



PORTAS
VILASECA
GALERIA

AR CO

Lisboa

**OPENING LISBOA:
MULAMBÖ & ÍRIS HELENA**

25 — 28.05.2023

STAND OP04

CORDOARIA NACIONAL

At ARCO Lisboa 2023, Portas Vilaseca Galeria presents a special project that brings together the most recent production of Brazilian artists Íris Helena and Mulambö, whose current research and practices converge.

The works on display at the gallery stand (OP04) bring up the theme of foreign immigration in Portugal and the construction of the capital of Brazil (Brasília) by migrants, generating a reflection on the political and social developments of these historical and current events.

Through works in different media and with his unique ability to give to everyday objects new meanings, Mulambö addresses a topic of great relevance and debate in contemporary times. With his sharp and critical eye, the artist deals with the political and social consequences of immigration, in works that reveal symbolic nuances of this relationship developed with the host country, exploring issues such as xenophobia and the collective search for the reconstruction and renewal of a country.

The works "*Bandeira da Reconstrução Coletiva*" [Collective Reconstruction Flag] and "*Reviravolta pra tua terra*" [Turnaround to your land] have been especially conceived for ARCO Lisboa 2023, based on the issue of immigration in Portugal in the 21st century. Flags as support have already been used by Mulambö in different contexts. In this case, there is an approximation between the flag as an official civic symbol of a nation and the iconic uniform of urban workers. On the other hand, with the neon work, there is a semantic play and a shift in perspective when using the infamous xenophobic phrase "come back to your land". The process of creating these new works motivated Mulambö to get back to his seminal installation "*Gengiva*" (2019), re-installed at the fair - in a local context and built with local bricks. Four years after its first appearance, the work's original idea remains: a structuring arch that keeps us alive.

Furthermore, Iris Helena sheds light on the issue of migrant workers who built Brasília and ended up founding the peripheral communities around Brazil's new capital city. Her series "*Livro do Tombo*" (2018 - ongoing) comprises works that simulate a kind of contemporary archeology of these traces of life, among civil construction works. The artist leads us to reflect on the history and memory of these migrant workers and their relationships with the new "Shangri-la" of the tropics.

In the set of works "*Addressed to*", by means of UV photographic prints applied to pink wooden boards (widely used as siding on construction sites), Íris rescues the story of workers who, before moving to the future capital Brasília (fleeing from hunger and drought), sent letters to former President Juscelino Kubitschek asking for a piece of land. When they migrated to the huge construction site that was set in the center of the country, they were unable to inhabit the city that they helped to build. These workers were taken to the margins, to the peripheral communities.

Conceived as postcards and displaying archival images of the daily lives of workers on the construction sites, these small folding signs can be manipulated by the public, as well as the 2018 work that started the series, displayed in a reserved space on the stand. In this piece, the image of the monumental sculpture "*Candangos*" can be seen, still under construction in what would become Praça dos Três Poderes (Three Powers Plaza) - a space that symbolizes the strength and balance between the powers of the Brazilian Republic. When reflecting on the construction of Brasília, the artist points to a sumptuous achievement that made it possible to erase several stories of migrant workers. This erasure can also be observed in "*Lost and Found*", two works developed from the use of bricks that "reveal" archival images of a modern Brazil under construction. "Today's construction will be tomorrow's ruin", Íris concludes.

By connecting the research and practice of Mulambö and Íris Helena, the idea is to create a dialogue between different realities, however, intertwined through a common theme. Through a variety of media and techniques used by both artists, we aim to instigate the public at ARCO Lisboa 2023 to reflect on labor relations, migration and the construction of identities in different historical and cultural contexts.

Íris Helena







ÍRIS HELENA

Lost and Found, 2023

Series "*Livro do Tombo*"

UV printing on wood, concrete,
tile and steel beam

30 x 12 x 5 cm







ÍRIS HELENA

Lost and Found, 2023

Series "Livro do Tombo"

UV printing on wood, concrete,
tile and steel beam

30 x 12 x 5 cm







AO PLANALTO
DF
13 FEV 2011

PLANALTO
DF
13 FEV 2011



Three horizontal lines for an address.



