



DIZER NÃO [SAY NO]

PRESS RELEASE

An independent and collective exhibition brings together 40 artists to reflect upon the place of art in Brazil in times of barbarism

DIZER NÃO [SAY NO] is an exhibition featuring 40 artists, duos or collectives working mainly in the area of visual arts, as well as music and performance. The exhibition will be open to the public from July 22 to September 19, in a formerly abandoned printing press at Rua Cruzeiro, 802, Barra Funda, in São Paulo, soon to be the new headquarters of the independent art space Ateliê397. The exhibition is organized by Adriana Rodrigues, Edu Marin, Érica Burini and Thaís Rivitti, with the support of Ateliê397.

The complete list of artists is formed by Adriano Machado, Ana Dias Batista, André Komatsu, Bertô, Bruna Kury and Gil Porto Pyrata, Cildo Meireles, Clara Ianni, Coletivo ...mesmo alienado (Craca and Raphael Franco), Cuca Ferreira, Daniel Jablonski, Denise Alves-Rodrigues, Edu Marin, Elizabeth Slamek, Fernando Burjato, Flora Leite, Frederico Filippi e C. L. Salvaro, Graziela Kunsch, Isael Maxakali, JAMAC, João Loureiro, Juçara Marçal and Décio 7, Kadija de Paula & Chico Togni, Kauê Garcia, Laura Andreato and MuitasKoisas, Leda Catunda, Lia Chaia, Lícida Vidal, Lucimélia Romão, Marcelo Amorim, MUSEUL*RA, Pablo Vieira, Paola Ribeiro, Rafael Amorim, Raphael Escobar, Regina José Galindo, Rochelle Costi, Shima, Sol Casal, Vânia Medeiros and Wagner Pinto.

Artists are gathered around questions such as: "What can art do against barbarism?", "How and why should we continue producing in times of death and mourning?", "Is there political efficiency in artistic actions?" among others placed in the presentation text of the exhibition. Taking a stand against government policies that deny the pandemic and minimize its consequences, against racist and sexist, transphobic and homophobic policies and also against the defamation of the artist and the economic boycott of cultural activities, the exhibition's statement shows the impasses that surround production and reflection on art nowadays in Brazil.

For Thaís Rivitti, curator, director of Ateliê397 and one of the organizers of DIZER NÃO, "The exhibition has a dedicated group of artists that are very close to the organizers and Ateliê397. They are artists we have already worked with and with whom we have exchanged thoughts with remotely during the pandemic. Together we share our indignation, revolt, feeling of impotence and willingness to react, in some way, within our area of expertise: art."

For artist Edu Marin, also an organizer, "DIZER NÃO also hopes to serve as a stimulus for artists so they will continue to think, produce, question and create for themselves. Even those who, during this crisis, found themselves engulfed by the urgencies of the present are still active, thinking and rethinking their work. The exhibition tries to bring together some of the aforementioned and give visibility to this production that is currently, more than ever, facing obstacles to becoming public".

Found at different stages of their careers, such as the veteran Cildo Meireles to the newcomer Lícida Vidal, 40+ artists come together around the exhibition's proposal to think about the present political moment and its consequences for artistic activities. Some of them present new works, designed specifically for the exhibition, such as Leda Catunda, Ana Luiza Dias, João Loureiro and Daniel Jablonski. Others present versions of existing works that now

hold a new relevance, such as Shima (in his video *Protocol*, in collaboration with Rafael Abdala), Marcelo Amorim's paintings *Sem Título* (boxers) and Lia Chaia with the video *Mil Olhos*, from 2019. Artists such as Regina Galindo, Cildo Meireles and Juçara Marçal, who helped create the conceptual basis for this project, have kindly lent fundamental works to the exhibition for thinking about the power of art in the face of adverse political situations.

The campaign launched on a Brazilian crowdsourcing platform (<http://abacashi.com/p/dizernao>) aims to raise funds to cover the project costs. All work has been done voluntarily and the artists are organizing between themselves means to help each other in assembling their work and obtaining the necessary equipment and materials for the exhibition. In addition to the physical exhibition, the virtual space (<http://www.dizernao.com.br>) will also function as a platform for artists to exhibit their productions and what they have been creating and thinking about at this time of such difficulties. Reluctance, refusal, denial appear as forms of nonconformity within our current situation.

For Thais Rivitti "Many artworks in the exhibition incorporated a gesture of erasure, referring to the ongoing attempts to inhibit art in Brazil – this is seen by artists burying objects, hiding part of the work, mimicking elements, camouflaging them - often leaving the work or part of it also hidden. Another curator, Adriana Rodrigues, adds: "other artists sought to expand the scale of their work, through wheatpaste posters, mural paintings, large installations, that serve as reaction to this same invisibility".

Érica Burini, also curator and organizer of the exhibition, summarizes the spirit on display: "DIZER NÃO demonstrates a desire to reestablish the feeling of community and unity, without giving up a critical stance, drawing parallels to the demonstrations that have taken to the streets urgently these past weeks. Our response hopes to bring the same urgency from the sensitive field. With more than 50 people involved and a budget built by donations, this exhibition is one more demonstration, among others, that, although with many limitations, the art and artists will not remain silent in the face of barbarism".

ORGANIZED BY

ADRIANA RODRIGUES
EDU MARIN
ÉRICA BURINI
THAÍS RIVITTI

www.dizernao.com.br

JULY 22ND – SEPTEMBER 19TH

RUA CRUZEIRO, 802 – SÃO PAULO

[instagram.com/dizernao](https://www.instagram.com/dizernao)