Andrew Kreps Gallery
22 Cortlandt Alley, New York, NY 10013
Tue–Sat, 10 am–6 pm andrewkreps.com
Tel. (212)741-8849 Fax. (212)741-8163

Heitor dos Prazeres Abundant Existence

394 Broadway&22 Cortlandt Alley
November 6 - December 19, 2026

Opening Reception, Friday, November 6, 6 - 8 pm

"My painting is about things that passed through me, and I passed through them," Heitor dos Prazeres

Andrew Kreps Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of works by Heitor dos Prazeres (b. 1898, Rio de Janeiro, d. 1966, Rio de Janeiro), a polymath whose contributions to the visual arts, fashion, and music established him as a key figure of samba and more broadly, the cultural landscape of Rio de Janeiro in the twentieth century. This is the first exhibition devoted to Prazeres' work in New York, and includes works made between 1944 and 1966.

Born a decade after the abolition of slavery in Brazil, Heitor dos Prazeres was immersed in music from a young age, taught by both his father, and uncle, the musician Hilário Jovino Ferreira. Prazeres made his first musical compositions at the age of fourteen, and would soon after cement himself as a fixture of Rio de Janeiro's "Pequena África" (Little Africa,) aiding in the establishment of now iconic samba schools, such as Deixa Falar, Mangueira, and Portela. This community greatly influenced Prazeres as he began painting in the mid-1930s, depicting scenes from Brazilian Black culture, from popular festivals, Afro-Brazilian religions, samba, and bohemian life. Vibrant in color and rhythmic in composition, Prazeres' paintings document not only scenes of joy, but also mourning, and suffering, inextricably tied to Prazeres' experiences as a Black man, and a landscape marred by social inequity.

It was Prazeres' persistent focus on the everyday that marked a radical shift from existing depictions of Black life in Brazil, which had been shaped by a colonial lens. While Prazeres paintings depict capoeira, samba, and affection, they also record police repression and the suppressed traditions of Afro-Brazilian religions, lending his practice an inherent political dimension. Using a singular visual language in which exuberant two-dimensional figures engage in energetic movement, Prazeres's works were based in close observation of the people around him, as he aimed to maintain the dignity of his subjects in both form and spirit. Through portraying the reality of Pequena África and of Rio de Janeiro's Black communities, Prazeres placed the socioeconomic reality of a post-abolition society at the forefront. As his profile grew within Brazil and internationally in the 1940s, with the Museum of Modern Art, New York acquiring a work in 1942, his paintings became a vital document of a dynamic, cultural

community. This would lead Prazeres to later become one of the first victims of censorship in the days after Brazil's civil-military coup of 1964, as he was dismissed from Rádio Nacional, where he had been a permanent cast member since 1943, by the newly installed dictatorship. While this dismissal proved a great blow to Prazeres, he remained resolute in creating visual art and music until his death two years later. Throughout his life, Prazeres had asserted that his work was inseparable from the place in which it was made, stating "The joy of these people, the suffering of these people is what compels me to work… These people are me, the man of the people."

Heitor dos Prazeres exhibited widely during his lifetime. In 1944, Prazeres was the only Black artist to be included in a war relief exhibition of Brazilian Art at the Royal Academy, London. The inclusion of his painting, Moenda, in the first São Paulo Biennial, led to a special presentation dedicated to his work in the Biennial's second edition in 1953. Prazeres participated in two further editions of the São Paulo Biennial during his lifetime, as well as the 1952 Venice Biennale. Shortly before his death In 1966, Prazeres represented Brazil at the First World Festival of Black Arts in Dakar, Senegal. Posthumous presentations of Prazeres' work include the 1976 and 2025 editions of the São Paulo Biennial, as well as major retrospective exhibitions at Espaço Cultural BNDES, Rio de Janeiro, and Museu Nacional de Belas Artes (MNBA), Rio de Janeiro, both in 1999, and at Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil in 2025. Prazeres' work is held in the collections of MoMA, New York, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, El Museo del Barrio in New York, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, MAM Rio de Janeiro, Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand – MASP, MAM São Paulo, Pinacoteca de São Paulo, among others. The gallery thanks Almeida & Dale for their collaboration on this exhibition.

