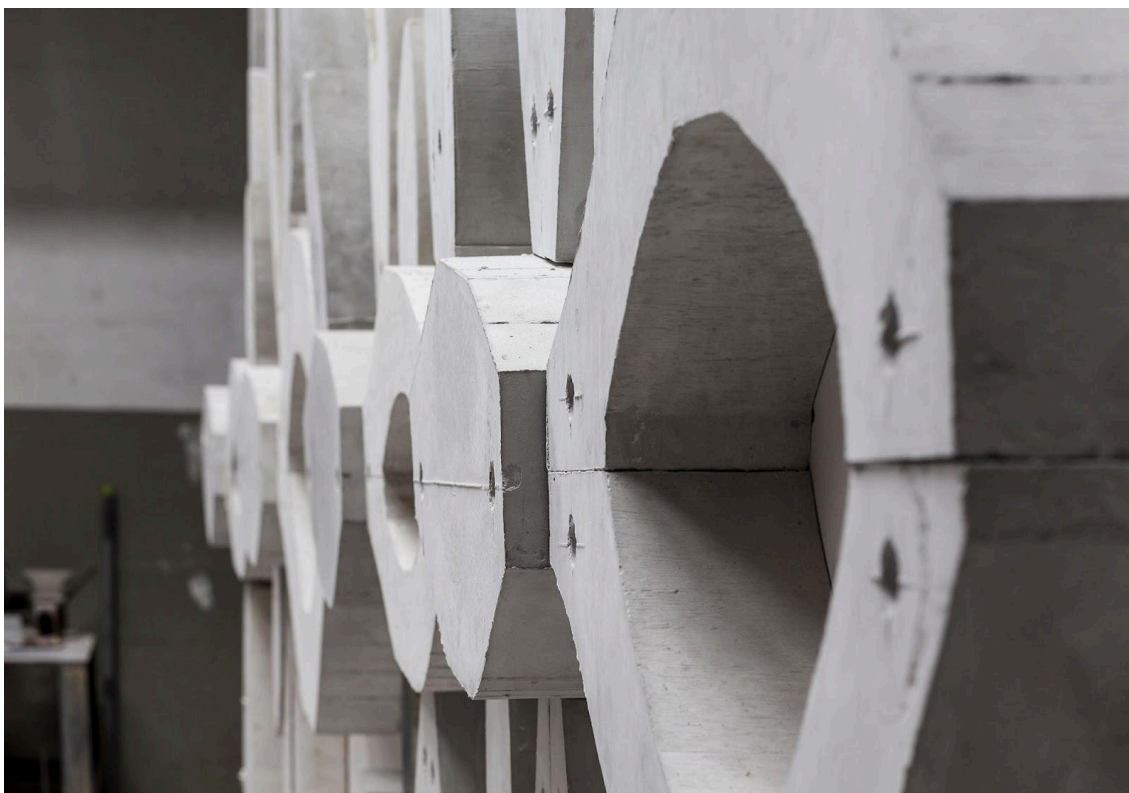


MAM São Paulo presents new work by Rodrigo Sassi at Projeto Parede [Wall Project]

In “Rizoma”, Rodrigo Sassi brings references from Brazilian modernist muralism, with unfoldings from a new research that deviates from the standards already known within his body of work



Detail of the pieces from the work “Rizoma” (2024), by Rodrigo Sassi. Photo: Ding Musa.
More images at: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBcEN2>

On March 1st, the **Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo** [Museum of Modern Art of São Paulo] opens the 2024 edition of the **Projeto Parede [Wall Project]** with new artwork by the artist **Rodrigo Sassi**. The piece titled **Rizoma** will take place at the corridor that connects the museum reception to the Milú Villela Room - which will then be hosting the exhibition **George Love: além do tempo** [George Love: beyond time].

The Wall Project has been taking place for almost three decades at MAM São Paulo, with artists being invited to create works that dialogue with the space.

