

20TH CONTEMPORARY ART FESTIVAL
SESC_VIDEOBRASIL

S O U T H E R N
P A N O R A M A

PRESS RELEASE

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SESC POMPEIA

PRESENTERS

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THE CONTEMPORARY ART FESTIVAL SESC_VIDEOBRASIL MARKS ITS 20TH EDITION BY TAKING OVER THE ARCHITECTURAL SPACE OF SESC POMPEIA

As of October 3, the city of São Paulo will be hosting debates on the cultural production of the Global South as part of the **20th Contemporary Art Festival Sesc_Videobrasil**, in an edition that mirrors both comprehensively and poetically the countless crises that have lately challenged contemporary society. Besides exhibiting the selected works, the Festival will also feature performances and public programs which will jointly occupy several spaces at Sesc Pompeia up to January 2018.

For the regional director of Sesc São Paulo, Danilo Santos de Miranda, “the 20th Contemporary Art Festival Sesc_Videobrasil, with proposals by artists from different nations in the geopolitical South, lies at a crossroads where the specific meets the general. Based on this premise, Sesc presents a cultural initiative akin to experiences dedicated to casting off shackles inherited from the colonial past and imposed by a peripheral geopolitical condition.” Miranda mentions the importance of the partnership between Sesc and Associação Cultural Videobrasil, which, since the 1990s, “has enabled such intersections between local and international forces to create new nodes originating in the South.”

“In these unstable times, as narrative disputes escalate and local and global sociopolitical rearrangements are relentlessly driven by the permanent specter of crisis – whether economic, ecological or cultural – the group of selected artists brings out art’s desire to expand our worldviews, encompassing the study of life, of our origins, of the evolution of the universe and of the dynamics of social groups throughout history, as well as the invention of new ways of doing politics,” affirms Solange Farkas, chief curator of the Festival and director of Associação Cultural Videobrasil, one of the presenting entities of the event, alongside Sesc São Paulo.

“These are artistic practices that blur the boundaries between sciences and take us on a journey of the origin of history, of societies and of Earth,” adds Solange.

EXHIBITION

Also focused on the geopolitical representation of art, the 20th Festival has selected works by 50 artists from 25 countries, 15 of whom are Brazilian. They include representatives from Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Solange Farkas is chief curator of this edition, assisted by four guest curators: Ana Pato, Beatriz Lemos and Diego Matos, from Brazil, and João Laia, from Portugal. Together, the curators analyzed approximately 3,200 works submitted by two thousand artists from 109 countries.

The Festival’s exhibition features videos, paintings, installations, sculptures, photographs, engravings and even artificial plants forming a small acclimatization garden. These diverse works reveal a multiplicity of worldviews, stemming from a society which, seeming to sense its own demise, resorts to its origins to avoid such a fate.

“The artist’s spectrum of observation of his or her surroundings varies widely in scale: from microorganisms to the realm of the cosmos, from actions in the field of micropolitics to mass mobilizations. Voices

symbolically hailing from other starting points, previously relegated to the fringes, now seek to qualify a new order, distinct from the modern empire, from the great historical narratives that have bequeathed a traumatic legacy, and from the scientism of other times that have made us believe in the omnipotence of man and his technology,” point out the curators.

The artworks have been organized according to six main themes: Cosmovisions (Origins; Rites and Cosmogonies; Sciences and Cosmologies); Ecologies (Nature, Earth and Fungi; Catastrophes, Crises and New Consciousnesses); Reinvention of Culture (Techniques, Appropriations and Representations); Politics of Resistance (Urbanity, Bodies and Affections); Invisible Histories (Memory and Microhistory); and Other Modernisms (Other Spaces, Other Landscapes).

EXHIBITION DESIGN

In 2017, Sesc Pompeia will host all activities related to the Festival. Previously concentrated in the venue's Interaction Area, the exhibition will now occupy not only that space, but also the Theater Hall, the internal streets that cross the cultural facility and the Workshops. A planned Auditorium will also display the Videos Programs, exhibits featuring works that require movie theater screening.

