
sérgio sister
painting between cracks and cavities

nara roesler são paulo

opening august 19

exhibition august 19—october 7, 2023



Sérgio Sister, *Magenta e laranja com ligação amarela*, 2022. Courtesy of the artist and Nara Roesler.

Nara Roesler São Paulo is pleased to present “Pintura entre Frestas e Cavidades” (Painting between Cracks and Cavities), a solo exhibition by Sérgio Sister, showcasing three series of works developed by the artist over the past decades, including the paintings “Pontaletes,” “Ripas,” and “Caixas” (Pilings, Slats, and Boxes). Accompanying the exhibition is a text by Felipe Scovino.

Sister began his career in the 1960s, a period marked by significant political turbulence in Brazil with the rise of the Military Dictatorship. His early work was strongly influenced by Pop Art and the New Figuration. Engaged in the student movement, he was arrested and tortured, producing a significant body of work even while in prison. After his release, he resumed his artistic career in the early 1980s, coinciding with a resurgence of painting both in Brazil and globally. Since then, his practice has focused on the fundamental elements of painting, such as color and surface and their relationship with space.

In this exhibition, the paintings on canvas consist of diptychs and polyptychs of distinct colors grouped together with the aid of a metal plate. Between them, small intervals are filled with color strips.

As described by critic Felipe Scovino: “These are pieces that demand a modular construction, yet they possess autonomy.” While Sister reaffirms the monochrome of each canvas and its flatness, he creates a sort of “break” through these intervals, embracing a sense of three-dimensionality.

Another significant body of work featured in the exhibition is the “Caixas” (Boxes) series, in which the artist uses structures he has made that resemble wooden boxes used for transporting and storing fruits and vegetables in street markets and supermarkets. Sister covers the wooden strips that make up these structures with different colors. This three-dimensional approach allows for an interaction between the shades, expanding the realm of painting to encompass found objects. Complementing the exploration of color and three-dimensionality are works from the “Ripas” (Slats) series, where Sister engages in a dialogue with prominent names from Brazilian art history, such as Willys de Castro.

The exhibition also includes three paintings made on kozo paper. This paper, made from rice fiber, has been used by the artist since the late 1980s. Noteworthy for its rarity, it also stands out for its great flexibility and durability. The works in this series possess a more organic character than his earlier works, showing greater freedom and less geometric rigor.

sérgio sister

Sérgio Sister (b. 1948, São Paulo, Brazil) started his artistic production in the late 1960s, during which he worked as a journalist and became involved in political resistance against the Brazilian military regime (1964-1985). As part of the 80s generation, he revisits an age-old pictorial theme: the interaction between surface and three-dimensionality, aiming to liberate painting within space. His works from that period are characterized by the overlaying of chromatic layers, resulting in autonomous fields of color that coexist harmoniously. Today, his artistic practice combines painting and sculpture, employing brackets derived from found structures and systems designated to serve our daily needs, as observed in the “Ripas” series since the late 1990s and the “Caixas” series since 1996, named after the manufactured products from which they derive.

Sérgio Sister resides and works in São Paulo, Brazil. Among his recent solo exhibitions are: *Then and Now at Nara Roesler*, New York, USA (2019); *Sérgio Sister: o sorriso da cor e outros engenhos* (Sérgio Sister: The Smile of Color and Other Devices) at Instituto Ling, Porto Alegre, Brazil (2019); “Sérgio Sister” at Kupfer Gallery, London, UK (2017); *Sérgio Sister: Malen Mit Raum, Schatten und Luft* (Sérgio Sister: Painting with Space, Shadow, and Air) at Galerie Lange + Pult, Zurich, Switzerland (2016); and “Expanded Fields” at Nympe Projekte, Berlin, Germany (2016). He participated in the 9th and 25th editions of the São Paulo Biennial (1967, 2002).

Recent group exhibitions include: *Co/respondences: Brazil and Abroad* at Galeria Nara Roesler NY (2023); *A linha como direção* (The Line as a Direction) at Pina Estação, São Paulo, Brazil (2019); *The Pencil is a Key: Art by Incarcerated Artists* at The Drawing Center, New York, USA (2019); *Géométries Américaines, du Mexique à la Terre de Feu* (American Geometries, from Mexico to Tierra del Fuego) at Fondation Cartier pour l’Art Contemporain, Paris, France (2018); *AI-5 50 anos – Ainda não terminou de acabar* (AI-5 50 years - It’s still not over) at Instituto Tomie Ohtake (ITO), São Paulo, Brazil (2018); and *MAC USP no século XXI – A era dos artistas* (MAC USP in the 21st Century - The Era of Artists) at Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Universidade de São Paulo (MAC USP), São Paulo, Brazil (2017).

His works are part of important collections, including Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France; François Pinault Collection, Venice, Italy; Fundación/Colección Jumex, Mexico City, Mexico; Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro (MAM-Rio), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; MAR; MASP; MAC-USP; Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil, among others.

nara roesler

Nara Roesler is one of Brazil's leading contemporary art galleries, representing influential Brazilian and Latin American artists from the 1950s, as well as important established and emerging artists who engage with the trends initiated by these historical figures. Founded in 1989 by Nara Roesler, the gallery consistently fosters curatorial innovation while maintaining the highest standards of quality in its artistic productions. It has developed a selective and rigorous exhibition program in close collaboration with its artists, established and maintained the Roesler Hotel program, a platform for curatorial projects, and continuously supports its artists beyond the gallery space, collaborating with institutions and curators for external exhibitions. The gallery expanded its exhibition space in São Paulo in 2012 and inaugurated new spaces in Rio de Janeiro in 2014 and New York in 2015, continuing its mission to provide the best possible platform for its artists to showcase their works.

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monday–friday, 10 am–7 pm

saturday, 11 am – 3 pm

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