

off the wall gallery

paintings • sculpture • original prints

LÚCIO CARVALHO



Lúcio Carvalho's works are inspired by scenography, Baroque, Rococo and the Renaissance. The artist paints using his emotions from past memories and his imagination, combining fragments from the past with his vision of the future. Carvalho is not particularly attached to one medium; he primarily uses paint, photography, and sculpture. His creative process is central to experimentation with mediums, expressing his desires, and materializing his ideas, conveying a mixture of pleasure and pain. No matter which mediums he uses, all his work is conceived like a painting, layer by layer.

Carvalho has been drawn to art his entire life. As a child, he was very shy and would find refuge under a huge banquet table at his grandmother's house. He would spend hours drawing and coloring there, exhibiting his prized possessions for his eyes only. While his brother and cousins would ride their bikes, run, and play, he would only want to observe his surroundings while safely protected in his favorite hiding place. For a very long time, he felt different, guilty, and confused, and he wondered why he had such a passion to express himself and create. Paralyzed by the fear of being unable to make a living, he waited many years before deciding to follow his passion and make a living as an artist.

Carvalho was born in 1965 in Cambucí, a municipality of the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He graduated in 1986 with a degree in Industrial design and drawing from the University of Rio de Janeiro. He worked in Rio de Janeiro until 1997 as an artistic director and designer for various advertising agencies. In 1998, he decided to move to São Paulo (where he is still based) to dedicate his time to his artistic practice fully. Since then, his work has been shown in fairs, solo, and group exhibitions extensively in Brazil and internationally in France, Belgium, Germany, the USA, Italy, and Japan, among others.

He won several awards that recognized his work's quality and inherent excellence. He was among the winners of the Contemplating the Void: Interventions in the Guggenheim New York competition in 2010 and was also chosen to be part of the Modern Photographic Exhibition of Brazil, created by the Photographic Society of Japan.

His work has become an international sensation and has gained a strong appreciation. Collectors and art critics all over the world are always intrigued and amazed by the mesmerizing paintings he creates.

ARTIST STATEMENT

The figures and objects in my paintings came into the world to be shared. Still, they were kept protected for several generations, so they don't risk being broken, and the idea behind my art reveals shiny masks on baroque feminine women with a solid emotional approach. They are inspired by my grandmother's porcelain inside the China cabinet. It is a symbiosis between people, their fragilities, and their porcelain protections. I created a direct dialogue with the objects around me, full of stories and fragile as the people

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who wear them. In this search for hypothetical protections, we're saying: listen to me, look at me here inside this dome, get me out of here, hug me, and we can share and celebrate. So let's go out to the world without shields and fear of what comes to happen.

In this series, I started based on research about the great masters of the Renaissance, Baroque, and Rococo. I took their magical and unreachable characters that fascinated me so much through the history books, transported them to my universe, and then protected them with my fragile porcelain helmets. I detach myself from these classic and literal paintings and get closer to a more contemporary context, permanently attached to my affective memories that are the basis of all my work.

Some artists who influence my works are Nelson Leirner, for his compositions of children, religious, Brazilian, and banal elements that populate his works and inspire my mind. Adriana Varejão, for her overflowing exposed that shocks viscerally, repels, and fascinates. Arthur Bispo do Rosário, for his misunderstood sanity and logic in reorganizing his private universe. Jeff Koons, for his impeccable and dubious aesthetic sense, brings me loving memories of my past. Matthew Barney, after I visited his exhibition at the Palais de Tokyo in Paris in 2002. My first contact with a contemporary artist outside Brazil profoundly transformed my thinking. Caravaggio, for all its drama. His way of playing with light and shadow and its atmosphere hypnotizes and reminds me of the nights on my family's farm before electric light was installed.

ARTIST CV

Born in 1965, Cambucí, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Lucio Carvalho graduated in Industrial Drawing in 1986 from the University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Since 1998 he resides in São Paulo, Brazil, where he works as a fine art artist.

Lucio has exhibited works in galleries and cultural centers in several Brazilian cities, Argentina, Italy, the USA, France, Belgium, Holland, and Japan.

