

Laura Lima



Biography

Laura Lima's (b. 1971, Governador Valadares, Minas Gerais, Brazil) practice employs a variety of media often incorporating living organisms and actions that are performed for long periods of time, to explore ways in which human behaviour alters our perception of the everyday.

Since letting a cow loose on Ipanema Beach in the mid-1990s, Lima has continued to present a body of work consisting of what she sometimes describes as 'images'. Consistently escaping easy classification, Laura Lima's 'images' are 'neither performance nor installation nor cinema', but rather attempts to visually link, in concrete reality, a personal glossary that the artist has worked and reworked throughout the more than twenty years of her career. Another component of Lima's work relates to the notion of ornamental philosophy. Her work seeks to propose new understandings of accepted definitions and concepts, destabilising and subverting what is taken for granted.

In 2023, 'Laura Lima: Balè Literal', a major solo exhibition was held at MACBA, which will tour to MAM Rio de Janeiro in May 2025. A dedicated publication is due to be published later in the year by Cobogó.

Lima was the recipient of the Bonnefanten Award for Contemporary Art (BACA), in 2014, and the Marcantonio Vilaça Award in 2006. The artist was also nominated for the Francophone Award in 2011 and the Han Nefkens Award in 2012. In 2003, Lima co-founded A Gentil Carioca together with Ernesto Neto and Marcio Botner, a gallery headed by artists in Rio de Janeiro, where she still serves as a board member.

Solo exhibitions include: How to Eat the Sun and Moon, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg (2024); Laura Lima: Balè Literal, MACBA Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona (2023); Taylor Shop, Pinacoteca do Estado, São Paulo (2018); Cavalo come Re', Prada Foundation, Milan (2018); The Inverse, ICA Miami (2016); Ágrafo, Galeria Luisa Strina, São Paulo (2015); El Mago Desnudo, MAMBA Museo de Arte Moderno de Buenos Aires (2015); The Naked Magicien, National Gallery of Denmark, Copenhagen (2015) and Bonnierskonsthall, Stockholm (2014); The fifth floor, Laureate Bonnefanten, Maastricht (2014); The Abstraction, Lilith Performance Studio, Malmö (2014); Bar/Restaurante, Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich (2013); Casa França Brasil, Rio de Janeiro (2011).

Biennales and group exhibitions include: Witch Hunt, at Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2021); Busan Biennial (2018); Sharjah Biennial (2019); Por aqui é tudo novo, Instituto Inhotim, Brumadinho (2016); Trienal de Aichi, Toyohashi (2016); Performa 15, New York (2015); 15 Rooms, Long Museum, Shanghai (2015); Encruzilhada, Parque Lage, Rio de Janeiro (2015); 140 Caracteres, Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo (2014); Por amor a la disidencia, MUAC Museo Universitario Arte Contemporáneo, Cidade do México (2013); Circuitos Cruzados – Centre Pompidou meets MAM, Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo (2013); Ruhrtriennale, Essen (2012); 11a Bienal de Lyon (2011).

Collections include: CACI Centro de Arte Contemporânea Inhotim, Brazil; MAM Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, Brazil; Bonniers Konsthall, Sweden; Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Switzerland; Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo.

Lima lives and works in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Solo Exhibitions

2023

Laura Lima: Balé Literal, MACBA, Barcelona, Spain

2021

Six Feet Over, Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

2019

I hope this finds you well, Tanya Bonakdar Gallery, New York, USA

Balé Literal, A Gentil Carioca, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Qual, Galeria Luisa Strina, São Paulo, Brazil

2018

Slight Agitation 4/4: Laura Lima, Cavalo Come Rei, Fondazione Prada, Milan, Italy

Laura Lima: Alfaiaataria, Pinacoteca de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

Laura Lima: Wrong Drawings, Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa

2017

A Room and a Half, Ujazdowski Castle, Centre for Contemporary Art, Warsaw, Poland

2016

The Inverse, Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, USA

2015

El mago desnudo, Museo de Arte Moderna de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina

