



Agnaldo

# Biography

Agnaldo

[Agnaldo Manoel dos Santos]

1926, Ilha de Itaparica | BA - 1962, Salvador | BA

The first artistic inspirations and aspirations of Agnaldo Manuel dos Santos may have started to appear soon after 1947, when he was employed as a watchman in the studio of sculptor Mário Cravo Jr. Encouraged by Mário Cravo Jr., he began working as his assistant and ended up producing his own works in 1953.

Even in his first works, it is already possible to identify the use of various references, such as traditional African arts. It was the photographer and researcher Pierre Verger who would have shown him photographs of African sculptures, which became an interest and an influence in his production ever since. Agnaldo also had contact with at least one African art exhibition held in Salvador, Bahia, in 1959.

Agnaldo traveled and explored the São Francisco River basin as a mediator in the acquisition and sale of traditional wood carved figureheads, called “Carrancas”. It was through this business relationship that he met and became friends with Francisco Biquiba dy Lafuente Guarany, considered the most important master in that art making. Agnaldo's growing interest in Carrancas and in the lessons he learned from Guarany was reflected in his production, which began to incorporate more and more elements of the peculiar aesthetic of figureheads in some of his works, which were named “Cabeça de animal” (Animal Head), “Cabeça de tatu”, (Armadillo head), among others.

Extensive and varied, the work of Agnaldo Manuel dos Santos was always produced with wood, constantly representing anthropomorphic figures linked to essentially Brazilian themes, ranging from Afro-Brazilian religiosity, as is the case references to candomblé of the universe, the Catholic themes, such as ex-votos (small models of parts of the body used in Brazilian catholic tradition as a gift to saints, asking for for cure miracles) in wood that were collected in trips made by him and other modern artists of Bahia in the 1950s.

His artworks are scattered several museum collections in Brazil and abroad, such as the National Museum of Fine Arts in Rio de Janeiro, the Afro Brasil Museum, in São Paulo, and the Museum of Fine Arts, in Boston, United States. Many of his works are also part of important private collections.



**Solo shows:**

2023 Agnaldo Manoel dos Santos – The Conquest of Modernity, MAM, Salvador – BA | Brazil

2022 – 2023 Agnaldo Manuel do Santos – The Conquest of Modernity, curator Juliana Bevilacqua, MAR – Museu de Arte do Rio, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

2021 Agnaldo Manuel do Santos – The Conquest of Modernity, curator Juliana Bevilacqua, Almeida e Dale Galeria, São Paulo

2021 They Were Already Here, Galeria Base, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2019 Agnaldo dos Santos, Paulo Darzé Galeria, SP-Arte, São Paulo, Brazil

1992 Agnaldo dos Santos: the unconscious revealed, Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

1988 Agnaldo dos Santos: Sculptures, Núcleo de Artes do Desenbanco, Salvador

1966 Agnaldo, special room at 1º Biennale da Bahia, Salvador, Bahia

1961 Agnaldo's Sculptures, Museu de Arte Moderna da Bahia, Bahia, Brazil

1959 Galeria Ralf, Salvador, Bahia

1958 Galeria Gae, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

1958 Galeria Oxumaré, Salvador, Bahia

1956 Petite Galeria, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

### **Group Shows:**

2023 "Reverses and Transverses": Artists Outside the Mainstream (and Friends) at the Biennials, galeria Estação, Sao paulo – SP | Brazil

2023 Black Orpheus: Jacob Lawrence e o Clube Mbari, Toledo, OH, EUA

2023 Black Orpheus: Jacob Lawrence e o Clube Mbari, New Orleans, LA, EUA

2022 Black Orpheus: Jacob Lawrence and the Clube Mbari, VA, EUA

2022 margins of 22: popular presences, SESC Carmo, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2022 Brazilian stories, MASP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2022 Ray that breaks it: fiction of the modern in Brazil, SESC 24 de maio, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2021 Earth and Temperature, Almeida e Dale, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2021 Memory is an invention, Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro (MAM-RJ), Rio de Janeiro

