

**Paulo Nazareth**  
*Banderas Rotas*

27 February – 5 April 2014

Galleria Franco Noero is pleased to present Paulo Nazareth's *Rotas Banderas*, the artist's first solo exhibition in Italy and in Europe.

Life and art often coincide in the work of Paulo Nazareth. Using the language of art and through participation and the choice and representation of objects, the artist works on issues that explore the relationship between people and the many different contexts they live in. In many cases he investigates the concepts of ethnicity and ideology, in a profound analysis of the imbalances in the world that surrounds us both socially and ethically. A key element in the life of this young Brazilian artist is the act of walking and indeed he ventures off on long journeys across continents. One of these was in 2011, when a nine-month trip took him from Minas Geras, his hometown in Brazil, to Miami, Florida, on the occasion of the Art Basel exhibition in Miami Beach.

As though in a never-ending performance, Paulo Nazareth sublimates the journey and returns it through his works, in photographs, drawings and installations that appear as chronicles and diaries, and catalogues of images.

In the central space of the gallery, the artist is showing his *Banderas Rotas* installation, which introduces the exhibition and gives it its title: a wall of old television sets stacked up on industrial pallets forms an imaginary barricade, with each set showing a video shot by the artist on makeshift equipment, showing one or more flags hoisted high over the landscape, but visibly damaged or thrashed by the wind. The artist views flags as bearers of nationalistic ideals, and symbols of a materialism that has been taken to its absolute extremes. Flags establish geographies and territories on Earth, but when hoisted on poles, they free themselves of their gravity: they are brought to life but, at the same time, they are altered. The artist portrays them in a paradoxical limbo between their representational function and their at least theoretical function as symbols of a shaken or even decayed freedom.

Like *Banderas Rotas*, also his *Drawings of African Flags* consists of flags, in this case in the form of drawings on tracing paper showing flags of the 62 nations that form the African continent. The artist adopts the colours, shapes and symbols that represent each of the peoples and political systems on the continent and consigns them to paper in rapid, simplified motions. The colour, which is applied using crayons, illustrates the artist's manual, almost childlike approach and his provocative simplification of complex symbols. The African continent is thus shown as a continent "for sale", reduced to its basic territorial simplifications and reconstructed as a colourful jig-saw puzzle.

Also *Cadernos de Africa* is inspired by the same continent. Taken in different parts of Africa and South America, and piled up on makeshift tables, the selection of photographs examines the theme of diversity in scenes from everyday life and performative acts by the artist. 1000 prints, which are intentionally filtered in black and white and made in an unlimited edition, are made accessible to anyone here in order to make them known, and so that the simple but fundamental message they bring with them can circulate far and wide.

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Paulo Nazareth (Governador Valadares, Brazil, 1977) lives and works in Brazil and in the rest of the world. His works have been shown in many solo and group exhibitions in galleries and international institutions. The most recent include *Premium Bananas*, Museu de Arte de São Paulo – MASP, Sao Paulo, Brazil, (2012-2013), *Veneza Neves*, Veneza, Ribeirão das Neves, Minas Gerais, Brazil, (2013), *News from Americas*, Mendes Wood DM, Sao Paulo, Brazil, (2012), Museu de Arte de Pampulha, Belo Horizonte, Brazil, (2007). Group exhibitions include *Imagine Brazil*, Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo, Norway, *Entre-temps... Brusquement, et ensuite*, 12th Biennale de Lyon, Lyon, France (2013-2014), *Unstable Territory: Borders and Identity in Contemporary Art*, Centre for Contemporary Culture at Palazzo Strozzi | CCC Strozzi, Florence, Italy, *The insides are on the outside – O interior está no exterior*, Casa de Vidro, Sao Paulo, Brazil, *The Encyclopedic Palace*, 55th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy, *Museum as Hub: Walking Drifting Dragging*, New Museum, New York, USA (2013).

Paulo Nazareth is represented in Italy by Galleria Franco Noero, Turin.

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