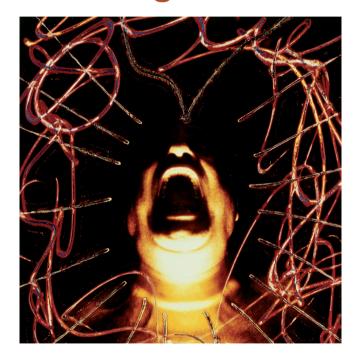
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# **Diving Deep** into Origin



In O útero do mundo [The Womb of the World], over 270 works from MAM's collection promote an encounter with ancestral power

great room 03



Pitágoras (Goiânia, GO, 1964), untitled, 2005. Acrylic on offset print, 42 x 30,3 cm. Collection MAM, acquisition Prize Energias do Brasil - Panorama 2005. Photo Renato Parada

The human body features prominently on Western art. In many different moments of history, it was represented in an idealized manner. expressing different conceptions of beauty. In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, very different bodies compared to those seen in traditional works emerged. They were strange, distorted, convulsed bodies with nothing that we used to call beautiful. That new look of bodies had a scientific explanation. It derived from Hysteria, a mental disease studied by MD Jean-Martin Charcot and his disciples, but particularly by psychoanalysis founder Sigmund Freud. Artists celebrated Hysteria. For Surrealists like André Breton and Louis Aragon, hysteria's discovery and understanding opened a completely new field for poetry. That phenomenon, up until then considered as a pathology, became a means of expression to be explored. The O útero do mundo

exhibition alludes to hysteria in the positive sense attributed to it by Surrealists: a creative principle capable of liberating ancestral power, both more animal and more instinctive

Selected from MAM's collection by curator Veronica Stigger, over 270 works facilitate contact with this power manifested in incoherent, disarticulated bodies. Without reason's control, those bodies propose a return to origins, to the womb from humanity itself has born

"Womb of the world" is an expression coined by novelist Clarice Lispector, from whom the curator extracted the ideas guiding the exhibition. For Veronica Stigger, Lispector understood hysterical impulse as driving poetics in which seeking ecstasy is seeking a means to shed conventions, both in art and humanity. The works display are

grouped into three different segments: "Grito ancestral"

great room 05



Rodrigo Braga (Manaus, AM, 1976), Comunhão I, 2006. Photography on paper, 50 x 75 cm. Collection MAM. Gift of the artist assisted by Clube de Colecionadores de Fotografia MAM São Paulo. Photo by artist

[Ancestral Cry], "Montagem humana" [Human Setup]. and "Vida primária" [Primary Life]. Those segments are named according to Clarice Lispector's expressions collected by the curator in works such as The Passion according to G. H., Água viva, and The Hour of the Star. "Grito ancestral" suggests the experience of escaping oneself through animalization. In Clarice Lispector. to confront the animal is to put yourself before a mirror showing what you want to hide and what you are afraid to face. Through a scream, a sound anterior to speech. man gets closer to animals, risks dehumanization, and is called back to the common ground of all beings. Hysterical impulses are disorganizing, they affect speech and the body. "Montagem humana" regards physical disorganization, which is also a fragmentation of the self. Human setup is composed of fragments. It presents itself as makeshift construction, as

a broken vase reconstituted with its shards. Sectioned bodies, freed from their vital functions, are battlefields: opposing forces of civilization and culture conflict in them. "Vida primária" alludes to the path leading to divinity. That path, however, is downhill: it invites to go down to earth, the element in which life manifests in its totality, from birth to death, with no drama or redemption. In this return to the original scene, human beings do not become animals, do not fragment themselves, do not try to recompose themselves, but want to become what is the most elementary, fuse with it until rebirth.

The womb of the world of which Clarice Lispector speaks is an ancestral cave from where rebirth is possible. The image of a vagina represents possibility of rebirth: it is the entrance door to the womb and the exit door to the world. In the curator's words, "The vagina—primary life that dismantles within human



setup, forcing it to reassemble—also screams: it screams today and always, the most ancestral of cries, which is also the cry that has not come whole yet, but it will come."

