

The Artist

The sculptor Leopoldo Martins was born in 1961 in Belo Horizonte - Brazil.

His uncle Meschesse, founded the Sculpture Department of the Fine Arts School at the State Federal University during the 1960's and signed important monuments in the city, influencing the beginning of Martins' artistic interest and trajectory. Young, Leopoldo Martins started studying art and design and soon developed his drawing techniques. He graduated in 1982 in Industrial Design at the same State Federal University founded by his uncle.

Leopoldo was always fascinated by three-dimensional forms and started researching how to better express himself and how to transform his drawings into three-dimensional-objects bringing it to reality. It was in the beginning of the 90's when Martins met Brazilian modernist sculptor Sonia Ebling and started working as her pupil during almost ten years, that he finally felt encouraged to cast his first sculptures and to dedicate his complete carrier to Fine Arts.

The artist detailed observation of nature and his passion for wild animals resulted in the development of his first prestigious series "Felines", exhibited at The National Museum of Fine Arts of Rio de Janeiro in 2003 primarily supported by his tutor Sonia Ebling, deceased at that same year. The success of the "Felines" series immediately helped to promote his evolution on the contemporary art scene building up his approval into the selective national and international contemporary art market. Today, his artworks are part of the collection of The National Museum of Fine Arts of Rio de Janeiro, one of the most respected art institutions of the country.

In 2016, he was commissioned by the Jesuit Order of Minas Gerais State, Brazil, to create the (diptych) sculpture Saint Francis and the Wolf of Gubbio, a gift to Pope Francis, installed at the Vatican. His works also belong to important collections in Brazil as The Brennan Art Collection in Recife. The artist has followed the saga of great professionals of his State, historically started with the Master of Baroque Art of Brazil, Aleijadinho (1730 - 1814).

Leopoldo Martins artwork is a blend of all interesting aesthetical aspects of Brazilian Art, influenced by movements like Brazilian Baroque, Modernism and Contemporary, that together created the basis of our culture.

In 2018, the artist was invited to present his sculptures at the V Shanghai Sculpture Biennale, being consecrated as one of the main Brazilian artists of great visibility in China. His works are now part of the collection of Jing'an Sculpture Park Museum with the work Giant Walking Panther, exposed right in front of the Museum of Natural History of Shanghai, in China.

Ricardo Fernandes

Association of Art Museum Curators (AAMC), NY, USA
International Association of Art Critics (A(CA), Paris, France
Association for Art History (AAH), London, UK

Main Galleries, Museums and Institutions

Collection Milú Vilela, São Paulo (Brazil)

Collection Papa Francesco, Vatican City (Vatican City)

Gallery Applied Art Gallery, São Paulo (Brazil)

DotArt Gallery, Belo Horizonte (Brazil)

Gallery Ricardo Fernandes, Paris (France)

Gallery Zilda Fraletti, Curitiba, (Brazil)

Brennan Institute, Recife, (Brazil)

Itaú Cultural, São Paulo, (Brazil)

Jing'an Sculpture Park, Shanghai, (China)

Gerdau Minas and Metals Museum (MM Gerdau), Belo Horizonte (Brazil)

Getty Museum, Los Angeles (USA)

National Museum of Fine Arts of Rio de Janeiro (MNBA), (Brazil)

Horsereading Society of São Paulo, São Paulo, (Brazil)

Wuhan Park of Central China, Wuhan, (China)

Technical Team

Host: International Jewellery & Watch Show (JWS), 2018 in Abu Dhabi (UAE)

Organizer / Curator for the Brasil Experience Plaza: Ana Marcia Albuquerque

Organizer / Curator for Leopoldo Martins Exhibition: Marta Guerra

Co-Organizer: Ewans Abdul Hai

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