2019 Between Aiyê and Orum, Caixa Cultural Salvador, Salvador, Bahia

2018 Exhibition Lina Bo Bardi Tupí or not tupí?, Fundación Juan March, , Madrid, Spain

2018 Afro-Atlantic History, MASP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2016-2017 The Hand of the Brazilian People, 1969/2016, Assis Chateaubriand Art Museum of São Paulo, MASP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2012 - 2013 Janete Costa "Um Olhar", Janete Costa Museum, Niterói, RJ, Brazil

2012 Samba Session: Afro-Brazilian Art and Film, Arthur Ross Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, USA

- 2010 Elos da Lusofonia, National Historical Museum, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- 2010 Elos da Lusofonia, Museu Afro Brasil, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2010 "AFRO MODERNISM - JOURNEYS THROUGH THE BLACK ATLANTIC", TATE Liverpool, England
- 2009 Occupying the Space, Museum of Brazilian Art | MAB - FAAP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2007 Encuentro entre dos Mares- São Paulo Biennial- Valencia, Convento del Carmo, Valencia, Spain
- 2007 Of the Size of Brazil, SESC Paulista, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2006 SOMOS - the popular Brazilian creation, Santander Cultural Center, Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil
- 2006 - 2010 The Nemirovsky Foundation Collection: The Collector's Look, Estação Pinacoteca, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2006 Live the Living Culture of the Brazilian People, AfroBrasil Museum, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2005 Year of Brazil in France, Carreau du Temple, Marais district, Paris, France
- 2005 Never to Forget. Black Memories, Memories of Blacks, Oscar Niemeyer Museum (MON), Curitiba, PR, Brazil
- 2004 Form, Color and Expression, Galeria Estação, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2004 The Century of a Brazilian Man: Roberto Marinho Collection, Paço Imperial, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- 2002 Brazil Body and Soul, Guggenheim Museum, NY, USA
- 2002 Wild Mirror: Modern Art in Brazil in the first half of the 20th century / Nemirovsky Collection, MAM, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2002 Pop Brasil: Folk Art and the folk in the Art, Banco do Brasil Cultural Center, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2002 Brazilian Art in the Fadel Collection: from the restlessness of the modern to the autonomy of language, Banco do Brasil Cultural Center, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- 2002 Brazilian Art in the Fadel Collection: from the restlessness of the modern to the autonomy of language, Banco do Brasil Cultural Center, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2000 Brasil + 500 Rediscovery Exhibition Biennial Pavilion, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1999 The Female Figure in the MAB Collection, Museum of Brazilian Art (MAB-FAAP), São Paulo, SP, Brazil

- 1995 The Heirs of the Night: fragments of the black imaginary, Pinacoteca of the State of São Paulo, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1995 The Heirs of the Night: fragments of the black imaginary, Belo Horizonte Cultural Center, Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil
- 1994 Afro-Brazilian Art and Religiosity, Frankfurt, Hessen, Germany
- 1992 Voices of the Diaspora, Pinacoteca of the State of São Paulo, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1988 The afro-brazilian mother, Museu de Arte Moderna, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1984 Tradition and Rupture, synthesis of Brazilian art and culture, Biennial Pavillion, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1977 2° World Festival of Black Arts, Lagos, Nigéria
- 1974 Brazilians and their universe, Funart, Brasília, DF, Brazil
- 1966 National Biennial of Fine Arts, Our Lady of Carmo Convent, Salvador, BA, Brazil
- 1966 1° World Festival of Black Arts, Dakar, Senegal
- 1962 Agnaldo e Alberto Zaluar, Petite Galeria, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- 1962 Brazilian Folk Art: yesterday and today, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Estados Unidos
- 1960 Agnaldo e Marques de Sá, Petite Galeria, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- 1959 8° Nacional Salon of Modern Art Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil
- 1958 Monte Serrat, Galeria Forte, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil
- 1956 We and Folk arts, Galeria Oxumaré, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil
- 1956 4° Biennale of São Paulo, Fundação Bienal, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 1956 Modern Artist of Bahia, Galeria Oxumaré, Salvador, Bahia
- 1956 5° Salon Baiano, Salvador, Bahia, Brazil

**Public Collections:**



MAM - Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

AfroBrasil Museum, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

Nemirovsky Foundation, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA

### **Selected Publications:**

2021 Agnaldo Manuel do Santos – the conquest of Modernity, text from Roberto Conduru and Thais Darzé, Almeida e Dale Galeria, São Paulo

