



photo jomar bragança

Leopoldo Martins

The sculptor Leopoldo Martins was born in 1961 in Brazil.

His uncle Meschese, 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 1982 in Industrial Design at the Fine Arts School at the same State Federal University founded by his uncle.

He 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 the Brazilian modernist sculptor Sonia Ebling. Leopoldo Martins worked as her pupil during almost ten years to finally feel encouraged to cast his first sculptures and to dedicate his complete carrier to Fine Arts as a sculptor.

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 supported by his tutor Sonia Ebling that has guided him to his first pieces. The success of the “Felines” series was then immediate and naturally promoted his evolution on the national contemporary art scene building up his approval into the selective national and international contemporary art market, confirming his great talent. Later on, as a result of his trajectory, he started many new artistic projects, consolidating himself as a sculptor.

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, that will be installed at the Vatican City in Europe. His works also belong to important collections in Brazil like The Brennan Art Collection in Recife, Brazil. His works are also 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 where he first introduced his art creations to the public together with his tutor, Sonia Ebling.

Today Leopoldo Martins is one of the most important contemporary sculptors of the country, having followed the historical saga of great professionals of his State, historically started with the Master of Baroque Art of Brazil, Aleijadinho (1730 - 1814). Leopoldo Martins contemporary work is a blend of all interesting aspects of Brazilian Art, influenced by Baroque, Modernism and internationalism that helps us to understand the History of this melt pot called South America.

Ricardo Fernandes

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

Main Solo Exhibitions

- 2018 Musas, Cícero Mafra Gallery, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
- 2015 Musas, Nigra Shafo, São José do Rio Preto, Brazil
Aqua - Cristal, Ponteio, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Animal Memory, Consulate General of France, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2014 Show Bolt, São Paulo, Brazil
Squini Art, São Paulo, Brazil
Sculptures Leopoldo Martins, Lisie Mallmann Gallery, Porto Alegre, Brazil
Felinos, Ricardo Fernandes Gallery, Paris, France
Yacht Club of Ilhabela Art Show, São Paulo, Brazil
Leopoldo Martins at the Hípica de São Paulo Show, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2013 Muses at The State of Minas Gerais Government Palace, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Art Aspen, Wynwood Art Group, Aspen, USA
- 2012 Cats, Ricardo Fernandes Gallery, Paris, France
- 2011 Xingu, Ricardo Fernandes Gallery, Paris, France
The Enchanted Forest, Cloître des Billettes Cultural Center, Paris, France
- 2010 Leopoldo Martins, Inimá de Paula Art Museum (MIP BH), Belo Horizonte, Brazil
- 2008 Sculptures, Espacio Dart Gallery, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
- 2006 Felinos, MTC Art Center, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

2003 Os Grandes Felinos, The National Fine Arts Museum of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Main Collective Exhibitions

2019/2018 V Sculpture Biennale Of Shanghai, China

2017 Festival 07 Contemporary Art Summer Show, Cloître des Billettes Art Center, Paris, France
Zilda Fratelli Gallery, Curitiba, Brazil

2016 Festival 06 Contemporary Art Summer Show, Cloître des Billettes Art Center, Paris, France
Zilda Fratelli Gallery, Curitiba, Brazil

2015 Galeria Art Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico

2014 Vianna Gallery, Boca Raton, USA
Wynwood Art Group, Miami, USA
Expoarte, Brasília, Brazil
The Colors of Brazil - Johnson & Johnson, Paris, France

2013 Art Walk Miami, Wynwood Gallery, Miami, USA
Prime Art Selection, Ricardo Fernandes Gallery, Paris, France
Collective Summer Exhibition, Ricardo Fernandes Gallery, Paris, France

2012 16th Shanghai International Art Exhibition, Shanghai, China
Art Canton, Guangzhou, China
Game of Arts, Chateau Bouffémont, Bouffémont, France

