum Tatuí - SP, Brazil



COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

2026

Arte da nossa gente

MAB/FAAP - Museu de Arte Brasileira, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

2025 - 2026

Gilberto Chateaubriand: uma coleção sensorial

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

As Aventuras de Pinóquio

Farol Santander, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Corpo Próprio

Instituto Baía dos Vermelhos, Ilhabela - SP, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 2025** In every corner: Casa Fiat de Cultura and Instituto Tomie Ohtake visit Vilma Eid Collection
Casa Fiat de Cultura, Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil
- 2025** Instituto Tomie Ohtake visits Vilma Eid Collection - In every corner
Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2024** Cotidiano, imaginação e paisagem: Galeria Estação, 20 anos
Galeria Estação, São Paulo – SP, Brazil
- 2023** "Reverses and Transverses": Artists Outside the Mainstream (and Friends) at the Biennials
Galeria Estação, São Paulo – SP, Brazil
- 2022** A Century of Now
Itaú Cultural, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2022** Brazilian stories
MASP - Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2021** They Were Already Here
Galeria Base, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 2021** **Raw State**
MAM RJ - Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 2021** **Bailão de Dois: dialogue between two artists**
Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2020** **Art in the Field**
Estádio Municipal Paulo Machado de Carvalho, São Paulo - SP,, Brazil
- 2020** **Two Josés: Bernô e Bezerra**
Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2020** **Acauã and the ghost, Auroras**
São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2016** **Between looks: poetics of the Brazilian soul**
Museu Afro Brasil Emanuel Araújo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2016** **Collective**
Chão Galeria, Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil
- 2014** **Almost a figure - almost a shape**
Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 2014** Vivid Memories
Foundation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris, France
- 2012 - 2013** Janete Costa "The Gaze"
Museu Janete Costa de Arte Popular, Niterói - RJ, Brazil
- 2012** Mix Max Brazil
Tropenmuseum Junior, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 2012** Stories of Seeing
Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain, Paris, France
- 2012** Stubbornness of Imagination: Ten Brazilian Artists
Imperial Palace, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 2012** Stubbornness of Imagination: Ten Brazilian Artists
Tomie Ohtake Institute, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2011** Sacred Popular Art
Galeria Pontes, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2010** Brazilian Art beyond the System
Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 2010** Exhibition Pure Blends
Pavilhão de Culturas Brasileiras, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2008** 18° Exhibition of Artefact
Artefacto espaço Mario Santos, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2008** Imaginary Exhibiton of Brazilian People
Restaurante Antiquarius, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2007** The size of Brazil
Sesc Paulista, São Paulo - SP, Brazil

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Fondation Cartier pour l'Art Contemporain
Paris, France

José and Paulina Nemirovsky Foundation
São Paulo - SP, Brazil

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

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

Museu Afro Brasil Emanoel Araújo
São Paulo, SP, Brazil

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Pavilhão das Culturas Brasileiras

São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo

São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Sesc São Carlos

São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Sesc - Belenzinho

São Paulo - SP, Brazil

Tropenmuseum Junior

Amsterdam, Netherlands



José Bezerra Documentary

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SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2021** **Raw State**
MAM RJ - Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brazil
- 2015** **José Bezerra | Sculptures**
Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2013** **José Bezerra | Sculptures – a catalogue of an exhibition at the Culture Center Matarazzo**
Culture Center Matarazzo, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2012** **Janete Costa, A Look**
Janete Costa Museum, Niterói - RJ, Brazil
- 2012** **Histoires de Voir**
Fondation Cartier Pour l'art contemporain, Own Press, France
- 2012** **Stubbornness of Imagination – Ten Brazilian Artists**
Martins Fontes Press, Brazil
- 2010** **José Bezerra | Sculptures – a catalogue of an exhibition at the Galeria Estação**
Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2010** **José Bezerra | Sculptures – catalogue of an exhibition at the Galeria Celma Albuquerque**
Galeria Celma Albuquerque, Belo Horizonte - MG, Brazil

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 2010** Brazilian Art beyond the system – catalogue of an exhibition at the Galeria Estação
Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brazil
- 2010** Pavillion of Brazilian Cultures: Pure Mixtures,
Terceiro Nome Press, Brazil
- 2006** Pernambuco made by hand
Sebrae Pernambuco Press, Brazil