The exhibition design for the 20th Festival was created by architect André Vainer, while the art and graphic design were conceived by Vitor César, an architect and artist with research work on notions of public space in artistic practices.

Besides the actual exhibition and the video programs, the 20th Festival's programming includes **Performances**, **Public Program** activities (such as meetings and chats with the exhibiting artists) and **Workshops**, in addition to educational activities for groups and families coordinated by art educator Vera Barros. Guided tours with curators and guests are also on the agenda.

ENCYCLOPEDIC CATALOG

Featuring a graphic design that recreates traditional elements of encyclopedias, drawing not only texts, but also images, illustrations, maps and charts, the catalog of the 20th Festival expands the audience's contact with the context and concepts interwoven by the selected works, inviting spectators to critically rethink the disciplines and categories that have regulated our ways of experiencing and understanding the world.

Combining art, culture, astronomy, biology, history and geography to further evidence the blurring of boundaries between art and science, the encyclopedic catalog lists, in alphabetical order, the artists and their works, interspersed with other kinds of entries, designated as “keywords,” “countries” and “regions” of origin and residence of the artists – entries that conceptualize the geopolitical South and its production.

AWARDS

In this 20th edition, the Festival will offer participating artists from Brazil and abroad three Acquisition Awards worth R\$ 25 thousand each, for video works that will be included in the Sesc Art Collection.

The Ostrovsky Family Fund (O.F.F.), recognized for its support of progressive and independent artistic initiatives, will offer one of the selected artists an award worth R\$ 25 thousand for the most innovative moving image artwork. The prize will be granted by the Festival Award Jury itself.

Five artist residency awards will also be granted, each one offered by a specific international jury from the Festival's partner institutions. These are: Ujazdowski Castle Center for Contemporary Art, Poland; Kyoto Art Center, Japan; Goethe-Institut Residência Vila Sul, Salvador, Bahia; Wexner Center for the Arts, United States; and Pro Helvetia, Switzerland. The winning artists will be announced on October 8 in a ceremony at the Sesc Pompeia Theater.

This year, the artist Flávia Ribeiro was invited to create the trophy for the award-winning artists of the 20th Contemporary Art Festival. In her view, the piece she has conceived synthesizes the Festival's ubiquitous cultural diversity. In this edition, the trophy takes on the form of small bird made of gold plated brass and velvet. "Birds migrate, often flying between countries over long distances. I relate that to the fact that the Festival welcomes works and artists from various parts of the world, moving back and forth between such diverse cultures," says Flavia.

An artist whose work includes research in the fields of sculpture, engraving and artists' books, Flávia draws mainly on drawing as her creative inspiration. She views this specific technical language as a means to elaborate issues within her work process.

With the creation of the trophy for the Festival's 20th edition, she joins the select group of artists who have conceived this piece in previous editions, such as Efrain Almeida, Tunga, Rosângela Rennó, Luiz Zerbini and Erika Verzutti, among others.

CURATORS

Solange Oliveira Farkas is a curator and director of Associação Cultural Videobrasil. She created the Contemporary Art Festival Sesc_Videobrasil in 1983 and was director and chief curator of the Bahia Museum of Modern Art from 2007 to 2010. She took part as guest curator of the 10th Charjah Biennial (United Arab Emirates, 2011), 16th Cerveira Biennial (Portugal, 2011), 5th Videozone - International Video Art Biennial (Israel, 2010), FUSO - Videoarte Annual Exhibition (Portugal, 2011-2014 and 2017) and 6th Jakarta International Video Festival (Indonesia, 2013). She is a member of the Prince Claus Fund Award Committee 2017 and of the advisory board of the Pivô art venue in São Paulo. In 2017 she received the Montblanc Arts Patronage Award, a prize awarded by the Swiss foundation to professionals with outstanding background and experience in supporting the development of diverse artistic and cultural expressions.