The Naked Magician, Statens Museum for Kunst, National Gallery of Denmark, Copenhagen, Denmark

2014

The Fifth Floor, Bonnefanten Museum, Maastricht, Netherlands

The Naked Magician, Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden
Cinema Shadow 'Vertiptical', Nyhetsbolaget and Berns, Stockholm, Sweden; Praia do Diabo and Arpoador, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2013
Por amor a la disidencia, Museo Universitario de Arte Contemporáneo, Mexico City, Mexico
Laura Lima: Bar Restaurant and Naked Magician, Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich, Switzerland

2012
Cinema Shadow 'Unspecified', Shortwave Cinema, London, United Kingdom
Cinema Shadow 'Segundo', Fundação Eva Klabin, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2010
Grande, Fundação Casa França Brasil, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2009
Nuvem, Casa de Cultura Laura Alvim, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2008
Fuga, A Gentil Carioca, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2007
Ornamental Philosophy, Hardcore Art Contemporary Space, Miami, USA

2004
Baile, Escola de Artes Visuais do Parque Lage, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2002
HOMEM=carne/MULHER=carne & Costumes, Museu de Arte da Pampulha, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Group Exhibitions

2021
Playful Geometry, Collection of the Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich, Switzerland
Witch Hunt, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, USA
Once Upon Another Time... gyveno jie jau kitaip, 13th Kaunas Biennial, Kaunas, Lithuania
Deslocamentos, Inhotim, Brumadinho, Minas Gerais, Brazil

2020
Pinacoteca: Collection, Pinacoteca de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

2019
Passado/Futuro/Presente: Arte contemporânea brasileira no acervo do Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
Look for Me All Around You: Leaving the Echo Chamber, 14th Sharjah Biennial, United Arab Emirates
Alternatives for Living. Blueprints for Haus Lange and Haus Esters – Act 3: Dystopia, Kunstmuseen Krefeld, Krefeld, Germany
Brasil! Focus on contemporary Brazilian art, Museo Ettore Fico, Turin, Italy

2018
Mulheres na Coleção MAR, Museu de Arte do Rio, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Divided We Stand, Busan Biennale, Busan, South Korea
Lugares do Delírio, SESC Pompeia, São Paulo, Brazil
Welcome to the Jungle, Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf, Germany

2016
Nuit Blanche, Monaco
Illusion and Revelation, Bonnefanten Museum, Maastricht, Netherlands

2015
Performa 15, New York, USA
15 Rooms, Long Museum West Bund, Shanghai, China

2014
14 Rooms, Art Basel, Basel, Switzerland

2013
13 Rooms, Kaldor Projects, Pier 2/3 Walsh Bay, Sydney, Australia

2012
Aire de Lyon, Fundación Proa, Buenos Aires, Argentina
12 Rooms, RUHR Triennale, Folkwang Museum, Essen, Germany
11th Havana Biennial, Havana, Cuba
Rumos Artes Visuais, Itaú Cultural, São Paulo, Brazil
From the Margin to the Edge: Brazilian Art and Design in the 21st Century, Somerset House, London, United Kingdom

2011
11 Rooms, Manchester International Festival, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester, United Kingdom
11th Biennale de Lyon – La Biennale de Lyon, Lyon, France

The Spiral and the Square, Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden

2009

Mulheres Artistas e a Contemporaneidade, MAC-USP, São Paulo, Brazil

2008

MAM 60, Oca, São Paulo, Brazil

Seja Marginal, Seja Herói, Galerie Natalie Seroussi, Galerie Vallois Sculpture and Galerie Georges-Philippe et Nathalie Vallois, Paris, France

Marcantonio Vilaça Brazilian National Industry Award, 2nd Edition – 2006/2008, travelling exhibition, Museu da República (Brasília), Casa Andrade Muricy (Curitiba), Centro Dragão do Mar de Arte e Cultura (Fortaleza), Usina Chaminé (Manaus), Centro Cultural Fiesp (São Paulo) and Museu da República (Rio de Janeiro), Brazil