



Performers to take part in sound installation conceived by artist Diego Araújo for the third edition of *Frestas – Art Triennial* (organised by SESC São Paulo, Brazil) and in an international lab for the creation of a new creole language

Part of the artist's mapping for the International Creole Lab (LIC) will be included in an online sound installation for the 3rd edition of Frestas – Art Triennial. Frestas' exhibition is currently on at SESC Sorocaba (Brazil) and runs until January 30, 2022.



Brazilian artist Diego Araújo | Photo by: Laís Machado

Multidisciplinary Brazilian artist **Diego Araújo** is taking part in the **3rd edition of Frestas Art Triennial**, currently on at **SESC Sorocaba** (a SESC sociocultural centre in Brazil), and looking for performers based in the Atlantic World interested in participating in the **LIC - Laboratório Internacional de Crioulo (International Creole Lab)**. The initiative was conceived by Diego in 2018 with a view to creating a group to develop a new creole language that doesn't come from a place of trauma. Artists interested in applying to the project can also submit an audio file of up to two minutes in response to the following statement: **"As the prestige of language decreases, silence increases"**. Audio files can be submitted from October 20, 2021 to January 30, 2022 at <https://arauja.com/LICMAP/>.

A selection of recordings, to be chosen by the artist, will be played in a digital environment, which can be accessed from the *Frestas* website (sescsp.org.br/frestas) in the format of an online sound installation. Through gamification, visitors can try to find and click on players to listen to different responses to the statement, according to the artist.

“The LIC is a practical and poetic research project I conceived in 2018. This is a long-term project and the Triennial is undertaking one of its stages: mapping body artists based in the Atlantic World”, says Araújo. According to the artist, the LIC is meant to be a mixed project, creating a *quilombo*-like performance group that will bring together artists from different countries working across different art forms.

Performers from Brazil, Peru, Venezuela, Colombia, Bolivia, Uruguay, Paraguay, Guiana, French Guiana, Suriname, Jamaica, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Barbados, Martinique, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, Nigeria, Benin, Ghana, Togo, Senegal, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Cameroon, Angola, Mali, The Gambia, England, Portugal, Spain, Germany, France, Mexico, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Sea Islands (North and South Carolina and Georgia, in the USA) may apply.

About the LIC – *Laboratório Internacional de Crioulo* (International Creole Lab)

Conceived by Diego Araújo in 2018, the LIC maps peripheral artists who might be interested in creating a creole language based on decolonial thinking. Using a digital platform to map performances, participating artists will be involved in a long term process leading to the creation of an international Atlantic-based group whose techniques and performances will be mixed to create a new creole language that doesn't come from a place of trauma.

The call for submissions includes body artists working across different art forms, such as actors, actresses, dancers, singers, oral or street poets, storytellers, performers, circus artists, clowns, mime artists, musicians, *Djelis* (griots), drag kings, drag queens, transdisciplinary and multimedia artists, to name a few, based in peripheral areas of Atlantic and Caribbean countries, as well as West Africa and Europe.

About Diego Araújo

Diego Araújo was born in Salvador-BA (Brazil) and is one of the artists featured in the 3rd edition of *Frestas – Art Triennial: the river is a serpent*. He has been working as a director, playwright, scriptwriter, set designer and visual artist across a wide range of art genres such as literary, visual-spatial, drama, performance and film media since 2011. In 2015 he began directing a process known as “Aesthetics for a Non-Time” with a view to establishing qualitative times for the creation of trauma-free African diasporic memories. During the process, he experimented with the development of *oríkì*'s (yorùbá oral literature), which led to his work *QUASEILHAS* (2018). As the next step in the process, Araújo is endeavouring to create the LIC – *Laboratório Internacional de Crioulo* (*International Creole Lab*).

In 2017 he founded the ÀRÀKÁ Platform with artist Laís Machado. In 2018, he conceived a choreographic performance for the video installation *A Marvellous Entanglement*, by British artist Isaac Julien. The same year, he participated in the artist-in-residence program at the Atlantic Centre for the Arts (Florida-USA), where he created the video installation *Oríki das Araújas*, experimenting with synthesized sound vibrations in oríki's. In 2020, he was an artist-in-residence at SAVVY Contemporary (Berlin-GER). Araúja is also one of the art directors in the art-education exchange program between black youth living in the outskirts of Salvador (BA) and Cartagena (Colombia) and artists from Mozambique and Germany. The project was coordinated by Bayreuth University (GER).

