

The Ministry of Tourism, Governor of the State of São Paulo, through the Secretary of Culture and Creative Economy, Fundação Bienal de São Paulo and Itaú present the 34th Bienal de São Paulo

Fundação Bienal de São Paulo announces the continuation of its digital program in 2021 and five more artists participating in the 34th Bienal de São Paulo

Between February and April, the digital program includes two live events with curators and artists taking part in the exhibition, as well as studio visits and short courses

11/02/2021 [atualizado em 25/03/2021] – This year, from the 4th to the 5th December, the Fundação Bienal presents the large 34th Bienal de São Paulo exhibition – *Faz Escuro Mas Eu Canto* [Though It's Dark, Still I Sing], which began in February 2020 and has since been unfolding in space and time with both physical and online programming. Between February and April, the digital program will include ten artists participating in the 34th Bienal de São Paulo exhibition, five of whom are now announced: **Dirk Braeckman** (1958, Eeklo, Belgium), **Nina Beier** (1975, Aarhus, Denmark), **Tony Cokes** (1956, Virginia, USA), **Vincent Meessen** (1971, Baltimore, USA) and **Zózimo Bulbul** (1937 – 2013, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).

The following free online events will take place in the coming months:

_Encounters with artists – The voices of the artists #3: Around Sino de Ouro Preto

In this six-part series the curators of the 34th Bienal de São Paulo talk with participant artists from Brazil and abroad about the statements proposed by the curatorial team to be explored through this edition: elements with stories around which artworks will be distributed in the collective exhibitions, suggesting multifaceted readings. The third event on 25th February will address the Sino de Ouro Preto [Bell of Ouro Preto]. Participation in the event is free through prior registration on the 34th Bienal website (<http://34.bienal.org.br/agenda>).

The Sino de Ouro Preto, also known as the Sino da Capela do Padre Faria [Bell of Father Faria's Chapel] dates from 1750 and is located in the city of Ouro Preto, in the state of Minas Gerais. The bell was rung on two significant occasions in Brazil's history: the day Tiradentes died, in April 1792 (against official orders), and at the inauguration of Brasilia (to where it was temporarily transported), in 1960. Its presence at different moments in the country's history, always in connection with important political events, has inspired research into repetition and difference,

memory(ies) and the future. Jota Mombaça (1991, Natal, Brazil) will participate live in the event, alongside pre-recorded interviews with artists Ana Adamović (1959, Belgrade, Serbia), Nina Beier (1975, Aarhus, Denmark), and Vincent Meessen (1971, Baltimore, USA), as well as guest curator Carla Zaccagnini (1973, Buenos Aires, Argentina).

_Encounters with Artists – The voice of the artists: on portraits of Frederick Douglass: the event will take place on 1st April [postponed for May 13] with the live participation of Tony Cokes (1956, Virginia, USA) and recorded statements from Alfredo Jaar (1956, Santiago, Chile), Musa Michelle Mattiuzzi (1983, São Paulo, Brazil), as well as an introduction on the work of Zózimo Bulbul (1937-2013, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) by researcher Janaína Oliveira.

Considered the most photographed American of the 19th century, Frederick Douglass (Talbot County, Maryland, USA, 1818 -- Washington, D.C., USA, 1895) was a public figure, journalist, writer, and abolitionist orator. He was the son of an enslaved black woman and a white man whom he never knew. As a result of his efforts to spread non-stereotypical images of black people, his portraits entered the newspapers circulation, as well as in private spaces throughout the country, and even today his image circulates as a symbol of justice and resistance.

Distance learning short course: each discussion about the statements is followed by a short course consisting of 4 virtual meetings (with 2h long each) which will deepen the topics previously explored, presenting unpublished excerpts from interviews with artists and speakers, bibliographic references and other research materials. Sessions are led by the Fundação Bienal team via their digital platform.

- The short course **Repetitions Against the Arrow of Time**, which relates to the Sino de Ouro Preto, will be held from **4th to 25th March**, every Thursday from 7p.m to 9p.m 19:00 to 21:00. The classes address the concepts of repetitions of chants, choreographies, scenes, and texts, which are included in research by artists in this edition: Ana Adamović, Jota Mombaça, Nina Beier, and Vincent Meessen. Registration will open during the event *Artists' Voices #3*, on 25th February. The registration form will be available at 34.bienal.org.br/agenda.
- The short course dedicated to **portraits of the abolitionist Frederick Douglass** is scheduled for **8th to 22nd April** [postponed for May], every Thursday at 19:00. More information will be available shortly on the site 34.bienal.org.br.

Studio Visits: once a month, from September 2020 to August 2021, artists from the 34th Bienal will open their studios and speak about their trajectories, the works they are producing for the Bienal and their current research, beginning with questions and provocations set forward by the

curatorial team. The bilingual videos will be shown on Bienal Instagram (@bienalsaopaulo) and will be available on Bienal website at <http://34.bienal.org.br/>. The next studio visits will be with Emerson Uýra (18th February) and Dirk Braeckman (31st March).

About the new artists

The five artists announced now will join the 51 already disclosed names in the 34th Bienal de São Paulo group show. The full list of participants in this edition, which will contain around 90 artists, is due to be announced in April.

The artist and film-maker **Vincent Meessen** (1971, Baltimore, USA) investigates political movements, projects, artworks, and essays that confronted the political and social contradictions of their times, to develop installations, publications, and films that challenge viewers to question the forms of silencing faced by such movements, and about the factors that keep them pertinent, even today. His work has been shown at Kunsthalle Basel (Basel, Switzerland) in 2015, at Centre Pompidou (Paris, France), in 2018, and at Mu.ZEE (Oostende, Belgium), in 2020. He has also been selected to represent Belgium at the 56th Venice Biennale, in 2015, and has also participated in the Chicago Architecture Biennale (USA), in 2019.