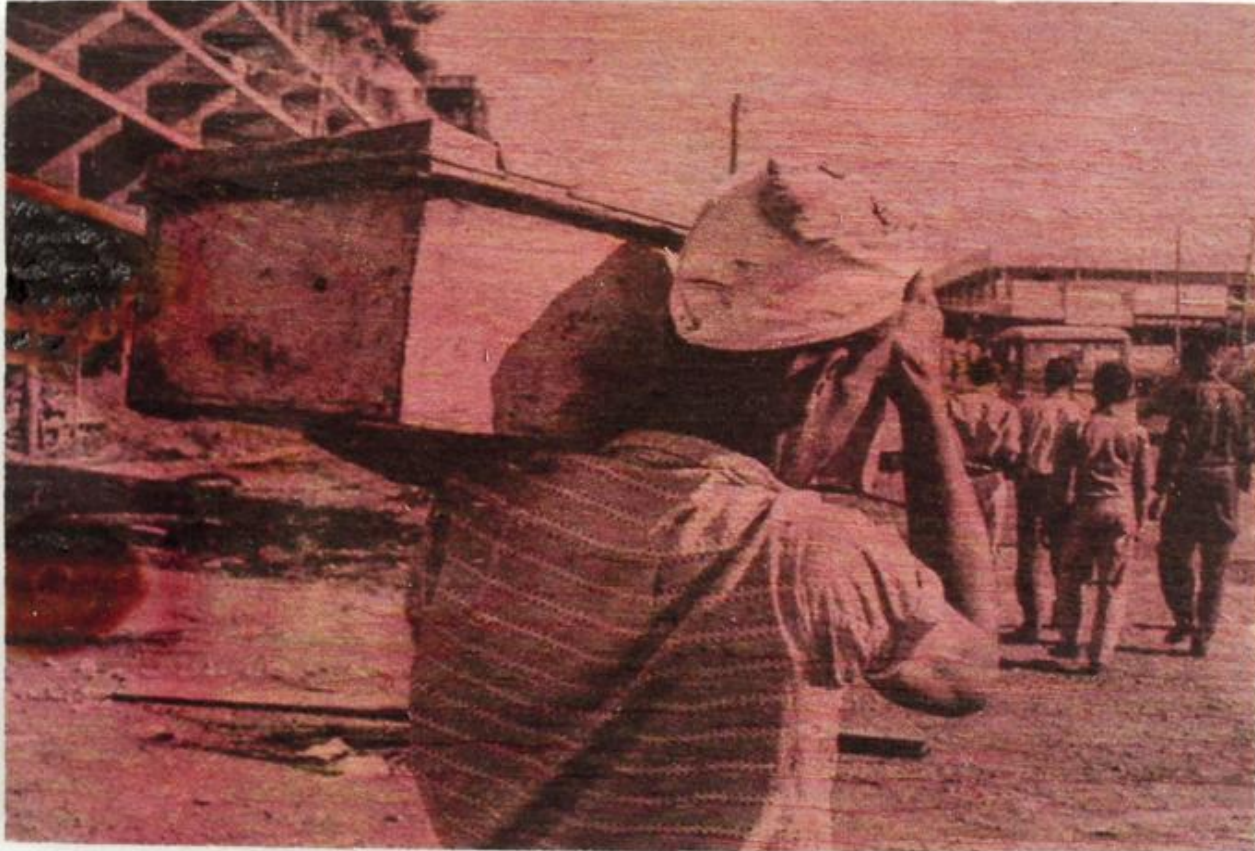
ÍRIS HELENA

Addressed to: postal nº 1, 2023

Series "Livro do Tombo"

*UV printing on wood, metallic hinge,
postage and imprinted stamps, screws*

10 x 15 x 1.5 cm



ÍRIS HELENA

Addressed to: postal nº 2, 2023

Series "Livro do Tombo"

