

JONATHAS DE ANDRADE: VISÕES DO NORDESTE

GALLERY -1

03.OCT.-12.NOV.2017

Museo Jumex presents *Jonathas de Andrade: Visões do Nordeste* (Visions of the Nordeste), his first solo presentation in Mexico featuring three of his most recent works that evidence his interest in the northeastern region of Brazil, better known as the Nordeste. Two videos, *O Peixe* [The Fish] (2016), and *O Caseiro* [The Housekeeper] (2016), compliment each other to reveal the artist's blurring of fiction and reality as a tool to examine issues of labor, class, and race embedded in Brazilian culture. On the other hand, the photographs of *ABC da Cana* [Sugarcane ABC] (2014) embody the empowerment of workers through their appropriation of the alphabet, also connecting to previous works such as *Educação para adultos* [Education for adults], based on Paulo Freire's alphabetization method.

O Peixe documents the fishermen from a village on the northeast coast of Brazil as they embrace of fish that they have caught, gently caressing them until they die. Subverting the exoticizing gaze of ethnographic films, the video explores the ethics and politics embedded in the act of seeing and being seen. This ritual, invented by de Andrade, presents us with a nuanced portrayal of predator and prey, marked by the cradling of violence and kindness, cruelty and eroticism, which invites the spectator to reconsider the nature of power relations.

A dialogue between two moments in the life of the same house, *O Caseiro* presents two films side by side on a double screen: Joaquim Pedro de Andrade's 1959 documentary *O mestre de Apipucos*, which portrays a day in the life notable Brazilian intellectual Gilberto Freyre, best known for his analysis of Brazilian society in his book *Casa Grande e Senzala* [Masters and Slaves]; and a film in which Jonathas de Andrade similarly depicts the daily activities of the fictional caretaker of that same residence, converted into a museum. The synchronized editing between the two screens establishes a series of parallels between the protagonists, a staged narrative that reveals the social tensions ingrained in the country's history.

The figure of Gilberto Freyre as the author of the book *Nordeste, Aspectos da Influência da Cana sobre a Vida e a Paisagem do Nordeste do Brasil* reappears indirectly as a reference in *ABC da Cana*, a work that informs de Andrade's longstanding interest in the sugar industry as a staple of Brazilian economy, specifically in the Nordeste, and which features in other works such as *40 nego bom é 1 real* [40 Nego Bom for One Real] (2013). In 2014 Andrade invited the workers from a refinery in Condado in the northeast of Brazil to recreate the alphabet using sugar cane stalks. Inspired by a 1957

'alphabet' drawing by Luis Jardim which uses sugar cane motifs, *ABC da Cana* consists of 26 color photographs in which each letter is performed against the backdrop of the plantation.

For the past decade Jonathas de Andrade has produced works that look closely at the construction of Brazilian national identity. Using photography, video, and installation, the artist draws together different perspectives, historical moments, and references to draw attention to universal issues such as race, class, labor, and the nature of oppression. At the same time, he provides a local perspective by situating his works in the context of his native region of the *Nordeste*. De Andrade brings us closer to an understanding of the persistence of these problems in Brazil but also in Latin America where modernity constantly reveals itself as the perpetuation of our colonial condition.

Recent solo exhibitions by Jonathas de Andrade include the New Museum, New York (2017); Power Plant, Toronto (2017); Museu de Arte do Rio, Rio de Janeiro (2015); Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht (2014); and Kunsthalle Lissabon, Lisbon (2013). He has exhibited in the São Paulo Biennial (2016), SITE Santa Fe Biennial (2016), Performa 15 Biennial (2015), the Gwangju Biennial (2014), the Dakar Biennial (2014), the Lyon Biennial (2013), and the New Museum Triennial (2012), among other major exhibitions. His work has also been included in recent group exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, New York (2017); Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2016); Logan Center for the Arts, Chicago (2016); Guggenheim Museum, New York (2014). De Andrade currently lives and works in Recife, Brazil.

This exhibition is organized in anticipation of Museo Jumex's presentation in March 2018 of *Memories of Underdevelopment*, co-organized with the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego and Museo de Arte de Lima, in the context of the Getty's Pacific Standard Time: Latin America in LA. In its presentation at Museo Jumex *Memories of Underdevelopment* will be accompanied by parallel exhibitions featuring younger artists who explore some of the issues raised by the show from a contemporary perspective, which explores the decolonial turn of art produced in Latin America between the 1960s and 1980s.

Jonathas de Andrade: Visions of the Nordeste is organized by Julieta González, Artistic Director, and María Emilia Fernández, Curatorial Assistant.

MUSEO JUMEX

Museo Jumex is the Fundación Jumex Arte Contemporáneo's main platform. It opened its doors to the public in November 2013 as an institution devoted to contemporary art, whose aim was not only to serve a broad and diverse public, but also to become a laboratory for experimentation and innovation in the arts. Through its exhibitions and public programs, Museo Jumex aspires to become a relevant institution in the field of art by producing and co-producing original exhibitions and research, and familiarizing audiences with the concepts and contexts that inform current art practice. Through the use of critical and pedagogical tools, the museum's educational programs further the institution's commitment to build links between contemporary art and the public.

ADMISSION

General admission / \$50 pesos

Mexican citizens / \$30 pesos

Teachers* / \$15 pesos

Free for: Children under 15 / Students* / Senior citizens*

*with valid ID

Sundays free

HOURS

Tuesday - Sunday / 11AM - 8PM

Monday / Closed

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