MACBA MUSEU D'ART CONTEMPORANI DE BARCELONA

MACBA presents *Laura Lima. Balé Literal*, a tool of poetic resistance

► *Laura Lima. Balé Literal* is an-essay. A movement made up of a varied repertoire of words, objects and works, set in motion by a group of people orchestrated by the Brazilian artist Laura Lima (Minas Gerais, Brazil, 1971).

► *Balé Literal* was initially presented in June 2019, on a street corner in front of A Gentil Carioca, a gallery in Rio de Janeiro. On that occasion, the artifacts glided between the buildings and, over the course of their journey, interacted with the public, who participated collectively in the performance.

► This is the first time *Balé Literal* has been shown in a museum. In this context, the work interrogates the static and contemplative ways in which museums display artworks and visitors view them. Introducing the idea of an exhibition-as-dance, in which each rehearsal is a new performance, *Balé Literal* articulates concepts developed by Laura Lima over three decades and proposes a critique of the retrospective exhibition.

► Curated by Elvira Dyangani Ose, the exhibition , is configured as a transmedia choreography, a perpetual rehearsal whose daily activation process is open to the public. *Balé Literal* has a soundtrack by Ana Frango Elétrico, lighting design by Andrea Capella and engineering by Yoann Saura. It is made possible thanks to the collaboration of Hangar and Escola Massana.

►The artist will be present for the first week following the opening, orchestrating the live rehearsals that make up the activation process, which will continue, with a life of its own, after her departure.

Title: *Laura Lima. Balé Literal* **Opening:** 17 May at 7.30 pm. Conversation between Laura Lima and María Berríos, Director of Research and Conservation at MACBA **Dates**: From 18 May to 25 September 2023 **Production**: MACBA Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona **Curated by:** Elvira Dyangani Ose

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https://www.macba.cat/ca/sobre-macba/premsa/roda-premsa-laura-lima-bale-literal



Gallery A Gentil Carioca, Rio de Janeiro, 2019. Photo: Pedro Agilson /A Gentil Carioca

VIDEO *Balé Literal,* 2019 ► https://vimeo.com/465755474?login=true#_=_

Balé Literal is a tool of poetic resistance, an exhibition-dance turned into a living organism. It is a movement made up of a varied repertoire of dangling object-works, set in motion by a group of people orchestrated by the Brazilian artist Laura Lima (Minas Gerais, 1971).

Balé Literal was initially presented in June 2019, on a street corner in front of A Gentil Carioca, a gallery in Rio de Janeiro. This is the first time it has been shown in a museum. The larger space houses its choreographic mechanism, while the adjacent space operates as a backstage warehouse – a repository of artifacts ready to be moved into dance.

In the larger space, two teams activate the mechanism of the ballet and hang objects from threads. The movement is powered by the pedals of two bicycles, evoking the motion of a loom. With a soundtrack by Ana Frango Elétrico, lighting design by Andrea Capella, re-engineering by Yoann Saura, and the collaboration of Hangar, every rehearsal of this transmedia choreography is a performance, and each performance is unique.

Balé Literal is an exhibition-as-dance, a retrospective in motion by Laura Lima. The bestiary of assorted beings that make up the piece animates concepts developed by the artist over three decades. Paintings, textiles, masks, placards, poems, flying saucers, astronauts, umbrellas and other characters take part in this ritual dance, which invites us to practice new ways of seeing and moving in the museum. “If you move differently, you think differently,” says Lima.

The activation of *Balé Literal* involves the daily process of hanging, gathering and mobilising the objects.

Activation schedule:
Monday, Thursday and Friday: 12 to 6 pm
Wednesday: 3.30 to 6 pm
Saturday: 12 to 7 pm
Sunday: 11.30 am to 2.30 pm

PUBLICATION – COMING OUT SOON

The publication focuses on the installation *Balé Literal* at MACBA, a work that functions as a retrospective of Laura Lima's work. As well as extensive documentation of the installation, the book features an essay by the psychoanalyst and professor Tania Rivera on Lima's trajectory and the complexity of *Balé Literal*; a piece by the philosopher and writer Márcia Tiburi on the political context of Brazil; and a conversation between Elvira Dyangani Ose, curator of the exhibition, and Laura Lima.

BIOGRAPHY

Laura Lima

Born in 1971, Laura Lima grew up in the city of Governador Valadares, in Minas Gerais. When she was still very young, Lima moved to Rio de Janeiro, where she lives now. She graduated in Philosophy from Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro in the 1990s and also studied at the Escola de Artes Visuais do Parque Lage in Rio de Janeiro. In 1999, she founded the body Representante guion [hyphen] Representante (RhR) and served as its first bureaucratic administrator. Lima created a glossary and an archive of RhR's activities, including ideas such as the philosophy of nothingness, non-functionality, emptiness and failure. Lima was awarded the Marcantonio Vilaça Prize (2006) and was nominated for the Francophone Prize (2011) and the Han Nefkens Prize (2012).

She was the first Latin American recipient of the Bonnefanten Award for the Contemporary Arts (BACA) (Maastricht, the Netherlands) in 2014. Lima has put on solo exhibitions of her work in venues around the world such as Pinacoteca in Sao Paulo, Brazil; Fondazione Prada in Milan, Italy; the Pampulha Art Museum in Belo Horizonte, Brazil; the Buenos Aires Museum of Modern Art, Argentina; MUAC, Mexico City, Mexico; Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zurich, Switzerland; Casa Francia Brasil, Rio de Janeiro; Eva Klabin Foundation, Rio de Janeiro; Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, Sweden; Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht, the Netherlands; SMK - National Gallery of Denmark, Copenhagen.

Lima's work has been included in prestigious collective exhibitions, such as the 24th and 27th Sao Paulo Biennials; the 2nd and 3rd Mercosur Biennials in Porto Alegre, Brazil; the 11th Lyon Biennale in 2011; the Sharjah Biennial in 2019; the Busan Bienniale in South Korea; the Kaunas Biennial in Lithuania and the Stockholm Film Festival. Her works form part of the collections of the Inhotim Institute, the Bonniers Konsthall, the Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, the Pampulha Art Museum, the Zabludowicz Collection, the Bonnefantenmuseum and more.

Laura Lima lives and works in Rio de Janeiro. Together with Ernesto Neto and Marcio Botner, she is also a co-founder of A Gentil Carioca, a gallery directed by artists in Rio de Janeiro.

Constantly escaping from easy classification, Laura Lima's "images" are not "performance, installation or cinema", but try to articulate visually, in concrete reality, a personal glossary of concepts on which she has been working and reworking throughout her over 20-year career. Emblematic of this rigorous conceptual commitment is her best-known group of works (Homem=carne / Mulher=carne) ["(Man = meat / Woman = meat)"], in which humans and animals are used as mere matter (meat) that executes a precise set of instructions over and over again during the entire exhibition. Another part of Lima's work is related to the notion of ornamental philosophy. Her oeuvre proposes new interpretations of accepted definitions and concepts, destabilising and subverting what is taken for granted.

■ **MORE INFORMATION AT** macba.cat i @MACBA_Barcelona

■ **MACBA:** Plaça dels Àngels, 1, 08001 Barcelona,

■ **OPENING TIMES:** Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 11 am to 7.30 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 8 pm; Sunday and public holidays, 10 am to 3 pm; Tuesday (except public holidays), closed. Summer opening hours: 10 am to 8 pm

■ **SATURDAY MACBA** free admission in the afternoon

■ **ENTRANCE TICKETS ARE VALID FOR ONE MONTH**

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