UV printing on wood, metallic hinge,
postage and imprinted stamps, screws

10 x 15 x 1.5 cm



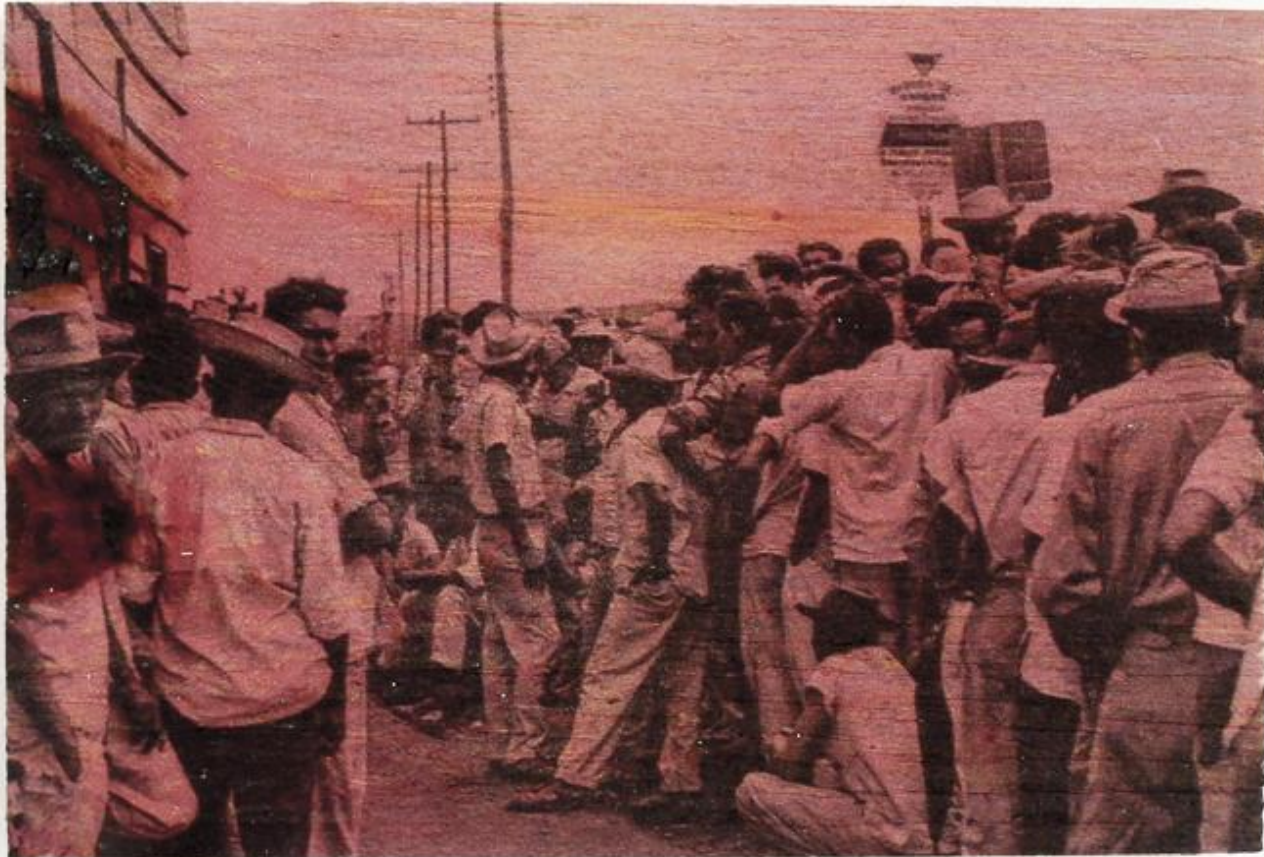
ÍRIS HELENA

Addressed to: postal nº 3, 2023

Series "Livro do Tombo"

UV printing on wood, metallic hinge,
postage and imprinted stamps, screws

10 x 15 x 1.5 cm



ÍRIS HELENA

Addressed to: postal nº 4, 2023

Series "Livro do Tombo"

