

## CASA DO PONTAL MUSEUM

The Casa do Pontal Museum in Rio de Janeiro is today considered the largest and most important museum of "folk art" in Brazil. Its collection - the result of forty years of research and travels all over the country by French designer, Jacques Van de Beuque - comprises some 8,000 pieces by 200 Brazilian artists, and covers output produced over the entire second half of XX's century.

The collection of Museum Casa do Pontal brings together works representative of Brazil's wide array of rural and urban cultures. Displayed thematically, they encompass a wide range of activities - everyday, festive, imaginary and religious. Since 1970, 33 partial exhibitions have been held in Brazil and 14 in various countries of Europe and America.

According to members of the International Council of Museums (ICOM), linked to UNESCO, "Not only is the Casa do Pontal a complete museum of Brazilian "folk art"... it may be considered a true anthropological museum, unique in the country in permitting a comprehensive view of the life and culture of the Brazilian people".



### CASA DO PONTAL MUSEUM

Estrada do Pontal, 3295 - Recreio dos Bandeirantes

Rio de Janeiro - Brazil

Mailing:

Rua Julio Otoni, 171 - CEP 20241-400 - Rio de Janeiro - RJ - Brasil

Tel/fax: (0055-21)22053008 or 25582023

[pontal@openlink.com.br](mailto:pontal@openlink.com.br)

[www.popular.art.br/museucasadopontal](http://www.popular.art.br/museucasadopontal)



MINISTÉRIO DAS RELAÇÕES EXTERIORES

# BRAZILIAN FOLK ART

## MUSEU CASA DO PONTAL

Bio Vermeilho Manuel Eduardo / Foto: Rômulo Fialdino



## CRAFT'S MUSEUM NEW DELHI INDIA

JANUARY, 27 FEBRUARY, 27 2004

# Brazilian Folk Art

The exhibition of Brazilian Folk Art will bring to the Craft's Museum in New Delhi a small part of the permanent collection of the Museu Casa do Pontal, located in Rio de Janeiro. It will represent 38 artists, from nine different states, whose works have contributed to broaden conceptions about the customs and the art produced in Brazil.

For the Exhibit, sculptures from the North (the State of Maranhão), the Northeast (the States of Piauí, Ceará, Pernambuco and Bahia), the Center-West (Goiás), Southeast (the States of Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro) and South (the State of Santa Catarina) are shown. The themes represented range from day-to-day experiences to festivals, religious and sacred celebrations. Represented here are examples taken from the lives of simple people, their work in the city and work in the countryside, technological achievements, labor disputes (such as a strike), dancing, romancing and marriage. Not to mention their dreams, their fantasies and death.

The link between such broad themes is a specific experience in time, flowing in a non-linear and incessant manner, in which art functions as a witness, forming a living and constantly changing memory.

Dois cabeças: Ulisses / Foto: Lucas Van de Beuque



Naná: Otávio / Foto: Rômulo Fialdini



Cavalo-Marinho: Dora / Foto: Lucas Van de Beuque



Taking into account the wide diversity of styles, techniques and themes incorporated in these pieces, and armed with the biographies of the artists, it is easy to identify some of the central features of Brazilian culture clearly and simply: the ethnic and racial miscegenation, the religious pluralism, the tolerance of differences, the ability to process and assimilate new customs and the desire for fun and games.

The idea of mutual and circular relationship between opposing poles appears frequently in Brazilian life. The best examples are found in the integration, rooted in traditions of diverse origin, of profoundly religious celebrations with revelry and profane amusements in popular festivals.

The choice of Folk Art as a vehicle to represent Brazilian Culture is an indication of the desire and the effort that is being made to reduce social inequalities in Brazil, and to highlight the richness of the symbolic production of the economically disadvantaged levels of society, encouraging greater solidarity and contributing to a more complete flowering of this production that can already be found sprouting in Brazilian Culture but has not as yet, the chance to fully appear and be recognized.

These works, taken together, present a window, a certain view of Brazil. A Brazil that is brightly colored, alert and festive, a Country that maintains its traditions, while at the same time remaining ever open to new experiences brought about by the contact with different cultures and peoples of the world.



Mulher-moringa: Izabel / Foto: Lucas Van de Beuque