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394 BROADWAY



HEITOR DOS PRAZERES
Untitled, 1949

Oil on paper
15 1/8 x 15 1/2 inches (38.5 x 39.5 cm.)
HDP26-006



HEITOR DOS PRAZERES
Umbrella Dancers, 1964

Oil on canvas
19 3/4 x 24 inches (50 x 61 cm.)
HDP26-007



HEITOR DOS PRAZERES
Briga de Rua, 1966

Oil on canvas
14 5/8 x 17 3/4 inches (37 x 45 cm.)
HDP26-003



HEITOR DOS PRAZERES
Untitled, 1961

Oil on canvas
18 1/8 x 15 inches (46 x 38 cm.)
HDP26-005

HALLWAY



HEITOR DOS PRAZERES
Untitled, 1959

Gouache on paper
15 1/2 x 12 1/4 inches (39.5 x 31 cm.)
HDP26-013



HEITOR DOS PRAZERES
Untitled, 1964

Oil on canvas
17 3/4 x 14 3/4 inches (45 x 37.5 cm.)
HDP26-015

22 CORTLANDT ALLEY



HEITOR DOS PRAZERES
Untitled, 1963

Oil on wood chipboard
16 1/8 x 12 3/4 inches (41 x 32.5 cm.)
HDP26-009



HEITOR DOS PRAZERES
Untitled, 1945

Oil on canvas
13 5/8 x 15 3/4 inches (34.5 x 40 cm.)
HDP26-011

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HEITOR DOS PRAZERES
Gaitista, Déc. 1960, 1960

Oil on canvas
18 1/8 x 15 1/8 inches (46 x 38.3 cm.)
HDP26-010



HEITOR DOS PRAZERES
Untitled, 1965

Oil on canvas
15 x 18 1/8 inches (38 x 46 cm.)
HDP26-008



HEITOR DOS PRAZERES
Untitled, 1944

Oil on canvas
10 1/4 x 15 3/4 inches (26 x 40 cm.)
HDP26-012



HEITOR DOS PRAZERES
Untitled, c. 1960

Oil on wood panel
61 3/8 x 21 5/8 inches (156 x 55 cm.)
HDP26-017



HEITOR DOS PRAZERES
Untitled, c. 1960

Oil on wood panel
61 3/8 x 21 5/8 inches (156 x 55 cm.)
HDP26-016



HEITOR DOS PRAZERES
Tintureiro, 1966

Oil on canvas
19 3/4 x 24 inches (50 x 61 cm.)
HDP26-004



HEITOR DOS PRAZERES
Untitled, 1963

Oil on canvas
15 x 18 1/8 inches (38 x 46 cm.)
HDP26-014

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Heitor dos Prazeres

1898 – 1966, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brasil

SELECTED SOLO SHOWS

2026 *Heitor dos Prazeres: Abundant Existence*, Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York (forthcoming)
2023 *Heitor dos Prazeres é meu nome*, Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
2005 Espaço Cultural BM&F, São Paulo, Brasil
1999 *As três artes de Heitor dos Prazeres*, Museu Nacional de Belas Artes - MNBA, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
1998 *Heitor dos Prazeres: um século de arte*, Espaço Cultural BNDES, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
1984 *Heitor dos Prazeres: retrospectiva*, Brazil Embassy, Rome, Italy; Galerie Debret, Paris, France
1967 Galeria Ars Artis, São Paulo, Brasil
1965 Museu de Arte do Rio Grande do Sul – MARGS, Porto Alegre, Brasil
1964 Galeria Quirino, Salvador, Brasil
1963 Galeria Selearte, São Paulo
1961 Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro – MAM Rio, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil Heitor dos Prazeres: pinturas, Galeria Sistina, São Paulo, Brasil
1959 Galeria Gea, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

