

Ministério da Cultura, Sesc – Serviço Social do Comércio and Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo present

MAM São Paulo and Sesc Bring Collections Together for a Major New Exhibition

“Look and See: MAM São Paulo visits Sesc Bom Retiro” features works from both institutions and invites visitors to consider different ways of seeing, engaging with, and sharing art.



Running from **June 30 to September 27, 2026**, the exhibition **Look and See: MAM São Paulo visits Sesc Bom Retiro** arrives in the city center, co-organized by the **Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo** and **Sesc São Paulo**. Curated by **Valquíria Prates** and **Mirela Estelles**, the show emerged from a meeting of both collections, uniting roughly 50 works spanning a diverse range of artistic mediums, materials, and periods.

Image credit:
Rodrigo Braga, *Comunhão I*, 2006.
Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo Collection.
Photo: Rodrigo Braga

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For the exhibition, MAM places works from its collection – including pieces by **Alberto da Veiga Guignard**, **Alfredo Ceschiatti**, **Amelia Toledo**, **Brígida Baltar**, **Cao Guimarães**, **Carlos Zilio**, **Emanoel Araujo**, **Franz Weissmann**, **German Lorca**, **Giuliana Giorgi**, **Heitor dos Prazeres**, **Labo & Rafaela Kennedy**, **Laura Vinci**, **Lenora de Barros**, **Lothar Charoux**, **Paulo Nenfliido**, **Pedro Motta**, **Rodrigo Braga**, **Rosângela Rennó**,

mantenedores do MAM São Paulo realização

Sara Ramo, Xadalu Tupã Jekupe, and Zimar – alongside works already on view throughout the Sesc Bom Retiro building. Rather than reorganizing the host institution's collection, the exhibition is built around its existing display. Works by **Antonio Henrique Amaral, Artur Barrio, Cássio Vasconcellos, Claudio Tozzi, Cleber Machado, Eduardo Coimbra, Iran do Espírito Santo, Motta & Lima, Nelson Leirner, Paulo Bruscky, Rodrigo Andrade,** and **Rubens Gerchman** are presented alongside works from the MAM collection, inviting fresh readings of both collections and new connections among the artworks on view.

The exhibition is part of MAM in Motion, a program that brings works from the museum's collection into other cultural institutions and public spaces. At Sesc Bom Retiro, *Mire Veja* brings two collections together – not simply to compare them, but to explore different ways institutions tell stories, care for artworks, and engage with their audiences. Occupying the entire building, the exhibition uses works from both collections to look beyond the artworks themselves, drawing attention to the curatorial, educational, and interpretive practices that shape how art is experienced and understood.

"Every collection begins with a choice," says Mirela Estelles, the exhibition curator and MAM Education Department coordinator. "To preserve something is also to decide what will be kept – what will be conserved, researched, documented, and shown over time."

"The exhibition invites visitors to reflect on how encounters with art can be transformative, sparking a conversation around contemporary works and the layers of experience they offer", continues Valquíria Prates. "An exhibition is more than just the artworks and the creative processes behind them; it is also about how they are shown, the displays that frame them, the texts, audio guides, books, educational materials, and the physical spaces the public moves through. The exhibition understands art as part of a broader network of relationships – one that is continually reshaped through each visitor's experience and engagement", notes the curator, whose work examines collaborative approaches to cultural programming across diverse institutions and social contexts.

The exhibition occupies the entire Sesc Bom Retiro building, extending beyond the galleries into the library and a range of shared spaces. Artworks appear throughout the site – in hallways, stairwells, and gathering areas – becoming part of visitors' everyday experience of the building.

The **Sesc Art Collection** has been a part of the institution since its earliest years. Bringing together modern, contemporary, and folk art, it has grown steadily over the decades and remains central to Sesc's commitment to the visual arts and arts education. The collection grew significantly during the 1970s and 1980s and continues to expand through acquisitions and donations selected for their artistic and historical significance.

Unlike most collections, the Sesc Art Collection is encountered in everyday settings. Distributed across Sesc centers throughout São Paulo state, its works remain on permanent view in shared spaces throughout the buildings, alongside *site-specific* commissions created for newer locations. Rather than requiring a dedicated visit to a gallery, the collection becomes part of the experience of being at Sesc, allowing unexpected encounters with art in

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the course of daily life.

"Displaying our collection in public areas is a deliberate move to bring art closer to our visitors' everyday lives. Sesc São Paulo chooses to present its holdings in unexpected locations—like pools, gymnasiums, and visitor service centers – ensuring the presence of art beyond dedicated gallery spaces", says Juliana Braga, Head of Visual Arts and Technology at Sesc São Paulo, who oversees the Sesc Art Collection.