De A a Z, Ricardo Fernandes Gallery, Paris, France

- 2011 15th Shanghai International Art Exhibition, Shanghai, China
Beijing International Contemporary Art Fair Beijing China
Cheminer d'arbre en arbre, Bagatelle Parc, Paris, France
- 2010 Guangzhou International Luxury Exhibition, Guangzhou, China
14th Shanghai International Art Exhibition, Shanghai, China
Pas si Bêtes, Peugeot Art Center, Paris, France
Animal Art Exhibition, New York, USA
1er Salon des Antiquaires et d'Art Contemporain, Paris, France
- 2009 Felinos, S Nayla Gallery, London, UK
Salon du Carrousel du Louvre, Paris, France
L'Univers Brésilien, Everarts Gallery, Paris, France
- 2007 Leopoldo Martins and Humberto Nigi at Espaço Dart Gallery, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Esculturas e Objetos, Aide Art Gallery, Nova Lima, Brazil
- 2004 Sculpture by the Sea, Sidney, Australia
- 2002 Escultores Brasileiros MV Art Gallery, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
- 2000 Leopoldo Martins and Sonia Ebling - First Artworks, Brasília National Theater, Brasília, Brazil
- 1985 Leopoldo Martins and Eduard Steven, Anne Plumb Gallery, NY, USA
- 1984 Leopoldo Martins and Rafael Morales, Warren and La Rosa, NY, USA

Main Awards

- 2010 Pas si Bêtes - Animal Art Exhibition, Artist of Honor at Peugeot Art Center, Paris, France
- 2009 Académie des Arts Sciences et Lettres - Brazilian Contemp. Artists of The Year, Paris, France
- 2006 Artist of Honor at Forma Sculpture Week at Mallmann Gallery, Porto Alegre, Brazil

Books and Catalogs

- 2018 Leopoldo Martins Sculptures, Abu Dhabi, UEA
- 2015 Muses - Pascale Lismonde
Paris, France
- 2013 Musas, Ricardo Fernandes
Paris, France
- 2012 More Nature in Our Lives, Ricardo Fernandes
Shanghai, China
- 2011 Leopoldo Martins, The Enchanted Forest, Ricardo Fernandes and Any Collin
Paris, France

- 2009 Cats - Leopoldo Martins, Jacob Kintowitz
 São Paulo, Brazil
 L'Univers Brésilien, Everarts Gallery
 Paris, France
- 2003 Os Grandes Felinos, Museu Nacional de Belas Artes do Rio de Janeiro
 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Galleries, Museums, Institutions

- Arte Aplicada Gallery, São Paulo, Brazil
DotArt Gallery, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Getty Museum, Los Angeles, USA
Gerdau Minas e Metais Museum (MM Gerdau), Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Instituto Brennan, Recife, Brazil
Itaú Cultural, São Paulo, Brazil
Jing'an Sculpture Park, Shanghai, China
Milú Vilela Collection, São Paulo, Brazil
National Fine Arts Museum of Rio de Janeiro (MNBA), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
National Taiwan University of Arts Library, Taipei, Taiwan
Pope Francis Collection at The State of Vatican City, Vatican City
Ricardo Fernandes Gallery, Paris, France
Sociedade Hípica de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil
Wuhan Park of Central China, Wuhan, China
Zilda Fraletti Gallery, Curitiba, Brazil

Private Art Collections

Andréa Bocelli, Roma, Italy
Bruce Winter, New York, USA
Carmen Merick Veiga, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Chen Wugang, Taipei, Taiwan
Fausto Silva (Faustão), São Paulo, Brazil
Flávia Alessandra, São Paulo, Brazil
Hebe Camargo, São Paulo, Brazil
Gisele Bündchen, Los Angeles, USA
Otaviano Costa, São Paulo, Brazil
Ivete Sangalo, São Paulo, Brazil
Joe Milton, Miami, USA
Paula Lima, São Paulo, Brazil
Pascale Lismonde, Paris, France
Richard Meyer, Miami, US

Critics

Felines

From a visionary concept in partnership with Goldesign, the individual exhibition of the sculptor Leopoldo Martins is inserted into the context of the Brazil-Experience space, curated by Ana Marcia Albuquerque, during the International Jewellery & Watch Show (JWS), 2018 in Abu Dhabi (UAE). The fruit of a diverse expositional / graphic project created by the architect Leonardo Rotsen, the exhibition took shape in its own unique way and initially through the naming of JWS as the point of intercession of habitués of the jewellery sector, aiming above all to greatly surprise the visitors with some rare and transformative experiences possessing artistic and cultural scope. The exhibition allows

visitors to witness the integration of art with nature and reveals the artist's dedication and the depth of his research into spatial forms.

Leopoldo Martins's sculptural style establishes him in a position of relevance in the art world of the 21st century.