SELECTED GROUP SHOWS

2025 *36. Bienal de São Paulo, Nem todo viandante anda estradas – Da humanidade como prática (Not all Travelers Walk Roads - Of Humanity As Practice)*, São Paulo, Brasil
Tecendo a manhã: vida moderna e experiência noturna na arte do Brasil, Pinacoteca de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brasil
Histórias LGBTQIA+, Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand – MASP, São Paulo, Brasil
Brasil: Múltiplas histórias e faces, Itaú Cultural, São Paulo, Brasil
Autodidact, Almine Rech, London, UK
2024 *Vai, Vai, Saudade*, curated by Cristiano Raimondi, Madre – Museo d'Arte Contemporanea Donnaregina, Naples, Italy

Ancestral: Afro-Américas (Estados Unidos e Brasil), Museu de Arte Brasileira da Fundação Armando Alvares Penteado - MAB/FAAP, São Paulo, Brasil
Lélia em nós: festas populares e amefricanidade, curated by Glaucea Britto and Raquel Barreto, Sesc Vila Mariana, São Paulo, Brasil
Dos Brasis – Arte e pensamento negro, curated by Igor Simões, Lorraine Mendes and Marcelo, Sesc Quitandinha, Petrópolis, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

2023 *Mãos: 35 anos da Mão Afro-Brasileira*, curated by Claudinei Roberto, Museu Afro Brasil Emanoel Araujoand Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo – MAM SP, São Paulo, Brasil
Dos Brasis – Arte e pensamento negro, curated by Igor Simões, Lorraine Mendes and Marcelo Campos, Sesc Belenzinho, São Paulo, Brasil

2022 *Histórias brasileiras*, curated by Adriano Pedrosa and Lilia M. Schwarcz, MASP, São Paulo, Brasil

2021 *Popular Painters and Other Visionaries*, El Museo del Barrio, New York, USA
Carolina Maria de Jesus: um Brasil para os brasileiros, Instituto Moreira Salles, São Paulo, Brasil
Crônicas cariocas, Museu de Arte do Rio - MAR, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
A memória é uma invenção, MAM Rio, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

2018 *Histórias afro-atlânticas*, MASP, São Paulo, Brasil
O Rio do samba: resistência e reinvenção, MAR, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

2017 *Mudez, Brasília 57*, Museu Nacional da República, Brasília, Brasil

2016 *Orixás*, Casa Brasil-França, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
Entreolhares: poéticas d'alma brasileira, Museu Afro Brasil Emanoel Araujo, São Paulo, Brasil

2015 *Obras sob guarda do MON*, Museu Oscar Niemeyer – MON, Curitiba, Brasil
Arte na moda: Collection MASP Rhodia, MASP, São Paulo, Brasil

2009 *A arte de colecionar-te*, Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Mato Grosso do Sul, Campo Grande, Brasil
Nus, Galeria Fortes Vilaça, São Paulo, Brasil

2003 *Arte em movimento*, Espaço BNDES, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

2002 *Pop Brasil: a arte popular e o popular na arte*, CCBB, São Paulo, Brasil
6ª Bienal Naifs do Brasil, Sesc Piracicaba, Piracicaba, Brasil
Santa ingenuidade, Unifieo, São Paulo, Brasil

2001 *Figuras e faces*, A Galeria, São Paulo, Brasil

2000 *Brasil + 500 – Mostra do redescobrimento*, curated by Nelson Aguilar, Fundação Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brasil

1999 *Cotidiano/Arte. O consumo*, Itaú Cultural, São Paulo, Brasil

1998 *O moderno e o contemporâneo na arte brasileira: Collection Gilberto Chateaubriand*, São Paulo, Brasil
O colecionador, MAM-SP, São Paulo, Brasil
Fantasia brasileira: o balé do IV Centenário, Sesc Belenzinho, São Paulo, Brasil