The exhibition also extends into the library, where visitors can browse books, educational materials, tactile models, and other resources developed by MAM Education Department. Part reading room, part research space, it offers another way into the exhibition and the ideas surrounding it.

Look and See: MAM São Paulo Visits Sesc Bom Retiro is about the changing life of artworks and collections. Every time a work or collection is shown, it enters into new relationships – with its surroundings, with other works, and with the people who encounter and engage with it. Between preserving and sharing, looking and seeing, the exhibition suggests that art is never fixed. It takes shape through experience, becoming one of the ways we make sense of the world around us.

About the curators

Valquíria Prates works at the intersection of research, writing, curating, and education, focusing on cultural mediation within the visual arts and literature. Her practice brings collaborative learning programs to diverse communities, museums, libraries, and academic spaces. She graduated with degrees in Letters and Pedagogy before earning an MA in public accessibility policies from the University of São Paulo (USP) and a PhD in Arts from Unesp, where she completed her doctoral thesis *Como fazer junto: a arte e a educação na mediação cultural* [Doing it Together: Art and Education in Cultural Mediation].

Mirela Estelles is an arts educator and curator whose work focuses on using storytelling to engage audiences within museum and exhibition spaces. She trained in performance and body arts at PUC-SP before specializing in art languages at Centro Universitário Maria Antônia, where she launched her long-running research and programming initiative *Histórias para Ver e Ouvir* [Stories to See and Hear] (2011–2026). Her background spans contemporary art, museum education, literacy, early childhood cultures, and intangible heritage. In her curatorial and educational projects across schools, libraries, and museums, she focuses on driving accessibility and diversity while leading multidisciplinary teams. She has been with the Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo since 2009, where she currently heads the education department. Her project highlights at MAM include curating the exhibition *Elementar: fazer junto* [Elementary: Doing It Together] (2023) and founding the *Semana das Culturas da Infância* [Childhood Cultures Week] (2012–2026), *Festival Corpo Palavra* [Body Word Festival] (2021–2026), and *Histórias no Jardim* [Stories in the Garden] (2022–2025).

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About MAM São Paulo

Established in 1948, the Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo is a public, nonprofit civil association. Its collection includes over five thousand works by major figures of modern and contemporary art, with a strong focus on Brazilian art. Driven by a spirit of experimentation, MAM's exhibitions and collection reflect the diverse interests of contemporary life and global artistic practice. The museum offers a wide array of programs, such as courses, seminars, talks, performances, concerts, video screenings, and artistic workshops. All exhibitions and activities are designed to be accessible, with guided visits in Brazilian Sign Language (Libras), audio descriptions of artworks, and Libras video guides. The museum's library – containing books, periodicals, documents, and audiovisual materials – holds over 65,000 titles, and ongoing exchanges with museum libraries worldwide allow it to keep its holdings dynamically up to date.

Since August 2024, MAM has been temporarily based outside its building in Ibirapuera Park while renovation work is carried out by the City of São Paulo's Department of Green Spaces and And the Environment. While the building is closed, the museum will continue to hold exhibitions at partner institutions until its scheduled reopening in the first half of 2026. For the latest updates on programming, visit www.mam.org.br or follow @mamsaopaulo.

About Sesc São Paulo

Sesc (Social Service of Commerce) is a private, non-profit institution dedicated to the public interest. Founded in 1946 by business entrepreneurs in the trade, services, and tourism sectors, its mission is to enhance the quality of life for workers in these industries, their families, and society at large.

In the state of São Paulo, Sesc operates a network of 44 locations, encompassing cultural and sports centers alongside specialized facilities. The organization provides programming across various artistic disciplines, sports and fitness activities, social tourism, healthcare initiatives, and educational programs centered on sustainability, diversity, and accessibility. It also offers nutrition services, dedicated initiatives for children, youth, and seniors, and runs Sesc Mesa Brasil—a flagship national program dedicated to combating hunger and food waste.

Sesc champions a model of continuous, non-formal education designed to empower individuals, foster community life, and encourage meaningful engagement with diverse perspectives and cultures. For more information, visit sescsp.org.br.

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Exhibition Information:

Exhibition: *Look and See: MAM São Paulo Visits Sesc Bom Retiro*

Venue: Sesc Bom Retiro

Curators: Valquíria Prates and Mirela Estelles

Opening: June 30, 2026, 7 pm

Exhibition Dates: July 1–September 27, 2026

Hours: Tuesday–Friday, 9 am–8 pm; Saturday, 10 am–8 pm;

Sunday and holidays, 10 am–6 pm

Location: Exhibition Space

Admission: Free

Address: Alameda Nothmann, 185 – Campos Elíseos, São Paulo, SP

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