

Press Release

UNBOUND installations by seven artists from Rio de Janeiro
Brígida Baltar, Felipe Barbosa, Eduardo Coimbra, Tatiana Grinberg, Jarbas Lopes, Anna Maria Maiolino and João Modé.

Open to the public: Wednesday 19 of May to Sunday 27 of June 2004

Gallery location: 14, Wharf Road London N1 7RW

Opening hours: Tuesday to Sunday 11 am to 6 pm

For inquiries please call 020 7490 7373

Admission free

“Parasol Unit”, a new non-profit private initiative, is delighted to present its first exhibition “Unbound” installations by seven artists from Rio de Janeiro, from May 19 to June 27, 2004. The exhibition will take place on all three floors of 14, Wharf Road, in a space of approx. 1, 200 sq. m.

“Unbound” highlights a bold, expressive and often poetic attitude to art making, seen frequently in the work of contemporary Brazilian artists, qualities which are even more pronounced in the work of artists living and working in Rio de Janeiro—a city known for its contradictions and where art education is not overly structured.

In her multi-media installations made out of film, video projections, and large drawings created directly on the gallery walls, **Baltar** moves back and forth between reality and fantasy. Her *Collecting Humidity* installation has more to do with an existential and spiritual act than a scientific interest in weather conditions. Baltar has already had a one-person exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland, Ohio, and will show later this year at the National Museum of Modern Art in Tokyo.

Barbosa draws inspiration from mundane objects and from consumerism. His *Map Series* made of alcoholic beverage bottle caps and used underground tickets document the consumption pattern and traveled routes in the underground trains of various large metropolises. Barbosa, has already shown his work extensively in Brazil and in various South American countries.

Coimbra came to art after an education in Electrical Engineering. Although at first glance his work resembles the site/non-site pieces the late American Land Art artist, Robert Smithson created in the 60s and 70s, they are in fact very different and play with tactile and visual sensations in an often confusing space. In *Silent Steps*, a work in progress, a large surface of salt is punctured by light-boxes, each covered by an image of the sky and placed in the shape of a footprint. The viewer walking on the salt is confused and has to redefine his/her

position within that space. Coimbra has shown his work at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, in Lisbon, Portugal in 2000.

Grinberg's installations are usually made of various architectural elements—cubes and partition walls. She then draws on their surface, cuts holes through some of their walls and places equipment, such as speakers inside the structures. The work becomes complete only upon the viewer's interaction. Grinberg participated in a group exhibition at the Whitechapel Art Gallery, London in 1997; and at El Museo del Barrio, New York, in 2001.

Lopes draws from popular culture, indigenous craft and media. His gigantic woven poster portraits of Brazilian politicians, made of multiple layers of posters are haunting and almost three-dimensional images. For "Unbound", Lopes has heightened excitement by creating *Brazil 1 England 0*. He recently was awarded a residency at the Gasworks Gallery in London.

Maiolino's work is embedded in the Neo-Concrete art of the 60s heralded by Lygia Clarke and Hélio Oiticica in Rio de Janeiro. Maiolino's *Rice and Beans* installation is a work in progress. While in some of the plates the rice and beans that will germinate and grow during the exhibition, symbolize hope, the black dining-room furniture and over one hundred empty plates displayed on a nearby cupboard mourn the widespread hunger in the world. Maiolino has exhibited extensively, most recently at the Drawing Center, New York, in 2002.

Modé's installations are informed by issues, such as space, territory and boundaries. His installations consist usually of interventions on the space rather than transformation of it. Mode recently took part in the exhibition "When the Periphery Turns Center and the Center Turns Periphery" at the 2003 Prague Biennial.

"Parasol Unit" is a new non-profit initiative that will open permanent new exhibition spaces at 14, Wharf Road in spring 2005. "Unbound" is the first exhibition, and will take place in the raw space of 14, Wharf Road prior to renovation. "Parasol Unit" will consist of approximately 350 sq. m. of exhibition halls and will also run an artist-in-residency programme and an accompanying education programme. 14, Wharf Road will undergo full renovation this autumn, under the direction of Claudio Silvestrin Architects. "Parasol Unit" is run by Ziba de Weck, who formerly worked at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York and was subsequently the first director of the Swiss Institute.

In conjunction with the exhibition, a panel discussion with the participating artists will take place on Thursday 20th of May between 6:30 and 8:00 pm at the Victoria Miro Gallery, 16, Wharf Road; adjacent to the exhibition space.

For further information and visual material, please contact Tonya Acaster on 020-7490-7373 or at tonya@parasol-unit.com