Rizoma is an installation that the artist refers to as a “non-mural”. The work, inspired by modernist murals, is composed of masonry reliefs fixed on the museum wall. Connected to each other, the pieces reach a scale that conflicts with the retreat available for viewing, contradicting the purposes and characteristics of its own design reference.

To this end, Rodrigo Sassi envisioned a new research, presenting a work different from what is already known from his production, thinking about the specificities of the space where it would be assembled. “This is a proposal that goes beyond the standards of my work, which leaves an open path for new developments,” he comments.

The work is made of masonry pieces extracted from molds made with reused wood discarded from civil construction. Due to the use of molds to remove the pieces, as the visitor walks down the corridor, they will notice a pattern that repeats itself in its composition, dictating a rhythm that is constantly being broken along the way. A closer look reveals characteristics of its manufacture and handmade process, traces of the molds usage, small differences in color between the pieces and imprints of the procedure such as scratches and markings left by the artist himself during his work.

For this installation, Rodrigo Sassi adds muralist architectural references to his poetics and work practice. The artist brings an idea such as in Bulcão’s tiles, where the components are extended, despite being different from each other, and the compositions work together even in their ruptures. The project is the result of an intervention that the artist carried out at the Museu da Inconfidência, in Ouro Preto (MG), an institution that is MAM’s partner in this exhibition.

Chief curator of MAM São Paulo, Cauê Alves points out, in an accompanying text, that for this piece Sassi made a perceptive update of the baroque, but through a contemporary art perspective in dialogue with the modernists.

“It is precisely from the intersection between modern and colonial art that his work developed. With references to panels by Burle Marx and Athos Bulcão, typical of the modern architecture of Rino Levi and Oscar Niemeyer, the artist also explores contradictions in modern design. Among them is the emphasis on the working class, always undervalued, but fundamental for any construction. Therefore, the artist handcrafts concrete modules using traditional techniques”, writes the curator.

About the artist

Rodrigo Sassi was born in 1981 in São Paulo, where he currently lives and works. During his teenage years, he became interested in graffiti, a practice that led him to study Visual Arts at FAAP from 2001 to 2006. During this formation and experimentation period, his painting work, till then developed in the streets, evolved technically across other media, embracing urban intervention as his main line of thought and artistic expression.

Throughout his journey, his urban references blend with the interest in architecture and civil construction, as well as people's way of life their interconnections and how they shape their surroundings while adapting to the environment they live in.

His work, mainly dedicated to three-dimensionality, uses materials found in the city, nullifying their functionalities, exploring their memories, reshaping concepts and transforming their physical characteristics to the point of complete abstraction of the object - a metaphor for dynamic and often disoriented transformations of cities and society itself.

Sassi has been participating in individual and collective exhibits in museums and galleries, both in Brazil and abroad. He is part of public collections in institutions such as MAR, MAB, Museu da Inconfidência, FAMA, Museu Nacional da República, among others. He has participated in important artistic residencies such as Cité internationale des arts de Paris, Sculpture Space in New York and CAMPO Garzon, in Uruguay. Beyond that, he also has permanent public sculptures in São Paulo city.

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 pieces produced by the most prominent names within 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 features 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:

Rodrigo Sassi: Rizoma

Curatorship: **Cauê Alves**

Opening: **March 1st, Friday, 7pm**

Exhibition period: **March 1st to September 1st from 2024**

Where: **Projeto Parede [Wall Project], Museum of Modern Art of São Paulo**

Museum of Modern Art of São Paulo

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

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

Tickets: R\$30.00 full price and R\$15.00 half-price. On Sundays, entry is free and visitors can contribute whatever amount they want. For advance tickets, go to mam.org.br/visite

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

Telephone: (11) 5085-1300

Access for people with disabilities

Restaurant/cafe

Air conditioning

More information:

MAM São Paulo

www.instagram.com/mamsaopaulo/

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

www.youtube.com/@mamsaopaulo/

<https://twitter.com/mamsaopaulo>

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