Nina Beier (1975, Aarhus, Denmark), on her turn, works with sculptures, installations and performances as a way to investigate how history is articulated with matter and memory. In many of her works, the artist explores the human culture embodied in specific objects. The mechanism of memory formation plays also a major role in her practice. Her work has recently been subject of exhibitions at Kunsthall Ghent (Ghent, Belgium), in 2019; at Centre Pompidou (Paris, France), in 2014; Tate Modern (London, England), in 2012. She has participated in biennials such as the 20th Sydney Biennale (Australia), in 2020; the 6th Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art (Russia), in 2018, and the 13th Lyon Biennale (France), in 2015. The participation of the artist at the 34th Bienal de São Paulo is supported by Nordic Culture Fund, ifa (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen) and Danish Arts Foundation.

Tony Cokes (1956, Virginia, EUA) Professor in the Department of Modern Culture and Media at Brown University (Providence, EUA). His works with video, installation and sound recontextualize appropriated materials in order to make a reflection on our productions as agents of capitalism. His Recent solo exhibitions and screenings have taken place at MACBA (Barcelona, Spain), in 2020; at ARGOS ARGOS centre for audiovisual arts (Brussels, Belgium), in 2020; at The Museum of Modern Art (Nova York, USA), in 2019; he participated in the 10th Berlin Biennale (Germany), in 2018, and exhibited at the REDCAT (Los Angeles, USA), in 2012.

Dirk Braeckman (1958, Eeklo, Belgium) has worked for more than 30 years as a photographer. He finds the subjects for his photographs in the immediate surroundings, preferring interior places or spaces. Part of his artistic process involves an investigation on methods of image development, exposure and printing. Braeckman has taken part in numerous exhibitions both nationally and internationally. In 2017, he represented Belgium at the 57th Venice Biennale. Braeckman's works are part of important private and public collections around the world, including Fondation Nationale d'Art Contemporain (Paris, France), FRAC Nord – Pas de Calais (Dunkirk, France); Musée d'Art Contemporain et Moderne (Strasbourg, France), Sammlung Goetz (Munich, Germany); and Central Museum (Utrecht, The Netherlands).

Also participating in the 34th Bienal is the Brazilian filmmaker and actor **Zózimo Bulbul** (1937-2013, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil). He has produced and directed short, medium-length and feature films and video documentaries, among which are: *Alma no olho* [Spirit in the Eye] (1973); *Artesanato do samba* [Samba crafts] (1974, co-directed by Vera de Figueiredo), *Músicos brasileiros em Paris* [Brazilian musicians in Paris] (1976), *Dia de Alforria...* [Aniceto on a manumission day] (1981), *Abolição* [Abolition] (1988) and *Pequena África* [Little Africa] (2001). His production includes videos on the history of black communities in Rio de Janeiro, featuring the dilemmas of a black middle class which emerged in the 1960s, and claimed a new narrative for the black experience in America. The artist is considered a great representative of the Brazilian "invention cinema" and the afro-diasporic cinema.

34^a Bienal de São Paulo – *Though it's dark, still I sing*

Digital program / February – April 2021

Studio visit: Emerson Uýra

17 February 2021, Thursday, 1:30 pm (GMT-3)

IGTV Instagram [@bienalsaopaulo](https://www.instagram.com/bienalsaopaulo)

Encounters with artists – The voices of the artists #3: Around Sino de Ouro Preto

With Ana Adamović, Carla Zaccagnini, Jota Mombaça, Nina Beier and Vincent Meessen
25 February, Thursday, 7 pm (GMT-3)

Registrations open on 18 November, via the website 34.bienal.org.br/agenda

Free entry

Distance learning short course #3: Repetitions Against the Arrow of Time

4 to 25 March

Thursdays (4, 11, 18 and 25/3), from 7 to 9 pm (GMT-3)

Registrations open on 25 February, via the website bienal.org.br/agenda

80 vagas

Gratuito

Studio visit: Dirk Braeckman

31 March 2021, Wednesday, 11am (GMT-3)

IGTV Instagram [@bienalsaopaulo](https://www.instagram.com/bienalsaopaulo)

Encounters with artists – The voices of the artists #4: Around the portraits of Frederick Douglass

With Alfredo Jaar, Musa Michelle Mattiuzzi, Tony Cokes and a presentation on Zózimo Bulbul by Janaína Oliveira

1 April, Thursday, 7pm (GMT-3) **[postponed for 13 May]**

More information soon on the website 34.bienal.org.br

Free entry

Distance learning short course about the statement "Portraits of Frederick Douglass"

8 to 29 April

Thursdays (8, 15, 22 and 29/4), 7pm (GMT-3) **[postponed for May]**

More information soon on the website 34.bienal.org.br

Free entry

34^a Bienal de São Paulo – *Though it's dark, still I sing*

Exhibition *Though it's dark, still I sing*

4 September to 5 December 2021

Ciccillo Matarazzo Pavilion, Parque Ibirapuera

São Paulo

Brazil

Free entrance

Curatorial team

Chief curator: Jacopo Crivelli Visconti

Adjunct curator: Paulo Miyada

Guest curators: Carla Zaccagnini, Francesco Stocchi e Ruth Estévez

Guest editor: Elvira Dyangani Ose, in collaboration with The Showroom, London

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www.bienal.org.br/press

Though
it's
dark,
*still
I sing*

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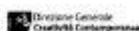
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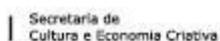
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The title of the 34th Bienal de São Paulo, "Faz escuro mas eu canto" [Though It's Dark, Still I Sing], is a verse by poet Thiago de Mello.