EXHIBITIONS



2015

José Bezerra

Esculturas, Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brasil



2015

José Bezerra

Esculturas, Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brasil



2015

José Bezerra

Esculturas, Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brasil



2015

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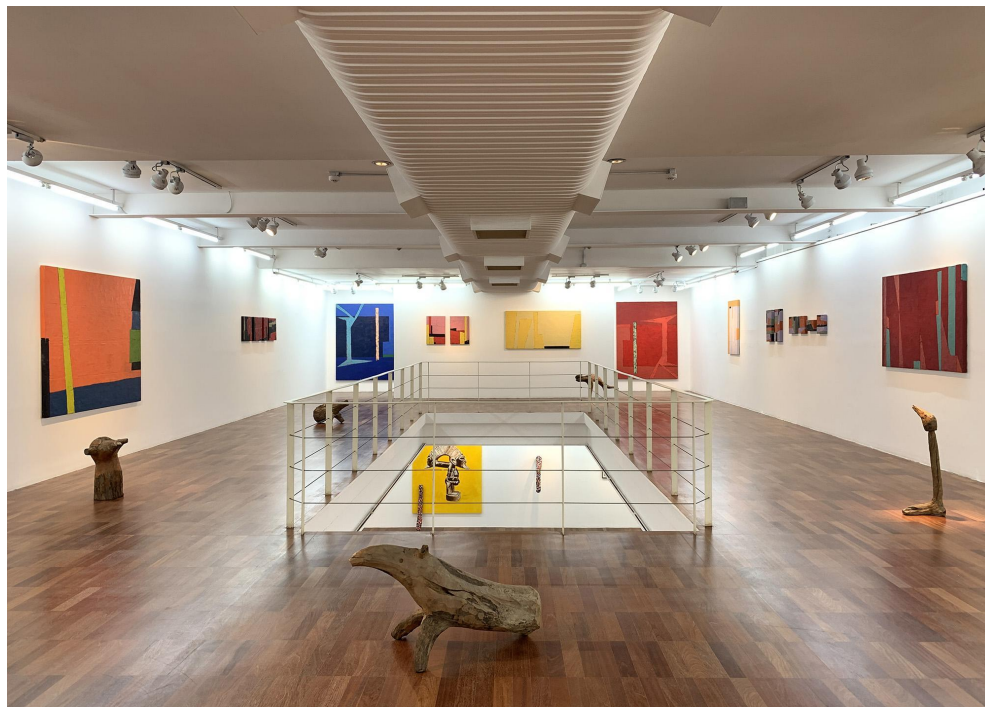
Esculturas, Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brasil



2021

José Bezerra

Estado Bruto, Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro - RJ, Brasil



2021

José Bezerra

Bailão de Dois, Galeria Estação, São Paulo - SP, Brasil

ARTWORK





José Bezerra
1952, Buique - PE, Brasil

Untitled, 2008
Wooden sculpture
30 x 23 x 97 cm | 11.81 x 9.05 x 38.18 in
Photo credit: ©Germana Monte-Mor



José Bezerra
1952, Buique - PE, Brasil

2008
Wooden sculpture
49 x 47 x 23 cm | 19.29 x 18.50 x 9.05 in



José Bezerra
1952, Buique - PE, Brasil

Untitled, Sem data | Undated
Wooden sculpture
19 x 20 x 77 cm | 7.48 x 7.87 x 30.31 in



José Bezerra
1952, Buique - PE, Brasil

Untitled, Sem data | Undated
Wooden sculpture
40 x 25 x 110 cm | 15.74 x 9.84 x 43.30 in



José Bezerra
1952, Buique - PE, Brasil

Untitled, 2011
Wooden sculpture
27 x 35 x 30 cm | 10.62 x 13.77 x 11.81 in



José Bezerra
1952, Buique - PE, Brasil

Untitled, 2011
Wooden sculpture
84 x 24 x 40 cm | 33.07 x 9.44 x 15.74 in



José Bezerra
1952, Buique - PE, Brasil

Untitled, 2011
Wooden sculpture
80 x 73 x 120 cm | 31.49 x 28.74 x 47.24 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, Itamar Julião, Izabel Mendes da Cunha, José Antonio da Silva, Madalena dos Santos Reinbolt, Maria Auxiliadora, Mirian Inêz da Silva, Sebastião Theodoro Paulino da Silva – RANCHINHO, Suanê and Zica Bergami.

The growing roster of contemporary artists include: Higo José, José Bezerra, Julio Vilani, Rafael Pereira, Santídio Pereira, Cicero Alves dos Santos - Véio.

GALERIA ESTAÇÃO

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