Labō & Rafaela Kennedy

Belém, PA, Brazil, 1995 & Manaus, AM, Brazil, 1994

- 1 **Untitled**, from the series *Amoré*, 2023
- 2 Untitled, from the series *Breadas*, 2024
- 3 Untitled, from the series *Breadas*, 2024
- 4 Untitled, from the series *Breadas*, 2024

digital photography printed on Hahnemühle Photo Rag 308 gsm paper

MAM São Paulo Collection. Donated by Cleusa Garfinkel through the Núcleo Panorama MAM São Paulo, 2024

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Labō and Rafaela Kennedy develop their work in deep connection with the natural and cultural elements of their respective hometowns, Belém and Manaus. The artists weave visual narratives from intimate contact with organic materials from forests and rivers, dialogue with oral traditions, and experiences in electrifying urban settings. Their joint creations, often materialized in photographs, use local landscapes as backdrops for moments of emancipation of hybrid, dissident, non-normative bodies linked to other dimensions. In this sense, their works challenge fixed notions related to ecology and technology, gender performance, interspecies relations, and the intersection between earthly matter and the spiritual realm. In the duo's works, elements of everyday life merge with the extraordinary, so that mythical aspects—sometimes intentionally directed by the artists and sometimes spontaneously found in daily liferesonate in their inventions. Through the interplay between the use of organic matter, the vibrancy of the LGBTQIA+ scene, and influences from local mythologies, the duo creates images with high visual impact, imbued not only with telluric forces but also with magic and mystery, discussing how we transform ourselves to express our subjectivities.

For the 38th Panorama, Labō and Rafaela Kennedy present a series of photographs that delve into the interplay between natural phenomena and urban settings in Northern Brazil. The images, populated by extraordinary figures with natural armors that reconfigure the body, create visual narratives that underscore life's capacity for transmutation on the planet and its intrinsic relationship with beings from other dimensions. In this warm visual brew, what is most material reveals the intangible, just as what is ancient merges with the dizzying transformations of the contemporary condition. In this sense, these talismanic images invoke forces from other times and dimensions to rethink our place in the present and project possible futures.