



The cultural life of São Paulo in the 1950s had rapidly expanded with the opening of the Museu de Arte de São Paulo [Museum of Art of São Paulo] (MASP) in 1947, as well as MAM two years later. In 1952, MASP inaugurated the Instituto de Arte Contemporânea [Institute of Contemporary Art] (IAC), considered Brazil's first design school. MAM, in turn, implemented the Escola de Artesanato [School of Crafts] at the same time. The two initiatives aimed at articulating art education to the productive sectors—especially industry—through architecture and design.

Leopold Haar was a professor of graphic arts at IAC, where Maurício Nogueira Lima studied. There, the architect Jacob Ruchti also taught a class called Composition, the title of many of the pieces gathered here. In the first class, students learned that composition in visual arts corresponded to the organization of space, and its study started with elements and principles of visual language as a

means of expressing ideas and concepts. It is through this notion that we can perceive that practical dimension the artists from Ruptura wanted to achieve with their work. Both painting and sculpture, as well as drafting and design, were aimed at constructing and ordering the space of modern life.