

Zahý Tentehar

Cana Brava Indigenous Reserve, MA, Brazil, 1989

***Máquina ancestral:
Ureipy [Ancestral
Machine: Ureipy],***
2023, two-channel video,
with sound, 11min

Artist's collection

○ Created and performed by: Zahý Tentehar.
Creative direction: Zahý Tentehar and
Candombá (Daniel Wierman, Marcelo Hallit
and Philipp Lavra). Executive producer:
Daniel Wierman. Visual effects and
scenography: Modular Dreams (Priscilla
Cesarino and Danilo Barros), Danilo Rosa
and Marcelo Hallit. First camera assistant and
logger: Isadora Relvas. Steadicam operator:
Murillo Henrique, Breno BL. Soundtrack
and sound design: Pedro Zopelar. Styling
photography: Philipp Lavra and Isadora
Relvas. Color grading: Isabela Moura.
Costume designer: Rosina Lobosco. Make-
up artist: Camila Machado. Direction of
movement: Elaine Erhardt Rollemberg. Set
producer: Luiz Felipe Bianchini. Catering:
Sandra Godoy. Arts producer: Elaine Erhardt
Rollemberg. Gaffer: Bruno Obara. Electrician:
Heitor Nogueira. Driver: Marco Diogo

Zahý Tentehar's work is centered on theatrical and audiovisual production, rooted in her origins in the Cana Brava Indigenous Territory. Her creations use the body as an elastic and flexible raw material, understanding dramaturgy and performance as Indigenous technologies. In her poetics, she views life as a grand staging where we are all authors, directors, and actors of our own stories. Her works investigate the human capacity to create and negotiate truths, constructing social masks that are both coherent and contradictory within behavioral norms. While acknowledging the structural oppression imposed by capitalist society, Zahý Tentehar works with the vision that we are not irrevocably defined by its dictates. As an actress and author, she seeks to transform and transcend these impositions, connecting with her ancestry and the surrounding resistance movements. By using theater and video to reinterpret traditions, her artistic practice reflects the historical strength and cultural adaptation of Indigenous peoples in the face of the complex plots of modernity and the inexorable planetary transformations.

At the 38th Panorama, Zahý Tentehar presents her latest research, which dismantles—through strong visuality and striking symbolism, but also in a sensory manner—the fixed notion of technology. The video performance

titled *Máquina ancestral: Ureipy* [Ancestral Machine: Ureipy] (2023) is constructed in two channels, juxtaposing two opposing dimensions, through which the same figure undergoes a series of acts in search of understanding its nature. In this science fiction narrative, a solitary robotic entity simultaneously inhabits two realities: an ancestral one amidst a ruined setting and another connected to technocratic civilization in a laboratory environment. Instead of providing definitive answers, the work engages the audience in a sensory experience that subverts common perceptions and explores the intersections between ancestry, humanity, and technology. Rather than a single, fatal destiny, the artist envisions a plural future with multiple vital possibilities.