

galeria

nara roesler

loop barcelona

**cao guimarães**

*limbo, 2011*

november 17 – 26, 2020

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COVER Cao Guimarães. *Limbo*, 2011 [film still detail]

On the occasion of LOOP Fair, **Galeria Nara Roesler** is pleased to present *Limbo* (2011) by Brazilian artist **Cao Guimarães**. Cao Guimarães' work derives from an expanded engagement with cinema, characterized by ample travelling, or roaming, through which the artist constructs a visual inventory of everyday life, a lexicon of moments of poetic banality.

*Limbo* is a short film set in the Pampas—a southern region of South America, which encompasses parts of Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina—characterized by vast, dry grasslands. In his work, Guimarães focuses on empty playgrounds in the region, capturing ghostly moments throughout the day where the children's swings and other playing equipment move on their own, pushed by an invisible presence. With this, the artist engages with notions of absence, isolation, and stagnation—not only characteristic of the region due to its arid, deserted, and seemingly boundless nature—but also as a form of reflection on the in-between, on the notion of endless stand by, and of suspension of time. This idea is further evoked through the title: in catholic religion the term designates a space of infinite wait for unbaptised children, who can neither attain heaven nor hell and thus, remain in between forever.

In his own words, the artist describes his piece as a contemplation on: 'A place out of place, a place in between. A hole in space and in time. A Playground for those who came before, and those who left early. An eternal windy Sunday.'

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Cao Guimarães. *Limbo*, 2011 (video still). Digital video Full HD. Edition of 5 + 2 AP. 17'00".

# cao guimarães

b. 1965, Belo Horizonte, Brazil | lives and works in Montevideo, Uruguay

[visit the artist's page](#)

Cao Guimarães' work derives from an expanded approach towards cinema, initiated during an inceptive moment in video art in Brazil. The artist transitions between formats such as super-8, 16 or 35 mm filmstock and video, while using cinematic and contemporary artistic language. His imagery creates an inventory of distinct and perhaps visually intriguing moments of everyday life, such as ants carrying confetti after Carnival, or soap bubbles floating along the corridors of an empty house. In documenting the ordinary, the artist finds poetry in places where it wouldn't be immediately recognisable, expanding the conceptual lexicon of the documentary as a cinematographic genre.

Cao Guimarães also experiments with photography, notably in his series titled *Gambiarras*, where his work focuses on the makeshift culture of creatively shifting the function of objects while solving problems of everyday life. Most recently, he has also developed the photographic series *Retroatos*, through which Guimarães investigates and subverts the notion of the portrait by obliterating the subjects' faces and thus, offering the opposite of traditional portraiture. The artist's ability to improvise during his creative process, allows him to capture objects and situations with a sense of fascination and curiosity that shifts the viewer's attention and understanding of the banal. Despite the static nature of photography, the seriality in Guimarães' works allows for a sense of sequence and juxtaposition of still images that mirror narrative aspects of a film, offering series that could be understood as fragments, or frames from one of the artist's films.

Guimarães' films have been exhibited in several festivals such as the Berlin International Film Festival (2014), the Sundance Film Festival (2007), the Cannes Film Festival (2005) and the Rotterdam International Film Festival (2005, 2007 e 2008), amongst others.

## selected solo exhibitions

- *Espera*, Instituto Moreira Salles - Paulista (IMS-Paulista), São Paulo, Brazil (2018)
- *Ver é uma fábula*, Centro Dragão do Mar de Arte e Cultura (CDMAC), Fortaleza, Brazil (2018)
- *Instituto Itaú Cultural*, São Paulo, Brazil (2013); Galerie Anita Beckers, Frankfurt am Main, Germany (2013)
- *Estética da gambiarra*, Sesc Interlagos (2015), São Paulo, Brazil (2015)
- *Cao Guimarães*, Museu de Arte da Pampulha (MAP), Belo Horizonte, Brazil (2008)

## selected group exhibitions

- 7ª Bienal Internacional de Arte Contemporáneo, Spain (2018)
- *Art and Space*, Guggenheim Bilbao Museum, Bilbao, Spain (2017)
- *Video Art in Latin America, II Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA (PST: LA/LA)*, LAXART, Hollywood, USA (2017)
- 34ª Panorama da Arte Brasileira, Brazil (2015)
- *From the Margin to the Edge: Brazilian Art and Design in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, Somerset House, London, United Kingdom (2012)

## selected collections

- Fondation Cartier Pour L'art Contemporain, Paris, France
- Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo (MAM-SP), São Paulo, Brazil
- Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York, USA
- Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA
- Tate Modern, London, United Kingdom



















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info@nararoesler.art  
www.nararoesler.art

**são paulo**

avenida europa 655  
jardim europa 01449-001  
são paulo sp brasil  
t 55 (11) 2039 5454

**rio de janeiro**

rua redentor 241  
ippanema 22421-030  
rio de janeiro rj brasil  
t 55 (21) 3591 0052

**new york**

new address to be  
announced soon  
ny@nararoesler.art