

## BORTOLAMI

### **The Upstairs:**

#### ***Burle Marx / Santídio Pereira***

**10 September – 16 October 2021**

Bortolami is pleased to announce a two-person exhibition with works by Roberto Burle Marx and Santídio Pereira, organized by Ricardo Kugelmas, founder of *auroras*, São Paulo, in The Upstairs. Though the two Brazilian artists are from different generations, they find commonality creating work that celebrates the richness and complexity of Brazil's natural environment, both organizing and articulating new ways of appreciating the wonder of their surroundings.

Roberto Burle Marx (1909-1994), a renowned landscape architect and passionate conservationist, was a pivotal figure in Brazilian modernism. In addition to his contributions as a landscape architect, his wide-ranging output included textile design and painting, as well as sculpture, theatrical set and jewelry design. Santídio Pereira (1996) primarily focuses on printmaking. For his woodcuts, he utilizes a distinctive technique in which he favors cutting and joining wood shapes rather than chiseling and carving into a single block of wood. This process results in unique works, subverting the logic of print reproduction.

Using different approaches, both artists showcase their unique languages in translating tropical flora into form. Burle Marx studied painting in Germany in the 1920s, later earning large-scale mural commissions all over Brazil. These painted tile murals, replete with organic forms mixed with architectural geometry, served as a basis for his large tapestries. Two of Burle Marx's rare weavings—he produced just thirty in his lifetime—hang in conversation with Pereira's woodcut prints.

In Pereira's woodcuts, nature appears not only in the organic forms that the artist carves by hand, but also in the veins of the wood that serves as the basis for his engravings. The artist finds inspiration in the Brazilian biomes, spending hours in the foliage making drawings of abstracted bromeliads, rolling hillsides, and tropical birds. Likewise, Burle Marx searched the same jungles for native plants to incorporate into his landscape projects, discovering over forty species that now bear his name.

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**Roberto Burle Marx** (b.1909 in São Paulo, Brazil and died in 1994) was one of the most important landscape architects of the 20th century. His work has been shown across North and South America and Europe. In São Paulo, Brazil, past solo exhibitions include *Roberto Burle Marx: uma vontade de beleza* at Pincacoteca do Estado de São Paulo in 2015; *Roberto Burle Marx 100 years: the permanence of the unstable*, Paço Imperial Museum, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2008/2009; The Museum of Modern Art of São Paulo, Brazil, 2009; Past solo exhibitions in the United States include *Brazilian Modern: The Living Art of Roberto Burle Marx*, New York Botanical Garden, NY in 2019; *Roberto Burle Marx: Brazilian Modernist*, Jewish Museum, New York, NY in 2016; *Roberto Burle Marx: The Unnatural Art of the Garden*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY in 1991; *Burle Marx*, American Society of Landscape Architects, San Francisco, CA in 1986; *Burle Marx* at Brazilian-American Cultural Institute Washington, DC and at Brazilian Cultural Foundation, New York, NY in 1986; and *From Le Corbusier to Oscar Niemeyer: Savoye House - Tremaine House 1949*, The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY in 1949.

**Santídio Pereira** (b. 1996 in Curral Comprido, Brazil) lives and works in São Paulo, Brazil, and is represented by Galeria Estação, São Paulo, Brazil. Recent solo exhibitions include *Between two skies*, b[x] Gallery, New York, NY in 2019; *Black on white, overlapping and nuances*, Centro Cultural São Paulo, Brazil in 2018; *A look of memory – Santídio Pereira*, Galeria Estação, São Paulo, Brazil in 2018; and *Santídio Pereira: Colors in black and white*, Galeria Estação, São Paulo, Brazil in 2016. Past group exhibitions include *Xilograficamente*, SESI, São Paulo, Brazil in 2021; *Trees*, Power Station of Art, Shanghai, China, in 2021; *Pretatitute, Insurgencies, Emergencies and Affirmations in Contemporary Afro-Brazilian Art*, SESC, São Paulo, Brazil in 2020; *Trees*, Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris, France, in 2019. His work is featured in the collections of the Pinacoteca of the State of São Paulo and Acervo Sesc de Arte in São Paulo; Museu de Arte do Rio – MAR in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Colección Cisneros in Miami; and the Fondation Cartier pour l'art Comtemporain in Paris.

**auroras** is an art space that promotes exhibitions, artistic experimentation, critical thinking and educational programming in a modernist house in São Paulo. Since 2015, *auroras* has enabled and facilitated projects and showed works by over one hundred artists, both local and international, fostering a contemporary exchange amongst practitioners, curators, educators, critics and the general public. The program involves temporary and travelling exhibitions, artistic open calls, site-specific projects, interviews, talks, publications, and educational public activities. All this is made possible through a collaborative model with artists, galleries, institutions, and the ones who believe in art as a significant social exchange.