

cecilia brunson projects

Jandyra Waters (b. 1921, Sertãozinho, São Paulo - d. 2025, Sertãozinho, São Paulo)

Jandyra Waters (b. 1921, Sertãozinho, São Paulo - d. 2025, Sertãozinho, São Paulo) was a painter, sculptor, engraver, and poet, recognised as one of the pioneering figures in Brazilian Geometric Abstraction with a remarkable career that spanned over 70 years.

In 1946, she settled in Lewes in East Sussex in the UK and, two years later, went on to study at the local County Council Art School. After returning to Brazil in 1950, she honed her skills in painting with Yoshiya Takaoka and in sculpture and ceramics with André Osze at the artist's studio in São Paulo. She also, additionally, studied engraving under Marcelo Grassmann, a renowned Brazilian printmaker, draftsman, and illustrator. In 1951, she continued her studies with a specialism in mural painting under the tutelage of Clóvis Graciano at the Fundação Armando Álvares Penteado (FAAP), before she pursuing a degree in Art History at the University of São Paulo (USP) the following year.

Debuting at the Salão Paulista de Artes Moderna (SPAM) in 1957, her work progressed from figurative landscapes, domestic interiors, and still lifes into rhythmic abstraction, inspired by the Tachisme movement that developed in Europe in the 1940s and 1950s. By the 1960s, her work had consolidated into Lyrical Abstraction, using a bolder palette to create more deliberately distinctive shapes, before giving way to Geometric Abstraction in the 1980s. Here, Waters' more fluid forms developed into harder, geometric shapes that were often incredibly architectural. In addition to oil and acrylic paintings, her later work also included sculptural relief cut-painted wood, no doubt inspired by her earlier studies in wood engraving under Grassmann. In addition to her visual practice, Waters also published three Haiku poetry books - short, unrhymed Japanese-style prose that aimed to capture the fleeting essence of nature. She remained an active artist until her passing in 2025, aged 103.

Exhibiting extensively across Brazil, Waters' first solo exhibition was held in 1963 at Galeria Aremar, Campinas, São Paulo. More recently, Waters has been the subject of several solo exhibitions, notably *Jandyra Waters: 104 years* at Club Athletico Paulistano (São Paulo, Brazil, 2025); *Desvendador* at Galeria MaPa (São Paulo, Brazil, 2019); and a retrospective entitled *Jandyra Waters – Rhythm of Time* at Almeida & Dale (São Paulo, Brazil, 2015). Waters' work has been included in many group exhibitions, including *Acervo Vivo [Living Collection]* at Almeida & Dale (São Paulo, Brazil, 2026); *Centenarians: Three Brazilian Women Artists* at Jeff Lincoln Art + Design in collaboration with Haslauer Gallery (New York, US, 2026); *Theodore Ereira-Guyer and Jandyra Waters: We Lost Lots of Beautiful Things*, curated by Maria do Carmo M. P. de Pontes at Elizabeth Xi Bauer (London, UK, 2025); *Five Essays on MASP-Geometries* at the Museu de Arte de São Paulo (São Paulo, Brazil, 2025); and *Mapa das Mulheres [Map of Women]* at Galeria MaPa (São Paulo, Brazil, 2024).

Her work, lauded by critics such as Theon Spanudis, Mário Schenberg, and José Geraldo Vieira, can be found in some of the most important private collections in São Paulo and at institutions such as Museu de Arte de São Paulo (MASP), Museu de Arte Contemporânea (MAC-USP), Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, and the FAAP's Brazilian Art Museum (BAM).

