

Mercosur Biennial reelects president and introduces chief curator for the next edition

Businesswoman Carmen Ferrão assumes the presidency of the Mercosur Biennial for the second successive term. After the success of the last edition, held last year, the president already has plans for the 14th edition, which will take place in the second half of 2024. “Making Biennial 14 is a huge challenge and I believe that each exhibition brings its own potential. We are going to work towards this goal, and I would like the Mercosur Biennial, and Porto Alegre, to be amongst the most remembered art exhibitions in the world”, she declares.

According to the president, the most significant of these years ahead of the exhibition is the legacy left for society and the Biennial Foundation. “I want to transfer my knowledge to restructure the management of the Biennial. A legacy, indeed. Challenge and excitement! It is an important step”, says Carmen.

Announcement of the new Chief Curator

The Biennial Foundation announces the selection of researcher and PhD in Art History and Criticism, Raphael Fonseca, as chief curator of the 14th Mercosur Biennial. “I loved the energy and proposal of Raphael and his team. I believe that we will have a very democratic Biennial, with a strong presence. We are still building the theme, but we know that it will address issues related to life and art”, says the president of the Biennial.

Born in Rio de Janeiro, Raphael has been the curator of modern and contemporary art at the Denver Art Museum since 2021 and believes that one of the challenges of being in charge of curating the Biennial is to convey to the public the grandeur and meaning that the exhibition represents. “Being the curator of the 14th Mercosur Biennial is a great honor. Any exhibition on the magnitude of a biennial reflects the time in which it takes place. It will be a great challenge and an immense responsibility for us to compose teams, and think about conceptual cuts, exhibition locations, artists, and publications”, he says.

The 14th Mercosur Biennial, reveals Fonseca, will feature the occupation of various places in Porto Alegre, creating visitation circuits that will allow the public not only to appreciate the works of art in the institutions but also to enjoy the geography of the city.

Alongside the chief curator, Tiago Sant’Ana and Yina Jiménez Suriel, from the Dominican Republic, will work as adjunct curators. Both have experience in the Visual Arts field, having organized international exhibitions with artists from different generations. Fernanda Medeiros, a curator experienced with the Porto Alegre art scene, will be the assistant curator. In addition to them, the 14th Biennial will feature two educational curators: Andréa Hygino and Michele Ziegt,

who will have the task of composing a project that unites art, education, pedagogy, and sociability.

As a great novelty for the Biennial 2024 edition, there will be a curatorial sector of Public Programs, which will be designed by the curators Anna Mattos and Marina Feldens, who bring a background in project creation, curatorship, and exhibition production, in addition to an articulateness with the local community of Porto Alegre.

Curatorial Team 14th Mercosur Biennial

Raphael Fonseca (Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1988) has been curator of modern and contemporary art at the Denver Art Museum since 2021. He holds a PhD in Art History and Criticism from the State University of Rio de Janeiro. Alongside Renée Akitelek Mboya, he curated the 22nd Contemporary Art Biennial Sesc_Videobrasil (São Paulo, 2023). From 2017 to 2020, he was a curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Niterói. Amongst his exhibitions, we can highlight *Who tells a tale adds a tail* (Denver Art Museum, 2022); *The silence of tired tongues* (Framer Framed, Amsterdam, 2022); *Raio-que-o-parta: ficções do moderno no Brasil* (Sesc 24 de Maio, São Paulo, 2022); *Sweat* (Haus der Kunst, Munich, 2021), and *Vaivém* (Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Brasília, and Belo Horizonte, 2019–2020). He lives and works in Denver, United States.

Tiago Sant’Ana (Santo Antônio de Jesus, Bahia, 1990) is a curator, visual artist, and researcher. He holds a PhD in Culture and Society from the Federal University of Bahia. From 2019 to 2022, he coordinated the Goethe-Institut’s exhibition program in Salvador, in addition to accompanying artists at the Vila Sul Residency. In 2014, he was assistant curator at the 3rd Bahia Biennial. He has won national and international awards, such as the Soros Arts Fellowship from the Open Society Foundations and the ZUM Photography Scholarship from the Moreira Salles Institute. As a visual artist, he has participated in national and international exhibitions, in countries such as Germany, the United States, Holland, Italy, and Portugal, having works in collections such as MASP, Pinacoteca de São Paulo, Moreira Salles Institute, and the Museum of Modern Art of Bahia. He lives and works in Salvador, Brazil.

Yina Jiménez Suriel (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 1994) is a curator and researcher with a master’s degree in visual studies. Her practice is a continuous investigation into contemporary emancipatory processes and imagination construction. She is the curator of *The Current IV* by TBA21-Academy, a three-year research project entitled *otras montañas, las que andan sueltas bajo el agua*. She is the Associate Editor of the Contemporary

And (C&) magazine for Latin America and the Caribbean. She has done residencies at Delfina Foundation (London, England) and Kadist San Francisco. She is part of the curatorial team for the Opening section at the ArcoMadrid art fair for the 2023 and 2024 editions. She has participated in several public programs and workshops on an international scale, and her texts have been included in several publications. She lives and works in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Fernanda Medeiros (Uruguiana, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, 1989) was assistant curator at the Rio Grande do Sul Museum of Art (MARGS) from 2019 to 2022. She is the founder and editor of Cactus Edições, an artist publications label. She is one of the producers and creators of the C4NN3S video art festival and the Folhagem publishing fair. She was the coordinator of the Documentation and Research Center of the Vera Chaves Barcellos Foundation (2012-2019), and founding partner, curator, and producer at Acervo Independente (2014-2017). She lives and works in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Andréa Hygino (Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1992) is a visual artist, art educator, and teacher. Her work focuses on the school environment, learning processes, training, discipline, and repetition, and she finds student disobedience the necessary place for challenge and creation. In the artist's works, childhood memories – of the school created by her mother, which was operated at home – are intertwined with present-day experiences as an artist-teacher/teacher-artist and the condition of public education in Brazil. She has won the 3rd SeLecT Art and Education Award (Education Shirt category) and the 2022 FOCO ARTRio Award. She lives and works in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Michele Ziegt (Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, 1980) operates in transdisciplinary axes, developing research, workshops, and actions that relate the areas of Language, Culture, and Education. She is a writer and professor of Literature and Writing, teaching since 2000. Her training as an art educator took place through multiple participations in the Mercosur Biennial, starting in 2011. She is the co-coordinator of the *Orisun Oro* label, an editorial web of American women publishing bilingual editions of renowned black poets from Latin America and the Caribbean, previously unpublished in Brazil. She lives and works in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Anna Mattos (Cabo Frio, Rio de Janeiro, 1993) has been a cultural producer for over 12 years. She coordinates the execution of projects at Espaço Força e Luz, in which she helps organize the Foundation's educational and cultural activities. She has coordinated the Ado Malagoli Gallery at the Institute of Arts of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (2018-2020) and produced over 20 exhibitions in the past 5 years. She is the founder, producer, and manager of Gazzebo Gallery. She lives and works in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Marina Feldens (Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, 1994) works as a cultural producer, curator, and art educator. She manages the Educational-Cultural Center at Espaço Força e Luz, where she organizes the Foundation's educational activities and cultural events. In 2016, she coordinated the Ado Malagoli Gallery at the UFRGS Institute of Arts. She is the founder, producer, and curator of Gazzebo Gallery. She lives and works in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

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