

## MAM São Paulo premieres work by Frederico Filippi in its Sculpture Garden

*The ephemeral work entitled "Cobra Grande" features the shape of a deforestation chain, a tool used in forest clearing in the Amazon territory, and stretches around the Sculpture Garden in front of the museum*



Federico Filippi. Details of "Cobra Grande" (2022) in MAM's Sculpture Garden. Photo: Studio at Work

The **Museum of Modern Art of São Paulo - MAM São Paulo** [📍](#), as of December 10, presents a new work in its Sculpture Garden, located in Ibirapuera Park. Signed by artist **Frederico Filippi**, the work **Cobra Grande** (2022) [Big Snake] is a temporary work of ephemeral character, given that its composition makes it subject to everyday conditions. The initiative is part of the celebrations for the 30th anniversary of the MAM's Sculpture Garden, to be completed in 2023.

Born in São Carlos, in São Paulo's countryside, Filippi currently lives and works in the state capital and in the last six years has focused on border issues between the forest and the advancement of industry. *Cobra Grande* is a work that is part of a series he has been developing on deforestation devices. "My artistic research began in relation to the friction

between matrices of different civilizations after the invasion of the continent of America and over time I became interested in the place that is in the middle of that continent and which is a place of dispute that draws the attention of greedy eyes” he remarks.

Since 2016, the artist has been working on community building projects in the Amazon and in southeastern Brazil. This proximity to territory has led his research towards studies on a “deforestation frontier”, as he calls it.

In previous works developed from that same perspective, Frederico brought reflections on the tools used in the deforestation process, such as machetes, chainsaw chains, and machinery parts. The work in the MAM Sculpture Garden is shaped like a large chain, a device used as an overt deforestation technique in the jungle. “Cobra Grande” is a life-size replica of such a chain, that connects to two tractors at its ends, quickly and abruptly putting down the vegetation.

The large chain, which occupies a large space in the garden created by Burle Marx in front of the museum, is made of adobe, a material widely used in bioconstruction - a traditional construction technique that uses clay, like wattle and daub, for example - and is accommodated in the shape of an arc between the trees in the museum’s outside space.

Composed of clay and plant fibers, adobe is a material that has low environmental impact. Each of the chain's 180 links was molded from this mixture. The pieces, however, did not go through the usual burning process, they were simply sundried, obtaining an aspect very similar to oxidized iron. Because it was not burned, the material may fall apart due to natural and everyday factors, such as rain and wind.

The artist points out that “the opposition of natural and industrial elements (snake/chain, clay/steel) constitutes the concept of threat and later deposition”. According to Frederico, there is a contrast, therefore, that is also revealed in the public's perception of the work, which *a priori* may appear to be made of one material (oxidized iron) and when looked at more closely, it appears to be something else (adobe). “These discrepancies on materials are also very important for the work”, says the artist.

"The work of Frederico Filippi using clay - a material taken from the earth to which it will return - allows us to reflect on the perverse techniques of deforestation currently in practice. In the critical moment planet Earth finds itself, in the perspective of the environmental crisis, the work contributes in drawing attention to an urgent issue that is fundamental for the maintenance of biodiversity and life in general", states **Cauê Alves**, chief curator of MAM São Paulo.

## About MAM's Sculpture Garden

In 1993, the **Museum of Modern Art of São Paulo** inaugurated the **Sculpture Garden** with works from its collection and from the collection of São Paulo City Hall. The initiative created a unique and diverse space for the city, already habituated with works of art in public spaces but which now hosted an open-air exhibition in the most visited park in the country. The Sculpture Garden marks an initiative that revived MAM's collection in a space of its own, free of charge, and with a large circulation of people - a trajectory that completes 30 years in 2023.

The landscaping project was commissioned for the office of the emblematic landscape architect **Burle Marx**. For MAM's Garden, Burle Marx created a logic of its own for the arrangement of artistic volumes with modern characteristics, and combined the landscape, the volumes of the works, and the intervals in a fruition charged with an apparent informality of curves, drawing closer to the architecture of Oscar Niemeyer around it, particularly the marquee and the *Oca*.

The works form a heterogeneous group, which asymmetrically shows an important profile of the three-dimensional production from Brazilian contemporary art, centered on the second half of the 20th century. In large part, this stems from its own conformation history, as some of the works were brought over from various biennials and others were added as MAM was able to intervene in the space. Thus, for example, works such as *Exu mola de Jeep*, by **Mário Cravo**, which participated in the 5th São Paulo Biennial integrating the Bahia pavilion by Lina Bo Bardi, is in close proximity with a steel work by **José Resende**, donated to MAM by Itaú Cultural, which serpents through the space. In a similar situation, there is the granite sculpture by **Lélio Coluccini**, *The hunter*, belonging to the city of São Paulo, close to works charged with a constructive rationality, such as the sculptures by **Amilcar de Castro** and **Franz Weissman**.

The diversity of origins and productions give the Garden an individualized relevance in the Park's landscape, which has mobilized MAM several times over these past 30 years. Changes were made to the set of works on display, temporary exhibitions have eventually taken place, major restorations and lighting projects, in addition to the perennial work of MAM's education team in this space.

More information about the set of 30 works in the Garden is available on the museum's website.

## About MAM São Paulo

Founded in 1948, the Museum of Modern Art of São Paulo is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization of public interest. Its collection features over 5,000 works produced by the most representative names of mainly Brazilian modern and contemporary art. Both the collection and the exhibitions privilege experimentalism, focusing on the plurality of art and the diversity of interests from contemporary societies.

The Museum maintains a wide range of activities, including courses, seminars, lectures, performances, concerts, video sessions, and art workshops. The content of the exhibitions and activities is made accessible to all audiences through visits with Brazilian Sign Language interpreters, audio description of the art works, and video guides in Brazilian Sign Language. The collection of books, periodicals, documents, and audiovisual material encompasses over 65,000 titles. Exchange procedures with museum libraries in several countries keep our collection alive and expanding.

Located in Ibirapuera Park, the biggest green area in São Paulo, the Museum of Modern Art building was adapted by renowned Brazilian architecture Lina Bo Bardi, and, in addition to the exhibition rooms, it has a studio, a library, an auditorium, a restaurant, and a store where visitors can find design pieces, art books, and some official MAM brand items. The Museum spaces are visually integrated into the Sculpture Garden, designed by Roberto Burle Marx to house works from the collection. All facilities are accessible to visitors with disabilities.

#### **Service**

#### **Exhibition of the work *Cobra Grande* , by Frederico Filippi**

Venue: Sculpture Garden of the Museum of Modern Art of São Paulo

Opening: December 10th, Saturday, 11 am

Tickets: Free at MAM's Sculpture Garden

Address: Parque Ibirapuera (Av. Pedro Álvares Cabral, s/nº - Gates 2 and 3)

Hours: Tuesday to Sunday, 10 am to 6 pm (visitors admitted until 5:30 pm)

Telephone: +55 11 5085-1300

Access for PWD

Restaurant/cafe

Air conditioning

[www.mam.org.br/MAMoficial](http://www.mam.org.br/MAMoficial)

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#### **Information for the press**

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