

Title
Date
Publication

Cristiano Lenhardt
2016
32ª Bienal de São Paulo: Incerteza Viva. São Paulo: Fundação Bienal de São Paulo.

Author
Artist

Renan Araújo
Cristiano Lenhardt



Title	Cristiano Lenhardt	Author	Renan Araújo
Date	2016	Artist	Cristiano Lenhardt
Publication	32ª Bienal de São Paulo: <i>Incerteza Viva</i> . São Paulo: Fundação Bienal de São Paulo.		

INCERTEZA VIVA

Title	Cristiano Lenhardt	Author	Renan Araújo
Date	2016	Artist	Cristiano Lenhardt
Publication	32ª Bienal de São Paulo: <i>Incerteza Viva</i> . São Paulo: Fundação Bienal de São Paulo.		

CRISTIANO LENHARDT

1975, Itaboraí, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Lives in Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil

The narratives that intertwine pop culture and mass culture, the construction of myths and legends and a reflection on the ways that human beings, animals and objects relate to one another are some of Cristiano Lenhardt's possible areas of interest. The artist's work does not privilege one medium above another and is capable of utilizing several at the same time: film, performance, installation, sculpture, photography, drawing and engraving serve as the material for the creation of works orchestrated by references to distinct sources, including folklore, art history, fantastical literature and science fiction. When executing his work, Lenhardt does not normally start from a pre-established concept to later come to a final form, but instead he is guided by a series of exercises in writing, drawing and manipulation of materials of different origins – found items, both organic and inorganic, discarded elements, raw materials that come from parts of other objects – which are gradually shaped, brought together, folded and animated.

For the 32nd Bienal de São Paulo, Lenhardt presents *Trair a espécie* [To Betray the Species] (2014-2016) and *Uma coluna* [A Column] (2016). In the former, sculptures made of yams creep through and occupy the exhibition space. These zoomorphic creatures inhabit the exhibition setting in groups and, when viewing them, it's impossible to distinguish the origin of the species represented – possibly something yet to be catalogued by science or cultural dictionaries. Though their presence there depends on humans, the tuber-sculptures resist the imposed classification as mere objects subjected to contemplation and continue on in their life's journey germinating sprouts – small arms and legs that are born out of other arms and legs – or proceed into decay and death. These beings demonstrate the passage of time, a condition intrinsic to all things. What is it to be human and what is it to be animal? These are the questions that pervade this project and the artist's work.

Created in the context of this Bienal, *Uma coluna* initially alludes to the maypole dance, a European folk tradition – practiced in several regions of Brazil – in which men and women dance around a pole to the sound of traditional music. In the performance proposed by the artist, the participants move as if they were drawing around the columns in the Bienal building. Armed with strips of distinct materials, the performers interweave with one another, and from this movement a weaving emerges which only ends when the strips cover the entire extension of the column. The choreography is distributed throughout the three floors of the pavilion and the column, which is usually seen in discontinuous form as it rises through the floors, reveals itself as a single structure cutting through the space. Thus, the work highlights this connection which, in the experience of the body, was divided. According to the artist, the circular design constructed by the choreography creates a magnetic field which is driven by a sound pronounced by the participants in unison, the frequency of which, charged with symbolism, connects the entire action to the sacred.

— Renan Araújo

Trair a espécie [To Betray the Species], 2014-2016. Sculpture made from cará with internal metal rods. Text by the artist.

Title	Cristiano Lenhardt	Author	Renan Araújo
Date	2016	Artist	Cristiano Lenhardt
Publication	32ª Bienal de São Paulo: <i>Incerteza Viva</i> . São Paulo: Fundação Bienal de São Paulo.		



BETRAY THE SPECIES

1. Western humans have always been afraid of being beasts, of accepting themselves as animals. Everything that resembles this is hidden, excluded, and the animals themselves are enslaved or driven to extinction, serving only for human necessities. Supernatural manifestations are also treated with ignorance, so much so that they are considered something outside of life. In the big cities in which we live, we are distant from the constant presence of animals and spirits or occult manifestations. But the God is desired, the God is idealized, God is what human beings want to be and do not accept. Accept your hell! Betray your paradise. At the same time they don't realize that they already are and always were. Yet God is also the creature, the plant, the rock.

2. Even in times of degeneration my pain is present. For many people, celebrating misery is a way of being in accord with their time. The positionings are discouraged not only for the deceptions but also for the illusions. It was up to me to choose between withdrawal or the machine. Nothing. A possible way out, to betray the species and let me grow to great heights or infinite abysses. But no such thing, the flatness is like the impression of a glimmer of light, and there it is, for those that also daydream. To walk around the city is what I can do to connect with a meditative practice from the body towards outside. In a state of attention, to look beyond the first layer of meaning, suspension of definitions. Freedom of form. In this way, in the softening of everything we see, before the attribution of values and meanings, we are able to access ourselves in the other, due to his or her hollow, open and transparent condition.



Title Cristiano Lenhardt
Date 2016
Publication *32ª Bienal de São Paulo: Incerteza Viva*. São Paulo: Fundação Bienal de São Paulo.

Author
Artist Renan Araújo
Cristiano Lenhardt



Sketch for the performance *Uma coluna* [A Column], 2016.

Title Cristiano Lenhardt
Date 2016
Publication 32ª Bienal de São Paulo: *Incerteza Viva*. São Paulo: Fundação Bienal de São Paulo.

Author Renan Araújo
Artist Cristiano Lenhardt

