

MAM's *Sala de Vidro* displays new work by Shirley Paes Leme

The artist created a site-specific installation that establishes a dialogue with Ibirapuera Park, where the museum is located, and highlights the paradox of a "polluted oasis" within the metropolis of São Paulo

As of March 2nd, the **Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo** [Museum of Modern Art of São Paulo] (MAM São Paulo) will display a never-before-seen work by artist Shirley Paes Leme, specially designed to occupy the institution's *Sala de Vidro* [Glass Room]. At the invitation of MAM's chief curator, Cauê Alves, the artist conceived a site-specific installation that establishes a dialogue with the museum's surroundings and at the same time, provokes the public to think about climatic conditions.

Nosso mundo [Our World] (2022-2023) is an installation consisting of reflective aluminum and over 1000 used car air-conditioning filters. On the wall of the room, the filters form a city skyline that is cloudy and out-of-focus, evoking an image caused by air pollution. The mirrored floor then reflects the landscape and architecture of the park, as well as the visitor, bringing the trees and also the marquee into the same space.

The artist explains that the floor, with its mirrored effect, is supposed to make the *Sala de Vidro* a confusing place by evoking different environments within the same space and thus causing the public to become unsure of what is to come. "The visitors at the same time see themselves and the trees, the ceiling, the wall reflected on the floor, but they also see [around them] the trees, the real wall, causing a confusion of realities", comments Shirley Paes Leme.

Simultaneously, there is the skyline on the wall, turning a place that seemed contemplative into a much more provocative space. This ongoing dialogue with Ibirapuera Park was also present in the previous works that occupied the *Sala de Vidro* at the MAM, such as *Cupinzeiros* [Termite Mounds] (2022) by Lidia Lisboa; *Origem e Destino* [Origin and Destiny] (2021) by Rodrigo Bueno and *Retromemória* [Retromemory] (2022) by Lenora de Barros.

The air-conditioning filters that make up the skyline in the installation work are all used, having the dark aspect of the "smoke mark", as the artist calls it, given that the city's polluted air has passed through them. The smoke trails are, in a

way, an integral part of the artist's practice, as she has already used it to compose works from the series *Tensão* [Tension], *Resíduos da Cidade* [City Residues] and *Fumaça-ação* [Smoke-Action].

The filters, stained from pollution, evoke a somewhat frightening tension, as they provoke the audience into thinking that the air passing through them is the same air that we breathe. A survey released by the Institute of Energy and Environment (IEMA) in 2022 indicated that in the last 20 years, air pollution in the city of São Paulo has been above what is recommended by the WHO.

“In addition to highlighting increasingly urgent environmental issues, Shirley Paes Leme reflects on and emphasizes the paradoxical situation of living in a kind of polluted oasis”, says Cauê Alves in his curatorial text.

Further Details:

Sala de Vidro [Glass Room] - *Nosso mundo* [Our World] by Shirley Paes Leme

Opening: 2nd March, Thursday, 7pm

Duration: 2nd March - 28th May, 2023

Location: Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, Sala de Vidro

Address: Ibirapuera Park (Av. Pedro Álvares Cabral, s/no - Gates 1 and 3)

Opening Hours: Tuesday to Sunday, from 10am to 6pm (with last entry at 5:30pm)

Tickets: R\$25,00 Full price R\$12,50 Half Price. Entrance is free on Sundays and visitors can pay what they like.

*Half price for students with identification; low-income youth and the elderly (+60). Free for children under 10 years old; people with disabilities and their caregiver; teachers and directors of the state and municipal public network of São Paulo, with identification; members and students of the MAM; employees of partner companies and museums; members of ICOM, AICA and ABCA with identification; SPTuris employees and employees of the Municipal Secretary of Culture.

Telephone: (11) 5085-1300

Disabled access for the restaurant & café

Air-conditioning

www.mam.org.br/ www.instagram.com/mamsaopaulo www.twitter.com/mamsaopaulo
www.facebook.com/mamsaopaulo www.youtube.com/mamsaopaulo

Press Information:

a4&holofote comunicação

Neila Carvalho | neilacarvalho@a4eholofote.com.br | +55 11 99916-5094