

Press release: Beleza D&A presents the Brazilian artists Mônica & Mozart Fernandes for the first time in Brussels

Beleza Design & Art organises the first show of the Brazilian artists and designers Mônica Rodrigues Fernandes and Mozart Fernandes in Brussels in cooperation with **Hotel BLOOM!** and the **Embassy of Brazil in Brussels** in the framework of *The Penthouse Art Space residency program of Hotel BLOOM!*.

The duo of artists will be in residency between 20 January and 11 February 2015 at Hotel BLOOM! where they will decorate and paint a space that will be inaugurated on **Friday 30 January**.

On the same day an exhibition of Mônica's and Mozart's creations, ranging from photographs to paintings, will also take place.

Dialogue between cities: São Paulo and Brussels

The starting point of the exhibition is the relation between two cities that, although very far from each other and to a big extent different, face similar problems and challenges: Brussels and São Paulo (Brazil). These two cities are often described by visitors in a similar way: both are congested with traffic, both are 'grey' and 'dirty', in both cities the population is growing dramatically and the contrast between richness and poverty is outstanding. At the same time both Brussels and São Paulo are dynamic, always changing and they present a mix of languages, cultures, religions etc. That's why these cities are both extremely interesting from the cultural point of view and have a lively, although sometimes hidden, art scene.

In their creations Mozart and Mônica always work and play with the city. As a street artist Mozart uses the city as his canvas - his works can be found attached to walls, electrical cabins, doors etc. in several areas of São Paulo. With his recent work Mozart tackles the issue of woman in the society - especially of woman who are victim of violence. As a designer Mônica uses materials of and from the city - such as wooden items (window frames, doors, etc.) that she finds along the street and other garbage. As a photographer she elevates the rubbish to become the protagonist of her pictures that are usually taken in old abandoned buildings and spaces. In this sense both Mozart and Mônica revalue the subjects they work with.

About Mozart Fernandes



Mozart has a background in art and painting and also taught for nearly a decade in the field of design. Married to artist and designer Mônica Rodrigues Fernandes - both with internationally recognized careers - together they established the *Vértices Cenografia/Arte/Design*, based on the idea that design and art should be diffused to everyone. They emphasize the reuse of materials, the urbanity and the unusual and authorial intervention. Since a few years Mozart shows clippings of his work around the city of São Paulo by pasting them on walls, e.g. three series of paintings called *Fuck me with Love* (which is also the name of one of his poems), *This is not Poetry* and *Whatever*. These paintings have been also pasted in other countries such as France, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Mexico, China and England.

A woman in all her complexity and drama is a recurring theme in the work of Mozart, as well as the strong traits reflecting the relationship established with the environment, often ambiguous and challenging. Inspired by German Expressionism and the Bauhaus, his style is based on the deconstruction of the forms, in the absurdity, in the visceral, spontaneous and personally interpreted emotions.

In November 2009 he held the exhibition *Átimo: Profanus* for the opening of Gallery 600 in São Paulo. The show proposed an incursion by brief moments in which the profane reveals and communicates through his paintings and woodcuts by Helder Santos, bringing to light reflections and the contrast between the mundane and the sacred. In his solo exhibition *Nonlinear* in April 2013, in the gallery *The Hebrew*, Mozart showed his unstable, intense, provocative, personal and therefore non-linear universe.

Together with the Colombian artist Alberto Lizarazo, Mozart started the project *Mortevida* (<http://projetomortevida.tumblr.com>) that questions the duration and value of artworks. This happens through the creation and overlap of arts in environments that will be modified or destroyed. In the framework of this project he participated to some shows of the musician and poet Lira by painting panels of approximately 20 m² during his concerts in some cities of Brazil. He was invited to paint big walls in photo art galleries like the Leica Gallery and the Uma shop of the stylist Rachel Davidowicz. Mozart will be part of Paulo Caldas's documentary *Saudade*, where artists using various media such as Arnaldo Antunes, Gilberto Gil, Mia Couto and Zé Celso Martinez Corrêa tell how nostalgia influences their work. The release of the film is planned for 2015.

About Mônica Rodrigues Fernandes



Mônica arrived in São Paulo in 1998 moving from Recife, bringing with her years of experience in the production of commercials, short films and theatre. This background led her to create innovative and lifelong structures and outlets for her works, based on the reuse of materials, mostly found in buckets of public works and demolitions.

Mônica creates scenography and furniture with wood, which earned her the publication of two of her creations in the book about sustainable design *Up-Cycle!* by Narelle Yabuka, published by Ginko Press (California, USA). The book includes 100 projects from designers around the world who develop pieces with recycled materials. Only three Brazilian designers are included in the book: Mônica, with the bench Machado, and the lamp Lumi 1 influenced by improvised lighting structures in construction sites, the Campana brothers and Jahara Studio.

Mônica is also a photographer and produces sculptures and installations with urban images captured with her camera in the cities of São Paulo, Recife, New York, Berlin and Amsterdam among others. The pictures of the Concrete Demolition series are based on the geometric structures of the Neo-concrete movement, created by writer, poet and artist Gullar and followed by artists like Helio Oiticica, Lygia Clark, Lygia Pape and Amilcar de Castro. Without interfering with the spaces that she encounters, she registers their forms that recall the aesthetics of this artistic movement. In 2013 she was invited to create with Mozart and stylist Rachel Davidowicz an installation in relation with the work of Lygia Clark *A Casa é o Corpo: Labirinto* for the art fair Parte in São Paulo.

The shadows of the city and the works of modernist and brutalist architects generate mathematical illustrations in shades of black, grey and white as part of a series of pictures created in 2014.

Production and curatorship: Beleza Design & Art



Beleza Design & Art is a Brussels-based organisation driven by passion for design and art. Its mission is to organize high-impact exhibitions both in Europe and abroad, and in particular in Brazil, to promote the development and internationalisation of artists and designers and to create bridges between cultures and continents.

Want to know more? Visit belezadesignart.org, send an e-mail to info@belezadesignart.org or visit our Facebook page facebook.com/belezadesignart.

In collaboration with:



Practical information:

Opening time:

Friday 30 January between 14 h and 22 h.

Venue: Hotel BLOOM! Brussels, Koningsstraat 250 Rue Royale, 1210 Brussels

For pictures of the works exhibited please visit belezadesignart.org/events (password: "vertices2015").