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Jandyra Waters

b. 1921, Sertãozinho, São Paulo, Brazil

d. 2025, Sertãozinho, São Paulo, Brazil

Education

1947 County Council Art School, Sussex, UK

1951 Fundação Armando Álvares Penteado, São Paulo, Brazil

1952 University of São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2025 *Jandyra Waters: 104 years*, Club Athletico Paulistano, São Paulo, Brazil

2021 *Desvendador*, Galeria MaPa, São Paulo, Brazil

2019 Galeria MaPa, São Paulo, Brazil

2018 Galeria Sancovsky, São Paulo, Brazil

2015 *Jandyra Waters: Rhythm of Time*, Almeida & Dale, São Paulo, Brazil

1963 Galeria Aremar, Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil

Selected Group Exhibitions

2026 *Acervo Vivo [Living Collection]*, Almeida & Dale, São Paulo, Brazil

2026 *Centenarians: Three Brazilian Women Artists*, Jeff Lincoln Art + Design in collaboration with Haslauer Gallery, New York, US

2025 *Theodore Ereira-Guyer and Jandyra Waters: We Lost Lots of Beautiful Things*, curated by Maria do Carmo M. P. de Pontes, Elizabeth Xi Bauer, London

2025 *Five Essays on MASP- Geometries*, Museu de Arte de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

2024 *Mapa das Mulheres*, Galeria MaPa, São Paulo, Brazil

cecilia brunson projects

- 2024 *Metamorphoses and Distances*, Galeria Estação, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2023 *Continuities, 2000 Years of Female Art in South America*, Embassy of Brazil, London
- 2022 *Resonances / 2000 Years Female Arts of South America*, Frieze Masters 2022, Paul Hughes Fine Arts, London
- 2021 *Our North Is The South*, Gomide & Co, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2020 *Jandyra Waters: Abstracionismo Orgânico*, Galeria MaPA, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2008-9 *Brazilian Art in the MAC-USP Collection*, MAC-USP, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2008 *Abstract Trends in Small Formats*, MAC-USP, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2008 *Brazilian Art in the MAC Collection*, MAC-USP, São Paulo, Brazil
- 2005-6 *Theon Spanudis Collection*, MAC-USP, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1996-98 *Brazilian Art: 50 Years of History in the MAC-USP Collection 1920 - 1970*, MAC-USP, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1996 *Constructive Trends in the MAC-USP Collection: Construction - Measurement - Proportion*, MAC-USP, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1996 *Women Artists in the MAC Collection*, MAC-USP, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1994-95 *Construction Trends: Construction - Measurement - Proportion*, MAC-USP, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1993-94 *Theon Spanudis: Poet, Critic and Collector*, MAC-USP, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1992-93 *The Seduction of Volumes*, MAC-USP, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1989 *Constructivist Artists: Theon Spanudis Collection*, MAC-USP, São Paulo, Brazil
- 1988-89 *Prints - Theon Spanudis Collection*, MAC-USP, São Paulo, Brazil

cecilia brunson projects

1987 *Constructivist Artists in the Theon Spanudis Collection*, MAC-USP, São Paulo, Brazil

1986-

87 *Theon Spanudis Collection*, MAC-USP, São Paulo, Brazil

1986 *Geometers from São Paulo*, Sadalla Art Gallery, São Paulo, Brazil

1984-

85 *Construction Trends in Brazil*, MAC-USP, São Paulo, Brazil

1983-

84 *Aspects of Abstractionism in the MAC Collection*, MAC-USP, São Paulo, Brazil

1982 MAC-USP Collection, MAC-USP, São Paulo, Brazil

1968 Nacional de Artes Plásticas, Salvador, Brazil

1967 9th International Biennial of São Paulo, by Fundação Bienal, São Paulo, Brazil

1966 Nacional de Artes Plásticas, Salvador, Brazil

1965 Salão de Arte Contemporânea, Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil

1957 VI edition of Salão Paulista de Artes Moderna, São Paulo, Brazil

Haiku Poetry Publications

Pedras Nuas [Naked Stones], edited by José Olympio, 1974

Desvendador [Unveiler], edited by DAG, 1977

Ritmo do Tempo [Rhythm of Time], edited by Scortecci, 2001

Public Collections

Museu de Arte de São Paulo (MASP), São Paulo, Brazil

Museu de Arte Contemporânea (MAC-USP), São Paulo, Brazil

Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

The FAAP's Brazilian Art Museum (MAB), São Paulo, Brazil