*UV printing on wood, metallic hinge,
postage and imprinted stamps, screws*

10 x 15 x 1.5 cm





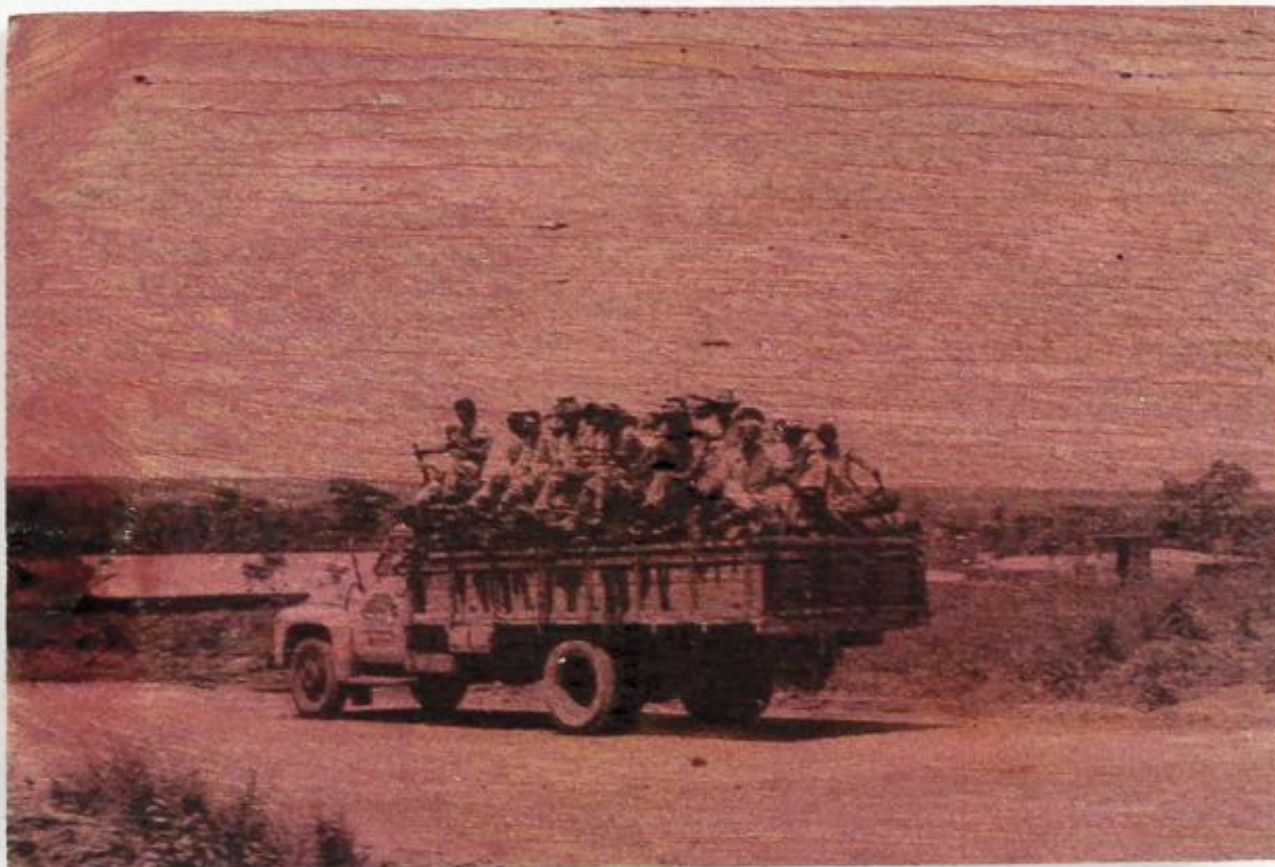
ÍRIS HELENA

Addressed to: postal nº 5, 2023

Series "Livro do Tombo"

UV printing on wood, metallic hinge,
postage and imprinted stamps, screws

10 x 15 x 1.5 cm



ÍRIS HELENA

Addressed to: postal nº 6, 2023

Series "Livro do Tombo"

UV printing on wood, metallic hinge,
postage and imprinted stamps, screws

10 x 15 x 1.5 cm



ÍRIS HELENA

Addressed to: postal nº 7, 2023

Series "Livro do Tombo"