2018 Brazilian popular art: contemporary views, WMF Martins Fontes Publisher, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2018 Afro-Atlantic Stories (vol. 1), Assis Chateaubriand Art Museum of São Paulo, MASP, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2012 Janete Costa “Um Olhar”, Janete Costa Museum, Niterói, RJ, Brazil

2012 Samba Session: Afro-Brazilian Art and Film, Arthur Ross Gallery and University of Pennsylvania, USA

2007 Live the Living Culture of the Brazilian People, AfroBrasil Museum, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2002 Pop Brasil: Folk Art and the folk in the Art, Banco do Brasil Cultural Center, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

2000 Brasil + 500 Rediscovery Exhibition I Popular Art, Takano Publisher, Brazil

1995 The Heirs of the Night: fragments of the black imaginary: 300 years of Zumbi, Ministry of Culture, Pinacoteca of the State of São Paulo, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1988 The Afro-Brazilian Hand I Meaning of Artistic and Historical Contribution, AfroBrasil Museum, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1988 Agnaldo dos Santos: sculptures. Development Arts Center, Salvador, BA, Brazil

1984 Tradition and Rupture, synthesis of Brazilian art and culture, São Pauli Biennial Foundation, São Paulo, SP, Brazil

1983 Agnaldo Manoel dos Santos: origin and revelation of a primitive sculptor, Afro-Asia, Salvador, BA, Brazil

1974 7 Brazilians and their universe | arts crafts origins permanencies, national government publication, Brasília, DF, Brazi

## Exhibitions



2021 Agnaldo Manuel do Santos – The Conquest of Modernity, curator Juliana Bevilacqua,  
Almeida e Dale Galeria, São Paulo







2019 Agnaldo dos Santos, Paulo Darzé Galeria, SP-Arte, São Paulo, Brazil



# Artwork



Exu, 50's  
Wooden sculpture  
46 x 18 x 16 cm | 18.11 x 7.08 x 6.29 in







Nun, 60's  
Wooden sculpture  
127 x 40 x 36 cm | 50 x 15.74 x 14.17 in



Untitled,  
Wooden sculpture  
73 x 23 x 25 cm | 28.74 x 9.05 x 9.84 in



Untitled,  
Wooden sculpture  
36 x 23 x 5 cm | 14.17 x 9.06 x 2 in



Maternity, century XX  
Wooden sculpture  
80 x 22 x 19 cm | 331.49 x 8.66 x 7.48 in







Untitled,  
Wooden sculpture  
139 x 65 x 65 cm | 54.72 x 25.59 x 25.59 in

With a collection among the most important of the country, Galeria Estação, inaugurated at the end of 2004, devoted itself to revealing and promoting the production of Brazilian non-scholar art. The gallery was responsible for including this language in the contemporary art scene, while editing publications and holding individual and collective exhibitions inside and outside the country.

Galeria Estação works with well-known self-taught artists from various regions of Brazil, such as Agostinho Batista de Freitas, Alcides dos Santos, Amadeo Luciano Lorenzato, Artur Pereira, Aurelino dos Santos, Chico Tabibuia, Cícero Alves dos Santos-Véio, GTO, Gilvan Samico, Itamar Julião, João Cosmo Felix-Nino, José Antônio da Silva, José Bezerra, Manuel Graciano, Maria Auxiliadora, Mirian Inês da Silva, Neves Torres, among others.

Currently the gallery has been incorporating to its cast artists belonging to the contemporary artistic circuit whose works interact with non-scholar creation, such as André Ricardo, José Bernnô, Julio Villani, Germana Monte-Mór, Moisés Patrício e Santídio Pereira.

Starting from this rare competence, the space is able to offer a historical and current panorama of a production that went beyond the limits of self-thought art, at the same time as it investigates names that, independently of the formation, work with elements from the same source.

Galeria Estação

Rua Ferreira de Araújo, 625 – Pinheiros, São Paulo, SP , Brazil – phone: (+5511) 3813-7253

From Monday to Friday, from 11am to 7pm, Saturday from 11am to 3pm

[www.galeriaestacao.com.br](http://www.galeriaestacao.com.br)

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