

**MAM São Paulo presents unprecedented work by Tunga at the Sala de Vidro [Glass Room]**

*Composed of elements that reappear in the artist's poetic vocabulary, such as crystal bottles, stones, and plates suspended in arcs and rods, the installation 'Eu, Você e a Lua' [Me, You and the Moon] is one of the last works completed by Tunga*



Tunga. *Eu, Você e a Lua* [Me, You and the Moon], 2015. Sala de Vidro [Glass Room] at Museum of Modern Art of São Paulo. Private collection. Photo: Ding Musa. Image licensed by Instituto Tunga

Tunga (1952–2016) explored alchemy, psychoanalysis, science and philosophy. Over four decades, he created a unique mythology, in which the issue of immutability and transformation are fundamental. Never before exhibited in Brazil, the installation *Eu, Você e a Lua* (2015) [Me, You and the Moon] was one of the last major works completed by the artist and will be presented from August 9th to January 28th, 2024, at the Sala de Vidro [Glass Room] of the Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo [Museum of Modern Art of São Paulo]. The exhibition is endorsed by the Tunga Institute.

“In Tunga’s poetic reasoning, what is on planet Earth or outside, the internal and external, like me, you and the moon, become an indivisible entirety”, reflects Cauê Alves, chief curator of MAM, in the text accompanying the work.

*Eu, Você e a Lua* [Me, You and the Moon] brings together recurring elements of his *oeuvre*, such as stones, mirrors, bottles in crystal, plaster or resin, and plates suspended in arcs and rods. The core of the installation is formed by a large, hollow and petrified tree trunk, supported by two tripods. Under the shadow cast by the work in the Glass Room, an amber trails almost the entire length of the trunk. The mirrors that compose the work reflect quartz bottles from above and from below.

“The fossil of a tree trunk that remains intact, suspended in time, coexists with the essence of ember. This wood infused fragrance releases drops, as if an hourglass were marking time passing and the transformation of matter. Resorting to the smell and vision, the original and prehistoric elements in the work by Tunga merge with the contemporary and the ephemeral presence of the fragrance”, explains Cauê Alves.

The work will be shown at MAM as it was originally exhibited in France in 2015, at the Center d'Arts et de Nature, in Domaine de Chaumont-sur-Loire, with gravel flooring, which constitutes the woody and earthy atmosphere of the environment.

Tunga used to imagine the human body rebuilt from landscape and for this reason he assembled disparate elements to create a new sensibility. “I call this the ‘countenance of the moon’. What is at play here is the transmutation of the act of viewing into perfume”, stated the artist in an article by Myriam Boutouille, *Tunga, l'amour, la lune et l'arbre alchimique*, published in 2015.

## About the artist

Antônio José de Barros Carvalho e Mello Mourão, better known as Tunga, was born in 1952, in Palmares, Pernambuco. He lived and worked in Rio de Janeiro.

He was the first contemporary artist to ever show their work in the Louvre pyramid, besides having participated in exhibitions such as the Venice Biennial in 1982 and the Kassel Documenta in 1992. Today the artist’s work is in collections such as MoMA, in New York; the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston; Centre Pompidou, in Paris; the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Tate Modern, in London.

## About MAM São Paulo

Founded in 1948, the Museum of Modern Art of São Paulo [Museum of Modern Art of São Paulo] is a non-profit civil society of public interest. Its collection has more



than 5,000 works produced by the most representative names in mostly Brazilian modern and contemporary art. Both the collection and the exhibitions favor experimentalism, opening up to the plurality of global artistic production and the diversity of interests of contemporary societies.

The Museum maintains a wide range of activities that include courses, seminars, lectures, performances, musical shows, video sessions and artistic practices. The content of the exhibitions and activities is accessible to all audiences through visits in Libras [Brazilian Sign Language], audio description of the works and video guides in Libras [Brazilian Sign Language]. The collection of books, periodicals, documents and audiovisual material comprises 65,000 titles. The exchange with museum libraries in several countries keeps the collection alive.

Located in Ibirapuera Park, the most important green space in São Paulo, the building housing MAM was adapted by Lina Bo Bardi and in addition to the exhibition rooms it has a studio, library, auditorium, restaurant and a shop where visitors can find design objects, art books and a line of products from the MAM brand. The museum spaces are also visually integrated with the Sculpture Garden, designed by Roberto Burle Marx and Haruyoshi Ono to house works from the collection. All facilities are accessible to special needs visitors.

## About the Tunga Institute

Created in 2017 shortly after the artist's death, the Tunga Institute is a non-profit entity whose objective is to study, preserve and disseminate the artist's legacy. Founded by his son Antônio Mourão, executive director, and by Clara Gerchman, manager of the collection, the Tunga Institute turned into reality a will the artist manifested in life.

The Tunga Institute is made by a team of professionals such as researchers, museologists, assemblers, an archivist, a librarian and managers who take care of the collection that Tunga left behind, ranging from works of art to his materials and work tools, notebooks, photographs, trading cards, publications and an important library.

### Information:

***Tunga: Eu, Você e a Lua [Me, You and the Moon], at the Sala de Vidro [Glass Room]***

Location: **Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo [Museum of Modern Art of São Paulo]**

Curatorship: **Cauê Alves**

Opening: **August 9th, Wednesday, from 10 am to 6 pm**

Exhibition period: **August 9th to January 28th, 2024**

Address: Pedro Álvares Cabral Av, s/nº - Entrance through gates 1, 2 and 3

More informations: **[mam.org.br](http://mam.org.br)**



**MAM São Paulo**

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