

MAM São Paulo's Sculpture Garden presents new artworks

The new activations are part of the Garden's 30th anniversary, celebrated in 2023. The program includes an installation by Amelia Toledo that was recently integrated into the collection, and temporary works by Alexandre Brandão, DetanicoLain, Frida Baranek and Raphael Escobar



Amelia Toledo. *Ambiente penetrável*, from the series *Horizontes* (2010). Collection MAM São Paulo. Photo: Ding Musa

The Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo [Museum of Modern Art of São Paulo] this Saturday, August 26th, unveils five pieces in its Sculpture Garden. The novelties celebrate 30 years of the space and mark a curatorial proposal that seeks to bring more dynamism to the Garden's programming.

“These new activations are part of the curatorial thinking that seeks to broaden the understanding of the Sculpture Garden as an area for conviviality and discoveries. The goal is to keep the garden as a living space, always in motion, with the presence of temporary works and in dialogue with those in the collection. The displacement and repositioning of some sculptures that have

been on display for a longer time strives to give more visibility to the set”, says the chief curator of MAM, Cauê Alves.

Activations in the Garden

Recently integrated into the MAM collection, the installation *Ambiente penetrável [Penetrable environment]*, from the series *Horizontes [Horizons]* (2010), from Amelia Toledo, joins the other 26 works on permanent display and in the open air in the Sculpture Garden.

The commissioning project, a proposal in which the curatorship invites artists to create ephemeral works for the Garden, brings, in its second edition, unprecedented artwork by the artists Alexandre Brandão, DetanicoLain and Raphael Escobar.

Alexandre Brandão presents *Penca* (2023), a work in which he brings together six sculptures that look like large clusters of palm trees lying on the ground and that also refer to the anatomy of animals. The work proposes an intermediate zone between the natural and the artificial, the vegetable and the animal. “By addressing the boundaries between nature and culture, ideas present in my research from mineral and plant materials, *Penca* coordinates and recombines two existing elements in the Ibirapuera Park’s landscape and in the surroundings of the Museum of Modern Art of São Paulo: the expanded clay, which covers part of the land surrounding the building, and the palm trees clusters that make up the local greenery,” says Brandão.



Alexandre Brandão, *Penca* (2023). Photo: Estúdio em Obra

Developed from the Raphael Escobar's research about the moral and legal rules in force in Brazilian society, the work *Os bodes adoram brincar* [Goats love to play] (2022 - 2023) consists of an installation of a garden formed by plants used as raw materials for the manufacture of legal inputs in Brazil - and an important part of the national economy - such as coffee, sugar, barley and tobacco.

“The work is part of a research that I have been developing since 2015 on the legality and illegality of substances and foods consumed in the world, but mainly in Brazil. For WHO, any substance that enters the body and modifies it is seen with the same relevance, so I was interested in researching a little about this topic and proposing a collective reflection”, says the artist. “While walking through the work's plants, the visitor finds a round bench that suggests a meeting point in a circle that ends up becoming a bit of the sharing, sitting together, collectivity culture”, he concludes.

“The social circumstance that the plants reveal is in the anecdote of the title, alluding to the goats that ate coffee beans and became agitated, and it was from there that they decided to extract caffeine. The consumption of coffee, sugar, beer and cigarettes were already prohibited and accepted at different

times”, reflects Pedro Nery, MAM museologist, in a text about the work. “What remains perennial, according to Escobar, is its consumption. The work uses plants as a historical concept and current representation, while its center emulates living in a fenced community. From the outside we can see the plants, but their simulacrum is where the game comes alive”, he adds.



Raphael Escobar, *Os bodes adoram brincar* (2022 - 2023). Photo: Ding Musa

The artist duo DetanicoLain, formed by Angela Detanico and Raphael Lain, take up parts of the MAM *façade*, on the lines between the Ibirapuera Park marquee and the Sculpture Garden, with the work *Marquise [Marquee]* (2023). It is a work that approaches a reinvention of writing and results in a typographic map divided into 26 parts, associated with the 26 letters of the Brazilian alphabet. Each fragment of the architectural complex in which MAM is located represents a letter.

“Detanico and Lain carried out commissioned work for MAM, a new visual identity that stems from a simplified floorplan of the Ibirapuera marquee, designed by Oscar Niemeyer, and the surrounding buildings”, says Cauê Alves.

In *BBB* (1993), a work by Frida Baranek exhibited on a temporary basis, the artist deals with time, space and reveals the mystery of fluctuation, resistance and the behavior of materials. “Frida appropriates materials directly linked to the industry to make us reflect on what is light and heavy. Even if the elements she explores in her works are heavy, the final work tends to be perceived as light, as if the objects placed between the wires could float”, reflects the chief curator of MAM in a text about the work.



Detanico Lain. *Marquise* (2023). Photo: Ding Musa

The Museum of Modern Art of São Paulo inaugurated the Sculpture Garden in 1993 with a landscaping project signed by Roberto Burle Marx and Haruyoshi Ono. Intended for long-term exhibition of works from the Museum's collection, the garden has free access, free entrance and has a huge circulation.



Frida Baranek, BBB (1993). Photo: Ding Musa

“The spontaneous way in which the visitors relate to the Garden and the public space, although it has a playful character, can damage works and prevent future generations from getting to know them”, says MAM's chief curator, Cauê Alves. These challenges also guide the new curatorial proposal that privileges the preservation and conservation of works.

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.

Information:

MAM Sculpture Garden - New artworks

Collection: Amelia Toledo, *Ambiente penetrável [Penetrable environment]*, from the series *Horizontes [Horizons]* (2010)

Activations in the Garden:

Alexandre Brandão, *Penca*, 2023

DetanicoLain, *Marquise*, 2023

Frida Baranek, *BBB*, 1997

Raphael Escobar, *Bodes adoram brincar*, 2023

Opening: Saturday, August 26, from 11 am to 2 pm

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

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

Free entrance

MAM São Paulo

www.instagram.com/mamsaopaulo/

<https://www.facebook.com/mamsaopaulo/>

www.youtube.com/@mamsaopaulo/

<https://twitter.com/mamsaopaulo>

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