

Screens Series: Luiz Roque

“Screens Series: Luiz Roque” continues the New Museum’s Screens Series, a platform for the presentation of new video works by emerging contemporary artists. Roque’s films interweave imagined modernities with anthropomorphized forms in richly textured cinematic compositions. His open-ended narratives envision intersections between sci-fi landscapes, animal protagonists, and modernist objects and architectures, concocting dreamlike atmospheres that are at once prehistoric and postapocalyptic, familiar and surreal.

This exhibition is curated by Margot Norton, Curator.

Luiz Roque (b. 1979, Cachoeira do Sul, Brazil) lives and works in São Paulo. Recent solo exhibitions include MAC Niterói, Rio de Janeiro (2018); Galería Isla Flotante, Buenos Aires (2018); Tramway, Glasgow (2017); and Centro Cultural São Paulo, São Paulo (2016). His works have been included in group exhibitions at venues including Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo (2019); the 1st Riga Biennial, Latvia (2018); Padiglione d’Arte Contemporanea, Milan (2018); Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania (2017); MASP, São Paulo (2017); Videobrasil, São Paulo (2017); MoMA PS1, New York (2016); the 32nd São Paulo Biennial (2016); Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna (2014); the Ninth Mercosul Biennial, Porto Alegre, Brazil (2013); and the Zacheta National Gallery of Art, Warsaw (2013). Roque will have two solo exhibitions in 2020 at Passerelle Centre d’Art Contemporain, Brest, France; and Pivô, São Paulo.

Luiz Roque

Zero, 2019

HD video, sound, color; 5:30 min

Courtesy the artist and Mendes Wood DM

Produced by: Mendes Wood DM Brussels / Art Dubai

Producer: Aiham Al Subaihi

Casting: Luna

Cinematography: Glauco Firpo

Editing: Laura Futuro and Luiz Roque

Sound: Clube Tormenta

Postproduction: Joana Reis and Laura Futuro

In *Zero* (2019), a Shiba Inu dog wakes up to an alarm clock and finds itself alone aboard an abandoned yet luxurious private plane flying across a desert landscape. While the dog's movements are calm, and the beige leather seats sumptuous, there is an air of impending doom as one might wonder if the dog is capable of surviving alone aboard the aircraft. As the plane glides gradually past shimmering high rises, the dog gazes longingly out the window—perhaps aware that it might be displaced, flying steadily, endlessly, as if it were the sole survivor after the end of the world.

Luiz Roque

***Ancestral*, 2017**

HD video, sound, color; 4:44 min

Courtesy the artist and Mendes Wood DM

Cinematography: Joana Luz

Editing: Manga Champion

Sound: Tiago Bello

Ancestral (2016) follows a giant anteater as it moves through a jungle, its silky coat contrasting with the rough shrubbery. A native to Brazil, and a national symbol for the country, our protagonist carries a small child on its back, eating ants from the ground with its long, tubular snout and picking at the dirt with its claws. The film refuses any particular temporality, as the creature evokes those that have roamed the earth for centuries. In titling the film *Ancestral*, Roque aligns the animal as a familial forebear—majestic, androgynous, gentle, and sculptural.

Luiz Roque

***O Novo Monumento*, 2013**

16mm transferred to video, sound, black and white; 5:30 min

Courtesy the artist and Mendes Wood DM

Produced by: JACA Centro de Arte and Tecnologia / Instituto Itaú Cultural

Producers: Gisela Mangeon

Casting: Rafael Bacelar and Will Soares

Cinematography: Joana Luz

Editing: Manga Campion

Sound: Marcio Biriato

Costume Design: Alex Cassimiro

O Novo Monumento (2013) opens with a quote from a 1943 essay written collaboratively by architecture historian Sigfried Giedion, artist Fernand Léger, and architect José Luís Sert, declaring that monuments are only possible in places of unified culture and consciousness. The film then cuts to two dancers in an overgrown, vacant lot wearing ornamented jackets and moving in a choreography that suggests both the poses of voguing and ancient rituals. The film then cuts to an owl perched on a tiny branch, rippling waves in a pool, and a scarecrow near a farm. Finally, what appears to be an untitled monument by Brazilian Neoconcrete artist Amílcar de Castro emerges from a warehouse to be carted off on a flatbed truck, appearing later in the middle of a remote field surrounded by mountains. The work suggests that all of these subjects might be considered monuments—the dancers, the landscapes, the water, the stone—proposing alternative modes of commemoration and challenging traditional ideas of monumentality.

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Two additional works are screened in the theater, along with the selection of films on the screens: *Modern* (2014), and *S* (2017), which further consider themes of modernity, temporal displacement, and fluid expressions of the body. *Modern* (2014) stages a dialogue between English artist Henry Moore's iconic bronze sculpture *Recumbent Figure* (1938) and a character outfitted in a head-to-toe black vinyl catsuit, reminiscent of another iconic figure in British culture: the underground performer and staple in the '80s and '90s London club scene, Leigh Bowery. The film presents a duet between the two abstract corporeal forms, highlighting their visual congruities while dismissing their clashing cultural readings and acceptances. *S* (2017) similarly couples abstract modernist sculpture with choreographed bodies. Footage of a spinning reflective sculpture by Brazilian sculptor Franz Weissmann is interspersed with images of androgynous characters performing geometric poses in a mechanical ballet of futurist textures, movements, and signs.

Zero, 2019

HD video, sound, color; 5:30 min
Courtesy the artist and Mendes Wood DM
Produced by: Mendes Wood DM Brussels / Art Dubai
Producer: Aiham Al Subaihi
Casting: Luna
Cinematography: Glauco Firpo
Editing: Laura Futuro and Luiz Roque
Sound: Clube Tormenta
Postproduction: Joana Reis and Laura Futuro

S, 2017

Video, sound; black and white; 5:00 min
Produced by: Camila Groch-Groch Filmes / MASP
Producer: Filipa Gomes
Casting: Danna Lisboa, Félix Pimenta, Ivy Monteiro, Lucas Abe, Romario Monte, and Vitor Nogueira
Cinematography: Glauco Firpo
Editing: Juliana Munhoz
Sound: Marcio Biriato
Costume Design: Alex Cassimiro

Ancestral, 2017

HD video, sound, color; 4:44 min
Courtesy the artist and Mendes Wood DM
Cinematography: Joana Luz
Editing: Manga Champion
Sound: Tiago Bello

Modern, 2014

16mm transferred to video, sound, black and white; 4:00 min
Produced by: Delfina Foundation / no.w.here
Casting: Lewis Burton
Cinematography: Joana Luz
Editing: Luiz Roque and Rudá Cabral
Sound: Diogo Poloni
Costume Design: Alex Cassimiro

O Novo Monumento, 2013

16mm transferred to video, sound, black and white; 5:30 min
Courtesy the artist and Mendes Wood DM
Produced by: JACA Centro de Arte and Tecnologia / Instituto Itaú Cultural
Producers: Gisela Mangeon
Casting: Rafael Bacelar and Will Soares
Cinematography: Joana Luz
Editing: Manga Champion
Sound: Marcio Biriato
Costume Design: Alex Cassimiro

All works courtesy the artist and Mendes Wood DM