Ana Pato is a curator and researcher with a doctorate from the School of Architecture and Urbanism of the University of São Paulo (FAU-USP). She was chief curator of the 3rd Bahia Biennial (2014) and project director of Associação Cultural Videobrasil (2000-2012). She is the author of the book *Literatura Expandida: arquivo e citação na obra de Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster* (2012).

Beatriz Lemos is a curator specialized in arts and digital networks with a master's degree in Social History of Culture from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-RJ). She is the coordinator of the Sismos Editorial publishing imprint and creator of the Lastro research platform. In 2015-2016 she took part in the Visiting Curator program of the Parque Lage School of Visual Arts.

Diego Matos is a researcher, curator and professor with a master's degree and doctorate from the School of Architecture and Urbanism of the University of São Paulo (FAU-USP). He was assistant curator at the 29th São Paulo Biennial (2010) and 18th Contemporary Art Festival Sesc_Videobrasil (2013). In 2014-2016 he coordinated the Archive and Research Center of Associação Cultural Videobrasil.

João Laia is a curator and writer. He has done curatorial work for institutions such as Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Chiado National Museum of Contemporary Art, Lisbon; Videoex, Zurich; Delfina Foundation and Whitechapel Gallery, both in London; and Parque Lage, Rio de Janeiro. He contributes regularly to international publications such as *Frieze*, *Mousse*, *Flash Art*, *Terremoto* and *Público*.

BACKGROUND

Created in 1983 by Solange Farkas, who has served as chief curator since its inception, the Festival has been produced in partnership with Sesc São Paulo since 1992, enabling its expansion and internationalization. At that moment the Festival's curatorship defined its focus on the geopolitical South, selecting artists exclusively from this region and addressing its diverse and complex contexts.

Over the years, the Festival has established itself as diversified and multiple platform geared towards disseminating, supporting and reflecting on the artistic production of the global South, which includes Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East, Oceania and a few countries in Europe and Asia.

The partnership between Sesc São Paulo and Videobrasil also enables the Festival to travel to other Brazilian cities, besides publishing works on culture and contemporary art.

Complete list of the artists and their respective works:

Alia Farid Abdal e Jesus 'Bubu' Negrón | Kuwait / Puerto Rico
Mezquitas de Puerto Rico – Rio Piedras | Two-dimensional / Tapestry
Mezquitas de Puerto Rico – Hatillo | Two-dimensional / Tapestry
Mezquitas de Puerto Rico – Ponce | Two-dimensional / Painting
Mezquitas de Puerto Rico – Santo Domingo | Two-dimensional / Painting

Alyona Larionova | Russia / United Kingdom
Across Lips | Single-channel video installation

Ana Elisa Egreja | Brazil, São Paulo
Poça II / Sala de jantar | Bidimensional / Pintura
Closet / Revoada | Bidimensional / Pintura

Ana Mazzei | Brazil, São Paulo
A barra de ballet está livre | Installation
Speech about the Sun | Installation

Ana Vaz | Brazil, Brasília / France
Há terra! | Video
Amérika: Bahía de las Flechas | Single-channel video installation

Andrés Padilla Domene | Mexico / France
Ciudad Maya | Single-channel video installation

Bárbara Wagner and Benjamin de Burca | Brazil, Pernambuco and Germany
Faz que vai | Single-channel video installation

Cristiano Lenhardt | Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul
Pau-Bonito | Installation
Jornais | Two-dimensional / Painting

Daniel Monroy Cuevas | Mexico
New Frontier | Single-channel video installation

Débora Mazloun | Brazil, Rio de Janeiro
Jardim de Aclimação XXI | Installation

Elizabeth Vásquez Arbulú | Peru
Historia del Cosmos | Two-channel video installation

Elvis Almeida | Brazil, Rio de Janeiro
Sem Título | Single-channel video installation
Sem Título | Single-channel video installation

Emo de Medeiros | France / Benin
Kaleta/Kaleta | Performance / Multichannel video installation
Vodunaut #009 (Hyperfielder) | Three-dimensional
Vodunaut #010 (Hyperspacer) | Three-dimensional
Vodunaut #011 (Hyperceiver) | Three-dimensional

