

SLG

PRESS RELEASE

LUIZ ZERBINI: INTUITIVE RATIO
8 JUNE – 19 AUGUST 2018
PREVIEW FRI 8 JUNE 6.30-8.30PM
MAIN GALLERY, FIRST FLOOR GALLERIES
ADMISSION FREE

The South London Gallery (SLG) presents Brazilian artist Luiz Zerbini's first major solo show in the UK. Large-scale figurative canvases, recent abstract paintings and a new table installation are displayed in the Main Gallery alongside film works and slide collages in the First Floor Galleries. The exhibition explores the evolution of Zerbini's painting technique and style over the past decade and offers offering an insight into the breadth of media he employs in other aspects of his practice.

Luiz Zerbini (b. 1959, São Paulo, Brazil) is one of South America's pre-eminent artists, acclaimed for his vividly coloured figurative and abstract paintings. His work was included in the landmark 1984 exhibition *Como vai você Geração 80? (How Are You Doing, 80s Generation?)* in Rio de Janeiro, which aimed to revolutionise and challenge preconceptions around painting in modern Brazil. His work draws on varied sources including modernist architecture, contemporary culture, elements from the natural environment and cityscapes, particularly Rio de Janeiro where he lives and works. Alongside his own practice Zerbini is a founding member of Chelipa Ferro, a band and artist collective established in the mid-1990s who represented Brazil at the 2005 Venice Biennale and participated in the 25th (2002) and 26th (2004) São Paulo Biennial.

In the Main Gallery, Zerbini's approach to merging imagery and references to the principal themes he explores in his work is evident in a vibrant display of large-scale figurative canvases and geometric abstract paintings. *Concrete Jungle*, 2011 depicts natural and man-made forms, from plants, trees and animals to loudspeakers and cables, set against a geometric, richly coloured backdrop while *Erosão*, 2014 is a painted collage of street signs, pavement tiles and organic and geometric patterns, transporting the viewer to the streets of Rio de Janeiro. Presented alongside these are several smaller abstract works on canvas, each an investigation of geometric form. Juxtapositions of colour, shape and texture act as an informal index to the painting techniques employed by Zerbini in the larger figurative canvases.

In dialogue with these two-dimensional works is a eight-metre long table installation at the centre of the room, a simple oak wooden construction inset with layered glass panels, each painted with an optical wave pattern. At its base, trays of white sand play host to a range of found and fabricated objects used by Zerbini in the studio as subject material. Zerbini exhibits these here alongside the canvas works in which they are portrayed, inverting the logic of their relationship and creating a reverse still life.

Sertão, 2009, one of two film works shown in the First Floor Galleries, features footage of a series of dry landscapes shown only through their reflections in the water expanses in front of them. Zerbini exploits an unexpected digital glitch that occurred during filming to create a visual effect reminiscent of the colourful squares that punctuate and interrupt abstract canvases such as *Color Bugs*, 2016. Ambient field recordings of conversations, water movement, birdsong and the synthesizer-like sound of cicada insects were captured on camera to form the soundtrack. Shown alongside these are slide collages made up of the artist's personal and sourced slides to explore the intersections between shared memory and individual recollections.

Luiz Zerbini continues a strand of programming at the SLG that has showcased some of the most significant living South American artists, including solo shows of artists Alfredo Jaar, Gabriel Kuri, Oscar Murillo, Rivane Neuenschwander; the group show *Under the Same Sun: Art from Latin America*

Today presented in partnership with the Guggenheim; and a permanent garden by Gabriel Orozco commissioned by the SLG.

For further information and high resolution images please contact:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About Luiz Zerbini

Luiz Zerbini has exhibited his work in galleries and museums worldwide. In 2017 Stephen Friedman Gallery showed his work in London, in 2016 Sikkema Jenkins & Co. in New York and the Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain (Paris) is scheduled for the summer of 2018. Zerbini has had a series of retrospective exhibitions at Galpão Fortes Vilaca, São Paulo, Brazil (2015); Casa Daros, Rio de Janeiro (2014); Instituto Inhotim, Minas Gerais (2013) and the Museu de Arte Moderna in Rio de Janeiro (2012). He took part in the Biennials of São Paulo (2010, 1987), Mercosul (2001), Havana (2000) and Cuenca (1996). He is also a member of the Chelipa Ferro collective, participants in the 25th and 26th Biennials of São Paulo.

About the South London Gallery

The South London Gallery (SLG) is an internationally renowned public institution with an established reputation for its programme of contemporary art exhibitions, film and performance events, with integrated education projects for children, young people and adults. Over the past decade the exhibitions programme has featured solo shows by established international figures such as Ellen Gallagher, Thomas Hirschhorn, Gabriel Kuri, Rashid Johnson, Rivane Neuenschwander, Roman Ondak, Amie Siegel and Lawrence Weiner, as well as those by younger and mid-career artists such as Michael Dean, Thea Djordjadze and Oscar Murillo. Group shows bring together works by established and lesser-known British and international artists, whilst an ongoing residency programme provides opportunities for artists to develop new work and exhibit at the SLG.

Providing opportunities for learning and participation is at the heart of the South London Gallery's purpose, and thousands of children, young people and adults take part in an extensive programme of activities. This includes a peer-led young people's forum and website, www.recreativeuk.com; free family workshops every Sunday in the Clore Studio; Art Block, a dedicated creative space for children on Sceaux Gardens housing estate; artist-led projects and commissions on other local estates; ongoing provision for school visits; and a BBC Children in Need-funded programme for looked after children.

The South London Gallery is a registered charity that raises more than half of its income from trusts and foundations, sponsors and fundraising events.

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www.southlondongallery.org

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Opening Hours

The gallery is open Tuesday–Sunday 11–6pm, except Wednesdays and the last Friday of the month until 9pm. Closed Mondays. Admission is free.

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With special thanks to Catherine Petitgas. Exhibition generously supported by Stephen Friedman Gallery, London, Fortes D'Aloia & Gabriel, São Paulo and Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York.