Carvalho has been part of art fairs in Brazil and overseas, such as Sp Arte, Sp Arte/Foto In Brazil, Aqua Art Miami, Hamptons Art Fair, Scope Miami, Art Basel Week, in the USA; Paris Photo, Art Paris; selected by Saatchi for a specially curated collection exhibited at Grand Palais in Paris, France.

He won Brazilian and International awards, such as Re: Contemplating the Void GUGGENHEIM, for the fiftieth anniversary of the museum in NY in 2010.

In 2008 he was chosen to be one of the artists at the Photographic Society of Japan to be part of the Modern Photographic Exhibition of Brazil.

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SELECT AWARDS AND EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 "HOME" The Center for Fine Art Photography - Fort Collins, CO, USA.
- 2012 Worldwide Photography Biennial Exhibition - Borges Cultural Center - Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- 2011 SAATCHI special curated ART PARIS collection - Paris, France.
- 2011 MOPLA - Month of Photography Los Angeles (Fresh Look Portfolio Reviews) - Los Angeles, CA, USA.
- 2011 LACDA juried competitions winners - Los Angeles, CA, USA
- 2010 Gold Medal at Art Interview - 21st International Artist Competition - Berlin, Germany.
- 2010 Re: Contemplating the Void Guggenheim Winner - New York, NY, USA
- 2010 WPGA Competition / The Pollux Awards - Category: Figure and Nude - Professional Photographers - York, United Kingdom.
- 2010 WPGA Competition / The Pollux Awards - Category: Digital Manipulation - Professional Photographers - York, United Kingdom
- 2009 MYARTSPACE Competition Winner - Palo Alto, CA, USA
- 2009 Distinguished Finalists Competition - Miami, FL, USA.
- 2009 Honorable Mention IPA - International Photography Awards - Lucie Foundation - Los Angeles, CA, USA.
- 2006 COISAS FRÁGEIS - Edital Caixa Econômica Federal - Salvador, BA, Brazil.
- 2005 SUBdiVISÍVEIS 3 - Edital Caixa Econômica Federal - Brasília, DF, Brazil.
- 2005 SUBdiVISÍVEIS 2 - Edital Caixa Econômica Federal - Paulista, São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2004 LACDA juried competition winner - Los Angeles, CA, USA.
- 2004 Projekt30 juried competition winner - Chicago, IL, USA.

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SOLO SHOWS

- 2016 ÓRBITAS PARTICULARES - Centro Cultural Luiz Sacilotto, São Paulo, SP, Brazil.
- 2014 AVESSOS - São Paulo, SP, Brazil.
- 2013 IINVASÕES - Milan, Italy.
- 2012 INVASÕES - São Paulo, SP, Brazil.
- 2007 FRÁGEIS - Bologna, Italy.
- 2007 COISAS FRÁGEIS - São Paulo, SP, Brazil
- 2006 COISAS FRÁGEIS (protegidas por paredes de vidro) - Salvador, BA, Brazil
- 2005 SUBdiVÍSIVEIS 3 - Brasília, DF, Brazil.
- 2005 SUBdiVÍSIVEIS 2 - São Paulo, SP, Brazil.
- 2004 SUBdiVÍSIVEIS 1 - Los Angeles, CA, USA.
- 2002 PARALELOS - Embaixada do Brasil - Sala Jorge Amado, Paris, France.
- 2001 FABULAS - São Paulo, SP, Brazil.
- 1999 DIVINOS PECADORES - São Paulo, SP, Brazil.

GROUP SHOWS

- 2017 Amor inspira - São Paulo, SP, Brazil.
- 2016 Fotografia-Pintura e o Espírito do Tempo - Ribeirão Preto, SP, Brazil.
- 2015 IN LOCO - São Paulo, SP, Brazil.
- 2012 HOME - The Center for Fine Art Photography - Fort Collins, CO, USA.
- 2010 AracMidea - Brazil S/A - Milan, Italy 2009 Top-4 artists show - Palo Alto, CA, USA.
- 2009 AQUA ART / ART BASEL Miami - Miami, FL, USA.
- 2009 Temporada de projetos - Paços das Artes - São Paulo, SP, Brazil.
- 2009 Artist-run space - Brussels, Belgium.
- 2008 Expressão Fotográfica Moderna do Brasil - The Photographic Society of Japan, Yokohama, Japan.