Engel Leonardo | Dominican Republic
Pisos | Three-dimensional

Felipe Esparza Pérez | Peru
Cautivos | Single-channel video installation
Soga de Muerto | Single-channel video installation
Pawqartampu | Single-channel video installation

Filipa César | Portugal / Germany
Transmission from the Liberated Zones | Single-channel video installation
Luta ca caba inda | Performance

Graziela Kunsch | Brazil, São Paulo
Ensaio Ilú Obá De Min | Single-channel video installation
Escolas | Single-channel video installation

Haig Aivazian | Lebanon
Not Every Day Is Spring | Video

Hellen Ascoli | Guatemala
Objetos Específicos 1 y 2 | Installation

Ícaro Lira | Brazil, Ceará
Museu do Estrangeiro | Interaction with audience / Installation

Jaime Lauriano | Brazil, São Paulo
O Brasil | Video
Morte súbita | Single-channel video installation

Jiwon Choi | South Korea / United States
Parallel | Video

Karo Akpokiere | Nigeria
Zwischen Lagos und Berlin | Installation / Drawing

Kavich Neang | Cambodia
Kong Bei | Video

Köken Ergun | Turkey
Aşura | Three-channel video installation

La Decanatura | Colombia
Centro Espacial Satelital de Colombia | Single-channel video installation

Louise Botkay | Brazil, Rio de Janeiro
Vai e vem | Three-channel video installation

Mabe Bethônico | Brazil, Minas Gerais
Histórias minerais extraordinárias | Performance

Manuela de Laborde | Mexico
As Without so Within | Single-channel video installation

Mariana Portela Echeverri | Portugal / United Kingdom
Orgy Mathematics | Installation

Mariana Rodríguez | Argentina / Mexico
¿Por qué disparan? | Video

Miguel Penha | Brazil, Mato Grosso
Cipó | Two-dimensional / Painting
Cipó azul | Two-dimensional / Painting

Mona Vatamanu & Florin Tudor | Romania
Copacul lui Gagarin | Single-channel video installation

Monira Al Qadiri | Senegal / Kuwait
Spectrum 1 | Three-dimensional / Installation
OR-BIT 1 | Three-dimensional / Installation

Natasha Mendonca | India
Ajeeb Aashiq | Video
Trance | Video

Pakui Hardware | Lithuania
Lost Heritage | Installation

Pedro Barateiro | Portugal
The Current Situation | Installation with video
The Sad Savages | Performance

Quy Minh Truong | Vietnam
Vuon Bau Xanh Tuoi | Video

Rafael Pagatini | Brazil, Espírito Santo
Bem-vindo presidente! | Installation / Engravings
DOPS | Installation / Photographs

Rodrigo Hernández | Mexico
Shikantaza | Two-dimensional

Roy Dib | Lebanon
Beit El Baher (The Beach House) | Video
Here and There – São Paulo Edition | Performance

Sammy Baloji | Democratic Republic of the Congo / Belgium
Pugulume | Three-channel video installation


Sasha Litvintseva | Russia / United Kingdom
Exile Exotic | Single-channel video installation
Evergreen | Video

Seydou Cissé | Mali / France
Faraw ka taama | Video

Thando Mama | South Africa
Desolation I-V | Five-channel video installation
Of Nationhood | Single-channel video installation

Tatewaki Nio | Japan / Brazil
Neo-andina | Two-dimensional / Photography

Thiago Martins de Melo | Brazil, Maranhão
bárbara baraclava | Single-channel video installation



Viktorija Rybakova | Lithuania
Swivel Doors | Three-dimensional

Von Calhau! | Portugal
EULUSIONISMO ANTILUSIONISTU | Single-channel video installation
Tau Tau | Performance

Ximena Garrido-Lecca | Peru / Mexico
Contornos | Single-channel video installation
La trama | Three-dimensional

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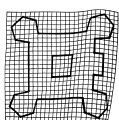
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