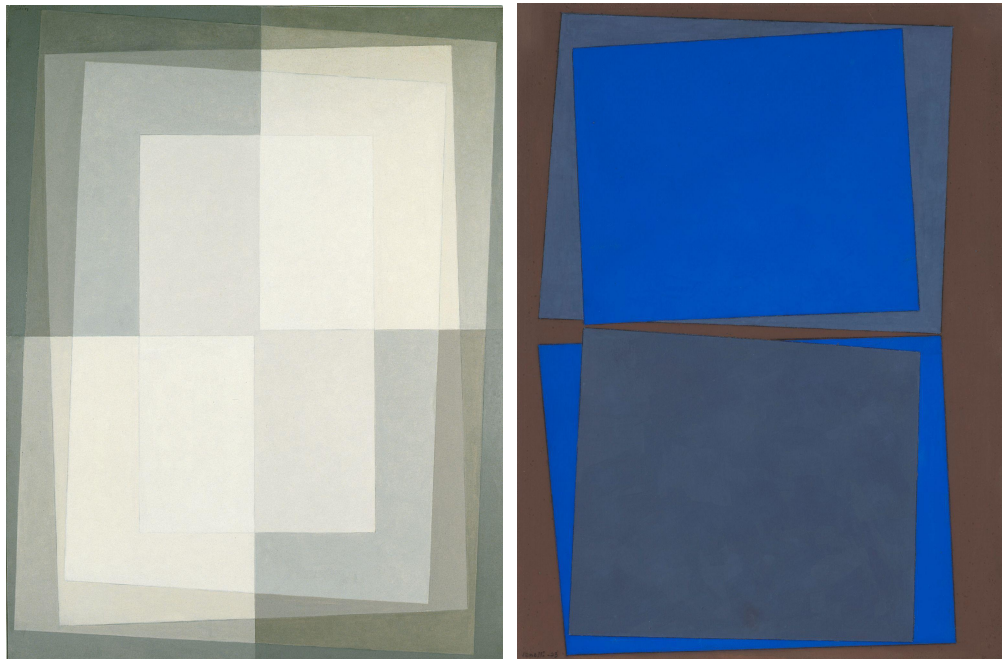


Press Release
February, 2023

MAM São Paulo presents homage to Arcangelo Ianelli's centennial with a retrospective exhibition

Curated by Denise Mattar, the exhibition 'Ianelli 100 anos: o artista essencial' [Ianelli 100 Years: The Essential Artist] presents an overview of the artist's extensive pictorial and sculptural work, and also brings the intimacy of his studio, with objects and references from his workspace. MAM will launch the exhibition catalog at the opening



Picture 1: Arcangelo Ianelli, 'Sinfonia em branco', 1973, tempera on canvas. Picture 2: Arcangelo Ianelli, 'Balé das formas', 1973, gouache on paper. Pinacoteca de São Paulo Collection.

The **Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo [Museum of Modern Art of São Paulo]** unlocks its 2023 program with an exhibition that celebrates **Arcangelo Ianelli's** (1922-2009) centennial, an artist who dedicated his research to seek the essence of color and light. Curated by **Denise Mattar**, the exhibition "Ianelli 100 anos: o artista essencial" [Ianelli 100 Years: The Essential Artist] will open to the public on February 14 and will present an overview of the artist's work.

Ianelli's journey intertwines with MAM's. A regular, distinguished presence since the beginning of the history of the museum, the artist had his first individual exhibition at

the institution in 1961, by the hands of Mário Pedrosa, and starting from 1969, he participated in six editions of the *Panorama de Pintura* [Painting Panorama], winning an award in 1973. In 1978, his retrospective at the museum brought together over 160 works and received the award for Best Exhibition of the Year, by ABCA - Associação Brasileira dos Críticos de Arte [Brazilian Association of Art Critics].

Rubens Vaz Ianelli, son of the artist, says that MAM São Paulo was his father's second home. "In the 1970s, when he plunged into the fruitful phase of geometry, Ianelli was particularly close to MAM São Paulo. Whether through his paintings, which achieved a fine purification, or his almost militancy as an artist inside the museum's day-to-day. He often walked around the museum's wide blueprint during long afternoons talking with his friend Paulo Mendes de Almeida, who now names the museum's library", he recalls.

"Today, 45 years later, with his journey now completed, he returns to the same museum under a new perspective, providing a new reading, inserting his work in the contemporary art panorama", comments **Kátia Ianelli**, the artist's daughter.

