

THE 
GRIFFIS ART CENTER

INTERNATIONAL ARTIST-in-RESIDENCE PROGRAM – MAISON des ARTISTES
NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT USA

ADÃO ODACYR PINHEIRO

1997 July Artist-in-Residence
Santa Maria, Rio Grande do Sul, Federative Republic of Brazil



"The Killing of the Northeastern Bird"

Date Acquired: 12/15/1997, Date Created: 1997
Framed Dimensions: 41.25 x 29", Picture Dimensions: 30 x 27"
Medium: Mixed Media Collage on Indian Handmade Paper

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Brazil



“Straight out of Brazil by way of John Marin, Kandinsky and Klee, the watercolor and pastel of Adão Pinheiro ... are exuberant yet mystically tinged. Magic realism is the order of the day in [his] watercolors ... dynamic vistas salsa across the picture plane in an obulliente Latin twist on modernist traditions.

“Adão Pinheiro was born in Santa Maria, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil and studied at the college of Library Science and Documentation in Brazil, Maison de la Culture Thonon, Caen; and Maison de Jeunes et de la Culture, Rennes, France. He was a founder (with other artists) of the Gallery and Atelier of Ribeira, Olinda, Pernambuco; Animator with the Cultural Corporation of Metal Leve Ind. E Com., Sao Paulo; and did Scenography for the films “O Pescador e sua Alma;” and “O Homem do Pau Brasil.

“His work captures impressions in color and calligraphy, symbolically arranged on unique and rare papers of colored background with signs which remind us of Far-Eastern characters. It is undoubtedly very difficult to trace the substance of Pinheiro's oeuvre by only looking at the picture, but not impossible, as Pinheiro does not believe in final interpretations, but allows everyone who is willing to engage in his work to find something new and valid.

“...This is the wonder of art and he who lives by it: our everyday sitting room was all of a sudden dressed up for a ball of fairies. What pleasure for the soul, what emotion! Blue djins dancing in an Arabian desert. A mountain that opens up to receive sacred scriptures from the sky as it gives birth to these same scripts from its own belly. Black drawings over fields of nacre. Alchemical gold emerging from nigredo and faeces. The double ax of an African god. Minotaur's labyrinth. Blue over white lace. The innermost hidden place where the Animal lives inside a man's unconsciousness.

“Like the genie back into the lamp, his paintings went back to the black folder, and as we walked to his car I thought of the hidden worlds of beauty, love in plenitude that have always been closer to us than we are used to believing.”

- Lee Fleming, *The Washington Post*