UV printing on wood, metallic hinge,
postage and imprinted stamps, screws

10 x 15 x 1.5 cm

AO PLANALTO
13 FEV 28
DF

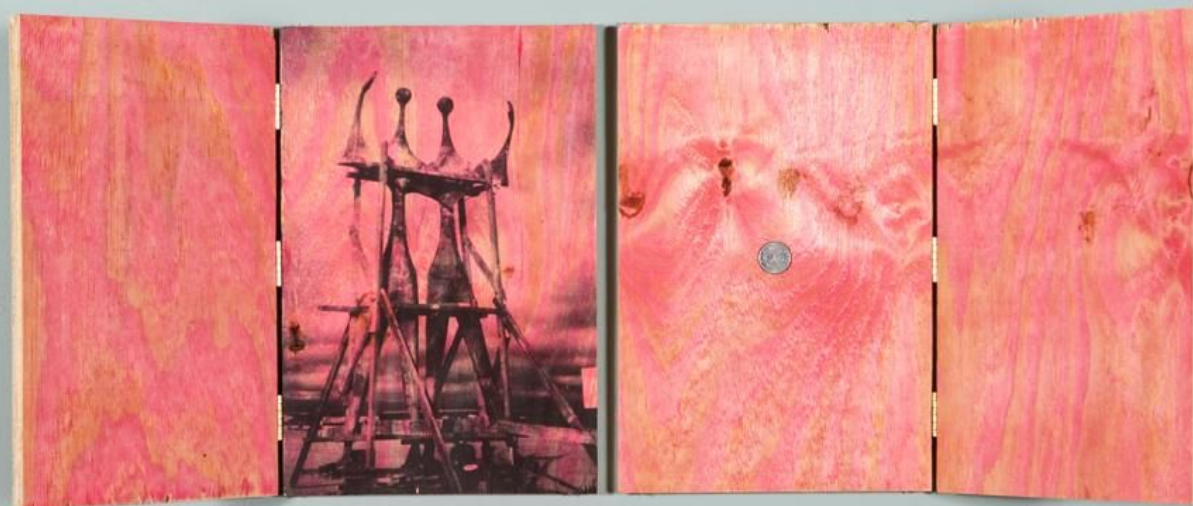
PLANALTO
13 FEV 28
DF



Three horizontal lines for an address.







ÍRIS HELENA

Livro do Tombo, 2019

UV printing on phenolic resinous wood (wood for siding),
metal hinge and stainless steel coin

145 x 40 x 1.5 cm

Íris Helena

1987 - João Pessoa, PB, Brazil

Lives and works in Brasília, DF, Brazil

A multidisciplinary artist whose research and practice focus on a critical, philosophical and poetic investigation of urban landscapes. Íris Helena incorporates images of the city within the surfaces / supports she chooses to materialize them. The precarious and ordinary supports are often removed from their daily consumption and enable the construction / reconstruction of memory linked to risk, instability and, above all, to the desire for erasure.

Graduated in Visual Arts from the Universidade Federal da Paraíba. Also holds a Master's Degree in Contemporary Poetics and is currently doing her PhD in Displacements and Spatialities in Contemporary Art at Universidade de Brasília.

Íris Helena has taken part in several artist residencies in Brazil and abroad, such as a special residency programme commissioned by the Brazilian Foreign Affairs Ministry during the "Year of Germany in Brazil" in Frankfurt, Germany (2013); and most recently, the *Pé Vermelho Residency Programme*, in Planaltina, DF, Brazil (2023); and the *Vila Sul Residency Programme*, at the Goethe Institut Salvador, BA, Brazil (2020).

In 2018, she was awarded the PIPA Prize (1st place - online category), and in 2017 she was one of the 3 artists awarded with the FOCO Bradesco ArtRio Prize.

Her works are part of important Brazilian institutional collections, such as the Gilberto Chateaubriand Collection, Museum of Modern Art - MAM, Rio de Janeiro; Museu de Arte do Rio - MAR; PIPA Institute; Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Itamaraty; among others.

RECENT SOLO SHOWS

- *Práticas de Arquivo Morto - Notas*. Curated by Agnaldo Farias. Caixa Cultural São Paulo, São Paulo, SP, Brazil (2019);
- *Uma Semana com Iris Helena: Lume recebe Portas Vilaseca*. Curated by Jaime Portas Vilaseca. São Paulo Art Weekend, Galeria Lume, São Paulo, SP, Brazil (2018).

RECENT GROUP SHOWS

- *Lá, onde estiver*. Caixa Cultural Brasília, Brasília, DF, Brazil (2023);
- *At Memory's Edge*. Curated by Luna Goldberg. Fundación Pablo Atchugarry Miami, Miami, FL, USA (2022);
- 1st National Salon of Contemporary Art - Goiás. Museu de Arte Contemporânea (MAC - GO), Goiânia, GO, Brazil (2022);
- *Diamante-Grafite-Carvão*. Gallery Week 2021. Curated by Fernando Mota. Espaço Fonte, São Paulo, Brazil (2021);
- *Zonas Limítrofes*. Curated by Tiago Sant'Ana. Goethe Institute, Salvador, BA, Brazil (2020);
- *Rumor*. Curated by Yana Tamayo. Caixa Cultural Brasília, Brasília, Brazil (2020);
- *La Fabrique du Paysage*. Curated by Julie Faitot and Alice Shýler-Mallet. Galerie Duchamp / Centre d'Art Contemporaine de la V, Yvetot, France (2019);
- *Estratégias do Feminino*. Curated by Fabricia Jordão, Daniela Thomas, Helena Severo and Rita Sepúlveda Faria. Farol Santander, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil (2019).