1994 *Collection Unibanco: exposição comemorativa dos 70 anos do Unibanco*,

MAM Rio, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

1992 *Arte moderna brasileira: Collection do Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Universidade de São Paulo*, Casa da Cultura de Poços de Caldas, Poços de Caldas, Brasil

1988 *O mundo fascinante dos pintores naïfs*, Paço Imperial, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

Hedonismo: Collection Gilberto Chateaubriand, Galeria Edifício Gilberto Chateaubriand, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

1987 *As Bienais no Collection do MAC: 1951 a 1985*, MAC USP, São Paulo, Brasil

1983 *80 anos de arte brasileira*, Prefeitura Municipal de Santo André, Santo André, Brasil

2ª Exposição da Collection Abelardo Rodrigues de artes plásticas, Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Pernambuco – MAC-PE, Olinda, Brasil

80 anos de arte brasileira, Museu de Arte Contemporânea do Paraná – MAC, Curitiba; Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Campinas – MACC, Campinas; Fundação Clóvis Salgado, Palácio das Artes, Belo Horizonte, Brasil

1982 *80 anos de arte brasileira*, MAB/FAAP, São Paulo, Brasil Brasil

60 anos de arte moderna: Collection Gilberto Chateaubriand, Barbican Art Gallery, London, UK; Centro de Arte Moderna José de Azeredo Perdigão, Lisbon, Portugal

1980 *Homenagem a Mário Pedrosa*, Galeria Jean Boghici, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

1979 *15ª Bienal de São Paulo,* Fundação Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brasil

1966 *O artista e a máquina*, MASP, São Paulo; MAM Rio, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

Pintores primitivos brasileiros, unknown venue, Moscow, Russia

Auto-retratos, Galeria Ibeu Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

1º Festival Mundial de Artes Negras, Dakar, Senegal

1965 *Brazilian Art Today*, Royal Academy of Arts, London, UK, Bonn, Germany

1963 *Pintura e escultura contemporâneas*, Museu Carlos Gomes, Campinas, Brasil 1961 6ª Bienal de São Paulo, curated by Mario Pedrosa, MAM SP, São Paulo, Brasil

1959 *30 anos de arte brasileira*, Escola Nacional de Belas Artes – ENBA, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

1957 *Arte moderna no Brasil*, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo, Santiago, Chile; Museo Municipal de Bellas Artes Juan B. Castagnino, Rosario, Argentina; Museo de Arte de Lima, Lima, Peru; Museo de Arte Moderno, Buenos Aires, Argentina

1954 *Arte contemporânea: exposição do Collection do Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo – MAM-SP*, MAM SP, São Paulo, Brasil

1953 *2ª Bienal de São Paulo*, MAM SP, Pavilhão dos Estados, São Paulo, Brasil

1952 *Exposição de artistas brasileiros*, MAM Rio, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

1951 *1ª Bienal de São Paulo*, MAM-SP, Pavilhão do Trianon, São Paulo, Brasil

1944 *Exposição de arte moderna*, Museu de Arte da Pampulha - MAP, Belo Horizonte, Brasil
Contemporary Brazilian Painting, Royal Academy of Arts, London

INSTITUTIONAL COLLECTIONS

Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
Chazen Museum of Art, Madison, USA
El Museo del Barrio, New York, USA
Fundação Roberto Marinho, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
Museu Afro Brasil Emanoel Araujo, São Paulo, Brasil
Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo – MAM SP, São Paulo, Brasil
Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Universidade de São Paulo – MAC USP, São Paulo, Brasil
Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand - MASP, São Paulo, Brasil
Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro – MAM Rio, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
Museu de Arte do Rio - MAR, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil
Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain
The Museum of Modern Art, MoMA, New York, USA