"The new generations have had less contact with the work of Arcangelo Ianelli, whose production in drawing, painting, and sculpture was fundamental for understanding Brazilian art in the 20th century", says **Cauê Alves**, Chief Curator of MAM. "The exhibition curated by Denise Mattar, that MAM São Paulo presents in the year following the centennial of Ianelli's birth, brings a generous selection of the artist's oeuvre and allows the public to get a better insight of his creative process. The exhibition contributes both to the dissemination of his work and to the fulfilling of the Museum of Modern Art of São Paulo's mission of bringing modern and contemporary art to as many people as possible", Alves concludes.

The curatorial approach adopted in this retrospective show privileges the coherence of Arcangelo Ianelli's work, showing that the 1970s artist was already contained in the young painter of 1950; that the 1975 mural paved the way for the sculpture of the 1990s, a moment when the great paintings were also born, and continued to be carried out until the 2000s. To allow the visitor to understand this process, the exhibition establishes a path that begins with the production of the 1970s, recedes to 1950, and comes back again, tracing the course from the 1960s to the 2000s.

"It is possible to see all these aspects arising from one another at the same time", explains **Denise Mattar**, the curator who was a friend of the artist and was the director of MAM São Paulo between 1987 and 1989. "Ianelli was an artist of making, obsessively devoted to the métier, and uncompromising about the place occupied by painting in art. Having pursued the usual path of his generation, he produced academic works followed by paintings with Cezanian accents, which became increasingly

synthetic until he plunged into abstraction, which sent him without turning back towards the search of essence”, she continues.

The curatorship brought together works that are part of MAM São Paulo’s collection and other institutions’, such as the Museu de Arte Contemporânea MAC-USP, Pinacoteca de São Paulo, Museu de Arte Brasileira da FAAP, and MASP, besides private collections and collections of companies like Santander and Itaú.

The exhibition presents to the public paintings and sculptures by Ianelli sorted into eight groups in a dynamic and non-chronological way. “To paint, for Arcangelo Ianelli, now is to provoke the emergence of color”, announces the poem by Ferreira Gullar already at the first section. The depuration of color, something that the artist assumes up to his final stage, is present in different ways throughout the entire set chosen by the curator.

The exhibition also brings the intimacy of Ianelli's studio through three dioramas containing objects used in life by the artist, such as brushes, easels, pigments, reference books, among other pieces that constituted his work environment.

At the opening event (February 14), MAM will launch the bilingual **catalog** of the exhibition with texts in Portuguese and English, and with the full reproduction of images of the works in the retrospective show. The publication brings together texts signed by **Elizabeth Machado**, President of MAM, **Cauê Alves**, Chief Curator of the museum; **Denise Mattar**, the exhibition’s curator; the art critic **Mário Pedrosa**; the art historian **Giulio Carlo Argan**, whose article is unpublished in Brazil; and the poem *Arcangelo Ianelli - no limite do ver [At the Limit of Seeing]*, by **Ferreira Gullar**. The catalog will also include a chronology and the artist’s résumé, as well as views of the objects he used in his studio.

Ianelli 100 Years is part of a schedule of celebrations for MAM, including the museum’s 75 years and 30 years of its Sculpture Garden.

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 Brazilian modern and contemporary art mainly. 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 of 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 architect Lina Bo Bardi, and, in addition to the exhibition halls, 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.

Info:

Ianelli 100 anos: o artista essencial [Ianelli 100 Years: The Essential Artist]

Dates: From February 14 through May 14 2023

Opening: February 14, Tuesday, at 7 p.m.

Curated by: Denise Mattar

Location: Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, Sala Milú Villela

Address: Ibirapuera Park (Avenue Pedro Álvares Cabral, w/o No. - Gates 1 and 3)

Visitation: Tue-Sun, 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (with the last call at 5:30 p.m.)

Tickets: R\$25,00 full price e R\$12,50 half price. On Sundays, the tickets are for free and the visitors can contribute whatever amount they want.

*Half price tickets for students, only with identification; for low-income youth and elderly people (+60). Free tickets for children under 10 years old; people with disabilities and companions; teachers and directors of São Paulo's state and city public school systems, with identification; members and students at MAM; employees from partner companies and museums; members of ICOM, AICA and ABCA, with identification; SPTuris employees and employees of the Municipal Secretariat of Culture.

Contact: +55 11 5085-1300

Access for people with disabilities

Restaurant/Café

Air conditioning

www.mam.org.br/

www.instagram.com/MAMoficial

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