COLLECTIONS

- PIPA Institute. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- Arte Al Límite. Santiago do Chile, Chile.
- Museu de Arte do Rio - MAR. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- Gilberto Chateaubriand Collection. Museu de Arte Moderna - MAM, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Itamaraty. Brasília, DF, Brazil.
- SESC. João Pessoa, PB, Brazil.
- Fundação Cultural de João Pessoa - FUNJOPE, Brazil

AWARDS

- Acquisition Award - 2nd Small Format Art Salon. Museu de Arte de Britânia, Britânia, GO, Brazil (2020);
- PIPA Award - Winner (online category). Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil (2018);
- ArtRio Foco Bradesco Award. Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil (2017);
- I Vera Brant Contemporary Art Award. Palácio do Buriti, Brasília, DF, Brazil (2016);
- 22° Salão Anapolino de Arte. Anápolis, GO, Brazil (2016);
- Transborda Brasília Award. Brasília, DF, Brazil (2015);
- Rumos Itaú Cultural. São Paulo, SP, Brazil (2013);
- Acquisition Award, I Visual Arts Salon. SESC, João Pessoa, PB, Brazil (2012);
- Acquisition Award, XIII SAMAP. Salão Municipal de Artes Plásticas, João Pessoa, PB, Brazil (2010);
- Honorable mention, II EDP Energias nas Artes Award. Tomie Ohtake Institute, São Paulo, SP, Brazil (2010);
- Honorable mention, 61° Salão de Abril. Fortaleza, CE, Brazil (2010).



Mu1ambö





MULAMBÖ

Bandeira da Reconstrução Coletiva, 2023

[Collective Reconstruction Flag]

100% polyester fabric and reflective tape

75 x 115 cm

Edition: 1/3

REVIRAVOLTA
PRA TUA TERRA!

MULAMBÖ

*Reviravolta pra tua terra**, 2023

[Turnaround to your land]

Neon installation

40 x 160 cm

Edition: unique

** Illustrative image of
the work on display at
Arco Lisboa (stand OP04)*



MULAMBÖ

Gengiva [Gum], 2019-2023

Spray paint on bricks

150 x 60 x 60 cm

Edition: unique



Mulambö

1995 - Saquarema, RJ, Brazil

Lives and works in Saquarema, RJ, Brazil

Born João in 1995, the artist grew up as MULAMBÖ in Praia da Vila, in the city of Saquarema, Rio de Janeiro, where he lives and works. He takes symbols and materials from everyday life seeking for a "re-foundation" of the narratives that surround people's lives. Football, Carnival, his family and the stories that have built the ground where he lives emerge in his research and practice through paintings, objects, flags and installations, pointing up the idea that he makes art to affirm that "there is no museum in the world like our grandmother's house".

The artist presented his works in two critically acclaimed solo shows in Rio de Janeiro, in 2019: "Tudo Nosso", at MAR - Museu de Arte do Rio; and "Prato de Pedreiro", at Centro Municipal de Arte Hélio Oiticica. In 2021, he presented his first solo show at Portas Vilaseca Galeria, "Mulambö all in gold". In the same year, he was selected to exhibit for the first time outside Brazil, at the Das Schaufenster space, in Seattle (USA), where he presented the solo show "Out of many, muchos más"; and also at Haus der Kunst, in Munich (Germany), in the group exhibition "SWEAT", curated by Anna Schneider and Raphael Fonseca.

In 2022, he was commissioned to develop the series of paintings "O couro come" for the Inhotim Institute, MG, Brazil; and also the installation "O penhor dessa igualdade", for the CCSP Exhibition Programme, in São Paulo, Brazil.

