

Santídio Pereira

Da mata ao morro

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Press release

Santídio Pereira
Untitled, 2022
Offset ink on Hahnemühle paper
350 g
125 x 229 cm



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Xippas is pleased to announce “Da mata ao morro”, the first solo exhibition of Brazilian artist Santídio Pereira in its Punta del Este gallery. Later this year, the gallery will present a solo show of Santídio Pereira in its parisian space.

Santídio Pereira’s work refers to his own memories and perceptions of nature of his home country. Alluding to its extremely rich vegetation, animal world and landscapes, it evokes a sensation of “grandeur of nature” and inevitably rises questions of the place and role of the human beings in the environment.

Born in Curral Comprido, a small village in the northeast of Brazil, Santídio Pereira migrated to São Paulo as a child and soon joined Instituto Acaia, a private non-profit NGO that assists children and adolescents, where he also worked. It was at the age of eight, through the workshops at Ateliescola Acaia, that Santídio began his artistic practice. The images from personal memories, preserved since his childhood and referring both to his homeland and to his later experiences, serve today as guidelines in his work.

The woodcut technique is one of the artist’s main medium that he has developed in his own working method, “incision, cut and fitting” as he calls it, consisting of a combination of several cut out layers of wooden panels, intertwining in a jigsaw puzzle. Over time, he started making woodcut prints on paper and it became one of the main directions of Santídio’s practice, that has been guiding his artistic production up to today.

“As a young artist, Santídio’s work quickly matured during a period of five years from approximately 2017 to 2022. This is a period of experimentation, when the artist decants, refines and condenses his technique, themes and formal expressions. (...) The artist’s journey is unlike an explorer who “discovers” the place and things, who takes notes, who represents by approaching face-to-face reality. The artist’s journey is a lived journey, a walk through memory, love and childhood, a meeting of joy with these places with this fauna and flora, in time, and diluted or “decanted”, as the artist would say, by the experience and expressed as signs of the grandeur of what is there. Nature becomes a sign, something to be revered: the hills, the plants and the birds.”

Ricardo Sardenberg, curator.

“Often, Santídio says that his search for shapes and colors in nature is driven by affection. More than once I heard him talk about the encounter with plants, landscapes and animals as the search for nostalgic joy, the longing for a life closer to nature and a feeling of rapture. Therefore, it is not a question of reconstructing the object, but of almost alluding to a sensation or an experience if that is possible.”

Tiago Mesquita, curator.

Santídio Pereira was born in 1996 in Curral Comprido, Estado do Piauí, Brazil. He lives and works in Sao Paulo.

He participated in numerous exhibitions at major Brazilian and international institutions such as Museum of Modern Art of São Paulo (MAM-SP); Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo; Fondation Cartier pour l’Art Contemporain, Paris; Power Station of Art in Shanghai; and recently Iberê Camargo Foundation in Porto Alegre, Brazil dedicated him a personal exhibition.

His work is part of renown collections such as the Colección Cisneros, USA; SESC Art Collection, São Paulo; Museu de Arte do Rio, Rio de Janeiro, among others.