Frestas – Art Triennial

In its 3rd edition, Frestas – Art Triennial proposes to put the economies of access debate into practice, to reflect on the politics and poetics of exhibitions, to investigate which solidarity strategies can be possible, as well as that which is communicated by bodies that live in asymmetric power structures and are creating a vast world outside the world. The exhibition is curated by Beatriz Lemos, Diane Lima and Thiago de Paula Souza and runs from August 21, 2021 to January 30, 2022 at SESC Sorocaba (Brazil). Assistant curator Camila Fontenele and educational coordinator Renata Sampaio are also participating in this edition of Frestas, which has been named *The river is a serpent*.

Frestas takes place every three years and is part of SESC São Paulo's comprehensive cultural agenda. The Triennial offers three different tracks – a public programme, publications and the exhibition. More than anything, it is a transdisciplinary platform that fosters new action and reflection across a broader field of visual arts, also drawing the attention of audiences and the art circuit in a more decentralised fashion. Frestas addresses passages, cracks, ruptures, in other words, it is an opening to a new democratic place for action.

Starting October 2020, the Triennial programme offers debates and workshops that aim to bring together local artists and regional and international productions, and establish a dialogue between social issues that are specific to Brazil and those being discussed around the globe. The exhibition opened for on-site visitation in August 2021.

The project is based out of SESC's Sorocaba venue, located 100 kilometres from the city of São Paulo. Since 2014, the Art Triennial has been dedicated to discussing and problematizing the urgent issues being faced today. Organising an art triennial based on the urgent needs of a countryside town in the state of São Paulo inspires the decentralisation of the usual art circuits, reaching out to more diversified audiences, creating and expanding process networks and enabling symbolic exchanges. Frestas has been helping to expand Brazil's contemporary art scene, given the extension and relevance of its programme. It has also been making a contribution towards the capacity building of art educators and the creation of networks of professionals working in culture outside capital cities. As a result, it has been fostering the arts across the state and the decentralisation of cultural activities.

Frestas is a SESC São Paulo initiative and this edition has been organised with support from the Consulate General of France in São Paulo, the Pro Helvetia Swiss Foundation for Culture,

PlattformPLUS, Kulturreferat Munchen, AVEK, Kenno Filmi, Aue-Stiftung and the Sorocaba City Hall.

Safety guidelines for visitors

SESC São Paulo is gradually reopening its venues in the city, Greater São Paulo area, the coast and across the state for free on-site visitation to exhibitions with timed slots pre-booked online only.

Following public authority guidance, all areas are undergoing strict cleaning and sanitizing processes and hand sanitizer dispensers are being made available at all entrances and exits in order to reduce the spread and infection by coronavirus.

Visitors will not be allowed to enter venues without a valid ticket pre-booked through the Credencial SESC SP app or SESC São Paulo portal. Face masks covering both nose and mouth must be worn at all times and visitors must have their temperature checked upon entering the venue. Accompanying visitors without a pre-booked ticket will not be allowed to enter.

As of 4 October, 2021 proof of vaccination against COVID-19 is also required (at least the first dose) to enter SESC venues across the state of São Paulo.

The following will be accepted as proof of vaccination:

- Physical or digital vaccination certificate provided at the time of vaccination;
- Printed or digital vaccination certificate from the VaciVida and ConecteSUS platforms or the e-saúdeSP app.

About SESC

SESC - Social Service of Commerce was established in 1946 as a private non-profit institution by the business and services community across the country. SESC boasts 42 centres across the state of São Paulo, which operate conjointly in the fields of culture, education, sport, leisure and healthcare.

All initiatives carried out by SESC São Paulo are guided by their educational nature and the purpose to achieve social welfare based on the broadest sense of the word 'culture'. In that sense, the granting of full access to facilities and content offered by the institution aims to make cultural assets more democratic as a way to promote individual autonomy.

In addition to disseminating contemporary visual arts as well as across historical periods, the institution also promotes intersections among different art genres, following its guideline to organise exhibitions for all audiences. Other projects include installations, interventions and performances, as well as educational activities and various forms of mediation, always focusing on providing high quality service to both pre-booked groups and walk-ins and aiming to achieve sensitive edification as well as encourage autonomy and freedom of choice.

Useful Information

Frestas – Art Triennial 3rd Edition | The river is a serpent

Venue **SESC Sorocaba (R. Barão de Piratininga, 555 - Jardim Faculdade. Sorocaba - SP)**

On-site exhibition runs **August 21, 2021 – January 30, 2022**

Tickets available for booking at sescsp.org.br/frestas

Curated by **Beatriz Lemos, Diane Lima and Thiago de Paula Souza**

Assistant curator **Camila Fontenele**

Educational coordinator **Renata Sampaio**

Free admission

No age restrictions apply

SESC Sorocaba

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