His works are part of important Brazilian collections, including: Museu de Arte do Rio - MAR (Rio de Janeiro, RJ); Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo (São Paulo, SP), The Ingá Museum (Niterói, RJ) and The Inhotim Institute (Brumadinho, MG).

RECENT SOLO SHOWS

- *Ourubu* - Curated by Marco Antonio Theobaldo. Instituto Pretos Novos and Gustavo Schnoor Gallery - UERJ, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2022-2023);
- *Out of many, muchos más* - Curated by Anna Parisi and Tiffany Danielle Elliot, Das Schaufenster, Seattle, USA (2021);
- *Mulambö todo de ouro* - Curated by the artist. Text: Raphael Fonseca, Portas Vilaseca Galeria, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2021);
- *Traçantes* - Curated by the artist. Sesc Santana, São Paulo, Brazil (2020);
- *Tudo Nosso* - Curated by the museum's team. MAR - Museu de Arte do Rio, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2019);
- *Reservado para Pixador Amador* - Curated by the artist. Centro de Artes UFF, Niterói, RJ, Brazil (2019);
- *Prato de Pedreiro* - Curated by the artist. Centro Municipal de Arte Hélio Oiticica, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil (2019).

COLLECTIONS

- Museu de Arte do Rio (MAR) - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;
- Pinacoteca do Estado de Sao Paulo - Sao Paulo, Brazil;
- Museu Ingá - Niterói, RJ, Brazil;
- Instituto Inhotim - Brumadinho, MG, Brazil.

RECENT GROUP SHOWS

- *32nd CCSP Exhibition Program* - Curated by Beatriz Lemos, Renata Felinto, Vânia Leal, Maria Adelaide Pontes and Sylvia Monasterios. Centro Cultural São Paulo, SP, Brazil (2022-2023);
- "*Quilombo: life, problems and aspirations of the black*" - Curated by: Inhotim team. Instituto Inhotim, Brumadinho, MG, Brazil (2022-2023);
- *Composição Carioca* - Curated by Cecília Fortes. Antigo Convento do Carmo, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil (2022);
- *Coleção MAR + Enciclopédia Negra* - Curated by the museum's team. Museu de Arte do Rio - MAR, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2022);
- *Carolina Maria de Jesus: Um Brasil para os brasileiros* - Curated by Hélio Menezes and Raquel Barreto - Instituto Moreira Salles, São Paulo, Brazil (2021-2022);
- *SWEAT* - Curated by Anna Schneider and Raphael Fonseca. Haus Der Kunst, Munich, Germany (2021-2022);
- *Crônicas Cariocas* - Curated by Marcelo Campos, Amanda Bonan, Luiz Antônio Simas and Conceção Evaristo - Museu de Arte do Rio - MAR, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2021-2022);
- *Estopim e Segredo* - Curated by Ulisses Carrilho and Clarissa Diniz. Parque Lage Visual Arts School, EAV Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2020).

UPCOMING PROJECTS

June - July 2023

Artist in residency at *Homesession* (Barcelona, Spain)

During the residency, Mulambö intends to explore the presence of football and of the Barcelona team in the minds of an entire generation of young people, from the periphery of Brazil and also from different experiences of Brazilian players who took part in the team in the last decades. Experiences that have complexities and issues that go beyond football.



© 2023 Portas Vilaseca Galeria

Jaime Portas Vilaseca

Founder and Director

jaime@portasvilaseca.com.br

Frederico Pellachin

Communications and Institutional Relations

fredericopellachin@portasvilaseca.com.br

Clara Reis

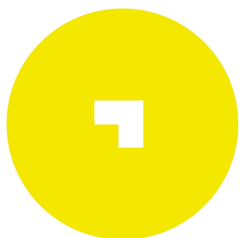
Sales

clarareis@portasvilaseca.com.br

Ana Bia Silva

Production Assistant

anabiasilva@portasvilaseca.com.br



PORTAS
VILASECA
G A L E R I A

Website: www.portasvilaseca.com.br

Facebook: www.facebook.com/portasvilaseca

Instagram: @portasvilaseca

Twitter: @portasvilaseca

Artsy: www.artsy.net/portas-vilaseca-galeria

+55 21 2274 5965

www.portasvilaseca.com.br

galeria@portasvilaseca.com.br

Rua Dona Mariana, 137 casa 2

Botafogo 22280-020

Rio de Janeiro RJ Brazil

