
sérgio sister: linked paintings

nara roesler rio de janeiro | november 3 – december 23, 2021



Sérgio Sister, Pintura com ligação rosa fluo, oil paint on canvas and aluminum, 2021. Photo: Flávio Freire.

Nara Roesler Rio de Janeiro is proud to announce the opening of *Sérgio Sister: Linked Paintings*, a solo exhibition of the São Paulo-based artist, who has established himself as one of the most prominent names in contemporary Brazilian painting. The show, which opens on November 3 and will be on view until December 23, 2021, is a unique opportunity to discover Sister's recent production. With an oeuvre spanning over five decades, the artist has become one of the most important figures of monochromatic painting in Brazil, having participated in two editions of the São Paulo Biennial (1967 and 2002) and with works included in major institutional collections, such as the Center Georges Pompidou, in Paris, the Pinacoteca de São Paulo, and the Pinault Collection, in Venice.

The exhibition showcases a selection of new works produced during the pandemic, furthering the artist's investigation into the possibilities of chromatic behaviors and materiality of the surface. The prolific effect of Sérgio Sister's painting emerges from his engagement with light as a means of activating color which, in turn, allows for viewers to perceive chromatic variations emphasized by irregular brushstrokes that reveal the rich material intricacy of the colored surfaces. The renovating power of his practice in the visual field seeks to integrate the fundamental elements of painting—color, light, and gesture—, creating chromatic compositions with unique and subtle effects based on color juxtaposition.

These characteristics define Sister's works as "dense painting, rich in textures and surface variations, fundamentally monochromatic," in the words of the curator and art historian Luis Pérez-Oramas. The monochrome, then, is the contemporary genre to which the artist has been dedicated since the 1980s, becoming "one of the most subtle and complex representatives of monochrome painting in America."

The show also includes a series of objects situated between painting and sculpture, which place colors in relation to each other within three-dimensional structures. Sister's objects, such as *Batten*, *Boxes*, and *Linked Paintings* series, which the artist has been producing since the turn of the century, invite the audience to reflect upon the potential effects and reverberations of color and material combinations.

In *Linked Paintings*, the audience will have the chance to take a close look at the recent production of a master of contemporary Brazilian art, comprehending the latest developments in his investigation into the materiality of painting through subtle compositions, in which the wealth of the process instills the surface with a depth and dimensionality of the material itself and its interaction with light.

Sérgio Sister started painting in the late 1960s, at the same time when he was working as a journalist and became engaged with political action. In 1970, Sister was arrested for his militancy. While detained for 19 months at the Tiradentes Prison, in São Paulo, Sister attended painting workshops held at the institution. As a part of Geração 80, Sister revisits an ancient theme in painting: the interplay between surface and three-dimensionality, in an attempt to liberate painting in space. What has marked his production at that time was the superimposition of autonomous chromatic layers coexisting harmoniously side by side.

Today, his work combines painting and sculpture. He uses supports derived from found structures and from systems designed to serve our everyday needs, as we can see in the *Ripas* series, produced since the late 1990s (strips), and in *Caixas* series, produced since 2009, whose names are appropriate of the manufactured products from which they derive. These are sculptural paintings made from found wooden beams that resemble crates, porticos, or window frames. Sister paints the beams with different colors and assembles them into configurations that allow various depths, shadows, and experiences of color to emerge.

Nara Roesler is a leading Brazilian contemporary art gallery, representing seminal Brazilian and international artists who emerged in the 1950s as well as preeminent mid-career and emerging artists who dialogue with the currents put forth by these historical figures. Founded by Nara Roesler in 1989, the gallery has consistently fomented curatorial practice while upholding the utmost quality in art production. This has actively been put into practice through a select and rigorous exhibitions program created in close collaboration with its artists; the implementation and fostering of the Roesler Curatorial Project, a platform for curatorial projects; and continued support to artists beyond the gallery space, working with institutions and curators in offsite shows. In 2012, the gallery doubled its São Paulo exhibition space, in 2014 it expanded to Rio, and in 2015 it opened in New York City, continuing its mission to provide the best platform for its artists to show their work.

service

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opening

november 3
thursday, 5 pm – 8 pm

exhibition

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press contact

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