His pieces oblige us to form a narrative about how we relate to nature and its movement which integrates with other visions whose ideas materialise in shape, colour and texture. His sculptures are configured in their particular way to relate to the animal world from an instigative and visually grandiose standpoint. With diligent research, through keen observation and with the proficiency of advanced techniques comes the ability to perfect

figurative portrayals of well-defined wild elements linked to a textbook paradigm from artists who insist on a high standard of excellence.

The sculptures Panther in Attack, Awakening Panther, Resting Lion and a beautiful group of selected pieces from the (Felines) series boast delineated features, defined forms and muscles seen in a realistic perspective, setting in authentic relief the tensions of the feline shapes. Leopoldo Martins explores the animal kingdom and creates life and movement. His shapes represent his exhaustive efforts, sinuosity and the volumes which from all angles allow us to ponder the visibility of each piece. To be familiar with the work of Leopoldo Martins is an invitation into the dialogue between multiple viewpoints. They are unique examples of total comprehension of art and nature in the poetic completeness of each sculpture.

Marta Guerra

Director of the Belo Horizonte Fashion Museum (MUMO) – Brazil

Pedagogue, Cultural Manager, Specialist in Cultural and Educational Projects

Mutant Felines

As an expression of the soul, or perhaps as an extension of it, the act of designing flows naturally from the hands of Leopoldo Martins by means of lines, light and shadow. A restive young man and a

shrewd observer, he seeks incessantly to quench his visual appetite for good design, for beauty, for good form. This visual appetite transforms itself into power, sensuality, the thrill of the hunt, and finds its personification in the taunt muscles and agile movements of the world's great cats, another of the artist's passions.

Leopoldo Martins' sculpture is sincere and rooted in the depths of desire. However, it extrapolates common sense, uses and exploits the shapes of untamed existence in its rawest state: breath held in abeyance, a silent roar, sinewy muscles ready to lunge. Hunger ready to be satisfied. This is the feeling of the great cats, apex of the food chain, at the moment of the attack. Leopoldo captures this tension and, thereby, satisfies his own hunger for form.

Not satisfied, the artist shuffles the world of appearances. Confuses normal senses, causes mass to arise from corporal feeling. Transforms desire, hunger. Changes mass. Mutants! The vigor of the hunter is frozen in the limit of form: tension is petrified in the lines: and action is metamorphosed. Surprising, unexpected distortions: lines contort and twist to better offer themselves to the eyes. Strokes define vague, nebulous shadows, and what was savage becomes subtle.

Modern work, unique. Born from powerful, transforming hands. Hands that are the tools of the restive, renovating, transmogrifying soul of Leopoldo Martins.

Celso Ivanovo
Brazilian Architect and Art Collector

The Great Cats

Cats are indomitable in terms of their mysterious, magical and agile beauty. Not one of the best top models can manage to walk like a black panther, with its grand, indolent stride, giving a perfect, sinuous definition to the word "sexy".

A passionate enthusiast of the great cats, Leopoldo Martins worked in New York as a successful jewelry designer until 1986, when he returned to Brazil to continue developing his talent and, simultaneously, begin sculpting.

Motivated by friends and admirers of his work, he decided to give in to his sculptor side. He began his current phase, creating great, important pieces, producing an almost mutant mixture based on primal forms and primordial imagination. He urges and coaxes figures to emerge from the material, inspired by the strong, agile bodies of the great cats.

I will end with a proverb from the 17th century: "He who doesn't love cats has not sense of aesthetics or beauty".

Carmen Mayrink Veiga
Brazilian Business Woman and Art Collector

The Magnificent Cats of Leopoldo Martins

The current exposition of bronze sculptures by Leopoldo Martins is a beautiful representation of felines, in addition to being an autobiographical exercise by the artist. Inspired by animals from the family of digitigrades mammals that includes the puma, the lion, and the tiger, these sculptures reveal the strength of these felines as well as their beauty and sensuality. As a person, Leopoldo combines inner and outer beauty with congeniality and a sense of fair play. As an artist, he infuses his pieces with these qualities, adding an unparalleled talent to his sculpture through proportion, movement, the confident use of the chisel, and a bronze patina whose final results are a marvel of completion and beauty.

In the youthfulness of life, Leopoldo Martins demonstrates the maturity of a sculptor who has come to stay.

Carlos Perktold
Member of the Psychoanalytic Circle of Minas Gerais
Member of the State Association of Art Critics (AMCA)