### Where & When

Great Room 9/5 to 12/18 Sponsor: Desenvolve SP – Agência de Desenvolvimento Paulista

Samson Flexor (Soroca, Rússia, today's Moldávia, 1907 – São Paulo, SP, 1971), Parto, 1969. Oil on canvas, 189,7 x 189,8 cm. Collection MAM, gift of the artist. Photo Romulo Fialdini

paulo figueiredo room collection 09

# Volpi: Small Formats

# Restoring Works



Where there is a great artist, there might be a great collector. That is the case with Alfredo Volpi (1896-1988) and Ladi Biezus, a devoted collector of his works.

Engineer Biezus has been devoted to collecting Volpi since the 1970s. He is one of the main references for the artist's production and work processes. Biezus owns an extraordinary collection, being considered as one of the greatest "Volpists" in Brazil.

The Volpi: pequenos formatos exhibition presents a selection with over seventy works from Ladi Biezus's collection. The artist's trajectory is shown in a variety of media and techniques. This is an unique opportunity to know Volpi's creation process, a Brazilian master

### Where & When

Paulo Figueiredo Room 6/21 - 12/18 Sponsor: Bradesco MAM was selected to receive funds from the Cultural Action Program of the State Secretary of Culture. The effort by the Secretary aims at contributing to preserve museum collections, both public and private. The 2015 program allowed five museums from São Paulo State to invest in preserving and restoring works in their collections.

Resources coming from

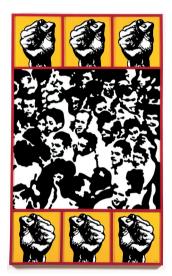
this program allowed MAM to restore thirty-nine works in paper, a media highly susceptible to deterioration processes. Thanks to these restoration efforts, works by Mira Schendel, Maria Bonomi, Oswaldo Goeldi, and Gilvan Samico are now back to their original form.

Edital PROAC nº 19/2015 - Preservação de acervos museológicos

Exhibition view at Paulo Figueiredo Room. Photo Renato Parada

Restoring process of an untitled work by Mira Schendel. Photo Ana Maria C. Scaglianti

# General Strike

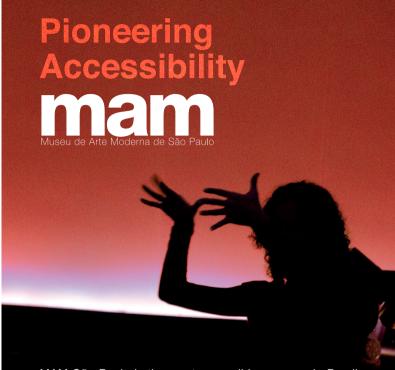


### Where & When

Paulo Mendes de Almeida Library 8/5 – 12/18 Free courses are a tradition at MAM. Their success is due to being in synch with the public and current needs. A good example of that is the *Laboratório de curadoria e criação* [Curatorship and Creation Lab], created in 2013 with an unheard-of new proposal for a Brazilian museum: To generate an exhibition from work developed during a year of classes and theoretical discussions.

The lab's third edition had "A idade do ócio" [The Age of Idleness] as theme, based on reflections upon the form of political resistance resulting from suspension of work, be it through laziness, vacations, idleness, or strike. Hosted by Paulo Mendes de Almeida Library, the Greve geral exhibition presents works in MAM's collection selected by the Laboratório's students, supervised by professor Veronica Stigger.

Cláudio Tozzi (São Paulo, SP, 1944), *Multidão*, 1968. Acrylic on chipboard, 200 x 120 cm. Collection MAM, acquisition Fundo de aquisição de obras para o acervo MAM São Paulo - Pirelli. Photo Romulo Fialdini



MAM São Paulo is the most accessible museum in Brazil. Facilities, exhibitions and cultural programs are available for all. Since 2002, MAM has been holding a training program for educators to host the deaf community, which numbers almost reach 10 million people in Brazil. Educators trained at MAM are now acting with the deaf public in the main Brazilian museums. Contact us. When it comes to art, we teach you how to communicate with those who cannot hear.



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1970). Karen. Eliane. Henry. Keila. Ellen. Sandra e Kellen, 1997, Backlight on wood cm. Collection MAM. loan from Eduardo

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