

**Alexandre da Cunha**

Quebrada

We are pleased to announce “Quebrada”, a project by Alexandre da Cunha for the *auroras*’ swimming pool. The work consists of an assemblage of a series of colored awnings that project from the edge of the pool towards the interior, referring to the spatial composition of an *impluvium*<sup>i</sup>, a small village, a street market, a *piazza* or a *quebrada*.

Collecting is part of the artist's practice. In recent years, a photographic archive of awnings has been formed and the observation of their formal qualities has instigated a pictorial interest. Indeed, they are color planes that stand out from the urban landscape. However, if these objects are often monochromatic or with elementary color compositions, the agency of time and the wear and tear of use give these coverings a special pictorial complexity.

There is a procedural dimension to the creation of the work that allows visitors to “redo it” on other occasions. That is, once the perception of these elements in the urban landscape is sharpened, the public creates its own image collection and selection, also becoming “owners of the work”, or rather, of the procedure, replicating it.

Added to this, another element of interest are the names of the establishments that are printed on the awnings. The “hot dog corner” next to the “office bar and snacks” proposes a neighborhood reconfiguration. The names point to stories lived or imagined in this displacement inherent to the work.

In the library, Alexandre da Cunha shows a work from his series of precast concrete rings and a polished brass element. Usually presented outdoors, the sculpture is shown here inside the house. The two works, therefore, have a logic of displacement: the awnings come from the city to the pool and the sculpture goes from the external environment to the carpeted floor.

**Alexandre da Cunha**

Quebrada

28 January – 01 April

Opening | 3 – 7pm

Saturday 11am to 6pm

or by appointment

**Alexandre da Cunha** (Rio de Janeiro, 1969) lives and works in São Paulo and London. He graduated from Fundação Armando Alvares Penteado and later studied at the Royal College of Art and obtained his MA at Chelsea College of Art, London. He has had recent solo exhibitions at Galeria Luisa Strina (São Paulo, 2020; 2015); Thomas Dane Gallery (Naples, 2020; London, 2016); The Royal Society of Sculptors (London, 2018); Pivô (São Paulo, 2017); Office Baroque (Brussels, 2017); CRG Gallery (New York, 2015).

Among the works of urban intervention, he had commissions by Art on the Underground for the Battersea station (London, 2021); by Samuels & Associates, Pierce Boston Collection (Boston, 2017); by MCA Chicago, part of the Plaza Project (2015), and by Rochaverá Corporate Towers (São Paulo, 2015).

Important group shows from the last ten years include: *Contemporary Sculpture Fulmer*, Buckinghamshire village of Fulmer, England (2019); *Textile Abstraction*, Casas Riegner Gallery, (Bogota, 2018); *Everyday Poetics*, Seattle Art Museum (2017); *Histories of Sexuality*, MASP, (São Paulo, 2017); *Soft Power*, The Institute of Contemporary Art (Boston, 2016); *Brazil, Beleza?! Contemporary Brazilian Sculpture*, Museum Beelden aan Zee (The Hague, 2016); *British Art Show 8*, Leeds Art Gallery (Leeds, 2015); *Cruzamentos – Contemporary Art in Brazil*, Wexner Center for the Arts (Columbus, 2014); *When Attitudes Became Form Become Attitudes*, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (2013); 30th São Paulo Biennial (2012).

He has works in the collections of Tate Modern, London; Pampulha Art Museum, Belo Horizonte; Inhotim Institute, Brumadinho; CIFO Cisneros Fontanals Collection, Miami; Zabłudowicz Collection, England; Pinacoteca of the State of São Paulo; and FAMA, Itu.

The artist is represented by Galeria Luisa Strina and Thomas Dane Gallery.

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<sup>i</sup> *Impluvium* is the Latin word for an architectural structure designed to capture rainwater. Roofs were designed to slope towards an inner courtyard, where water was collected. Different cultures used this system, from the Greco-Roman peoples to central and western regions of the African continent.