

Phoenix Art Museum

News Release

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Phoenix Art Museum presents first U.S. exhibition of São Paulo Museum of Modern Art's landmark collection of Brazilian contemporary art

Past/Future/Present: Contemporary Brazilian Art from the Museum of Modern Art, São Paulo explores themes of tradition, transformation, and subversion

PHOENIX (July 12, 2017) – Coming September 1 to Phoenix Art Museum, *Past/Future/Present: Contemporary Brazilian Art from the Museum of Modern Art, São Paulo* presents a rare panorama of the most innovative art produced in Brazil from the 1990s to the 2010s. The first exhibition in the United States devoted to the collection of the Museum of Modern Art, São Paulo (MAM-SP), it is also the first exhibition of contemporary Brazilian art in the Southwest. Open to the public beginning on First Friday, September 1, through December 31, *Past/Future/Present* will feature 70 artworks created by 59 artists in diverse media, including painting, sculpture, installation, photography, video, and performance.

“We are delighted to welcome the MAM’s extraordinary collection to Phoenix,” said Amada Cruz, the Sybil Harrington Director and CEO of Phoenix Art Museum. “At the Museum, we are committed to bringing the world to our city. *Past/Future/Present* is a testament not only to the extraordinary caliber of the MAM’s collection, but also to the benefits enjoyed by communities near and far whenever there is successful collaboration between international institutions.”

Past/Future/Present is organized around five themes: The Body/The Social Body; Shifting Identities; Landscape, Reimagined; Impossible Objects; and The Reinvention of the Monochrome. The vast variation of styles, subject matter, and media in each nucleus highlight the impossibility of defining a national artistic style. This artistic cross-section instead reveals that there are no universal formal traits among contemporary Brazilian artists, and that *brasilidade*, or “Brazilianness,” cannot be defined as a fixed “essence” tied to physical geography. Rather, these works’ commonalities revolve around allusions to shared histories, indigenous mythologies, social norms (and transgressions), and both tributes to and subversions of national art histories. As the title implies, *Past/Future/Present* illustrates how Brazil’s most celebrated contemporary artists maintain creative dialogues with past national artistic traditions while also looking toward the future with a global perspective and boundless creativity.

“This selection of works from the Museum of Modern Art, São Paulo, displays the adeptness with which Brazilian artists have adapted to the realities of globalization,” said Vanessa Davidson, PhD, the Shawn and Joe Lampe Curator of Latin American Art. “They speak fluently in artistic languages spotlighted on the global stage at the same time that their art, imbued with both local specificity and universal resonance, has itself become an international reference point.” For this exhibition, co-curators Dr. Davidson and Dr. Cauê Alves selected pioneering, experimental works to share with the Phoenix community. “Because the MAM-SP houses one of the most important collections of Brazilian art in the world,” said Dr. Davidson, “this exhibition is only one constellation of artworks among many others that could be imagined. It is not intended as a definitive look at contemporary artistic production in Brazil, but rather aimed to contribute to the ongoing conversation about what Brazilian art is and can be.”

Past/Future/Present is a singular opportunity for American audiences to experience an in-depth look at the practice of contemporary Brazilian artists now recognized as the pioneers of their generation. The exhibition also features several historical anchors that illustrate conceptual continuities between past and present, such as works by Waltercio Caldas, Lenora de Barros, Antonio Dias, Anna Bella Geiger, José Leonilson, Antonio Manuel, Cildo Meireles, and Carlos Zilio, among others. During the course of the exhibition, featured artists Laura Lima, Vik Muniz, and Jac Leirner will travel from Brazil to Phoenix to give public lectures on their artistic practice. Beginning in August, the Museum will also host a *Past/Future/Present* film series, bringing an even wider view of Brazil to Phoenix through screenings of five films.

Special Menu at Palette

Throughout the course of the exhibition, Museum restaurant Palette will feature a Brazilian-inspired menu, including *pastéis*, or turnovers, stuffed with cheese and seasonal vegetables, a *salada de couve com manga* (salad with kale and mango), and the classic Brazilian *caipirinha*, a cocktail featuring fresh-squeezed lime juice and *cachaça* rum. Stay tuned for more details at phxart.org/palette.

Family Activities: Discount Tire Free Family Weekend and Make It!

During September, the Museum's free family activities will celebrate Brazil and themes from *Past/Future/Present*:

- **Discount Tire Free Family Weekend: *Global***
September 9, 10 | 10 am – 5 pm, noon – 5 pm

The Museum's *Global* weekend will feature interactive *capoeira* and *samba* performances, opportunities to explore objects in the Museum's collection from all over the world, and activities led by Phoenix-based teaching artists to help families discover how artists draw global inspiration from various cultures, places, and time periods.

Free general admission courtesy of Discount Tire. Admission to Past/Future/Present is \$5 for the general public and free for Museum Members. Reserve tickets in advance at tickets.phxart.org.

- **Make It!**
Wednesday, September 27 | 3:30 – 7:30 pm

The Museum will host a free art-making activity inspired by works in *Past/Future/Present*.
Free and open to the public.

About Phoenix Art Museum

Phoenix Art Museum has provided access to visual arts and educational programs in Arizona for more than 50 years and is the largest art museum in the Southwestern United States. Critically acclaimed national and international exhibitions are shown alongside the Museum's collection of more than 18,000 works of American, Asian, European, Latin American, Western American, modern and contemporary art, and fashion design. The Museum also presents festivals, a comprehensive film program, live performances and educational programs designed to enlighten, entertain and stimulate visitors of all ages. Visitors also enjoy vibrant photography exhibitions through the Museum's landmark partnership with the Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona. To learn more about Phoenix Art Museum, visit PhxArt.org, or call the 24-hour recorded information line at (602) 257-1222.

About the Museu de Arte Moderna, São Paulo

The São Paulo Museum of Modern Art is a non-profit civil society institution in the public interest founded in 1948. Its collection contains more than 5,000 works by the most representative modern and contemporary artists, principally Brazilian. Both its collection and exhibitions give special emphasis to the experimental and are open to the diverse nature of art around the world and of the interests of contemporary societies.

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