

74 BRAZIL Works by ten internationally known contemporary artists

74A "Banana on a Plate", oil in canvas, 1971

ANTONIO HENRIQUE AMARAL began painting bananas in 1968, using the banana da terra as his model. he approaches his subject through abstraction, rendering close-ups of the fruit itself, the stems, and often including parts of the plant. In 1971 Amaral was the recipient of one of the most coveted prizes awarded annually by the National Salon of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro. The award was presented to him for his paintings based on the banana. His colors are austere, his forms monumental but simple.

Born in Sao Paulo in 1935, Amaral is a self-taught painter who, until 1967, devoted his efforts entirely to the graphic arts. in 1955 he studied drawing with Robert Sambennet at Sao Paulo's Museum of Modern Art and in 1957 took a course in engraving with Livio Abramo. In 1959 he studied briefly at the Pratt Graphic Arts Center in New York under Shiko Munakata.

From 1958 to 1963, Amaral had eight one-man shows in which he exhibited graphic arts -- linoleum cuts, woodcuts, and drawings, including an exhibit at the OAS in 1959 that was his first appearance in the United States. Since that time he has had nine solo painting exhibitions, the most recent at the Bonino Gallery in Rio de Janeiro. He has participated regularly in the Sao Paulo Biennial since 1963 and has been represented in group shows in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Puerto Rico, France, Germany, and England. Works by the artist are included in

numerous public collections, among them the collections of the Museum of Bahia, the Institute of Modern Art of Chile, the Rhode Island Museum of Art, and the Museum of Art of Belo Horizonte. He is also represented in important private collections in Chile, Brazil, Argentina, and the United States, and has been awarded some twenty prizes for both painting and the graphic arts.

74B "Merry-go-Round of Sheep", engraving, 1971

RUTH BESS was born in Hamburg, Germany, in 1924 and studied there at the Academy of Fine Arts and at the Ecole Paul Colin in Paris. In 1964 she studied engraving at the Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro. Before moving to Brazil, where she now lives, she spent several years in Venezuela as a magazine illustrator and free-lance artist.

The artist has represented Brazil in international exhibitions in Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, England, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Holland, Poland, Israel, Japan, and the United States. Her works are included in private collections in those countries as well as in important collections such as the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Yugoslavia, and the Uffizi Palace Collection of design and engraving in Florence, Italy. She has been awarded six prizes in Brazil and several international prizes, including the gold medal at the III International Biennial of Graphic Arts in Florence (1970).

74C "Cosmic Landscape", oil on canvas, 1963

DANILO DI PRETE, born in Italy, in 1911, is a Brazilian citizen. A self taught painter, he began his career exhibiting in Italy and

Germany in 1930. In 1951 he was awarded first prize at the Biennial of Sao Paulo. His work has been shown in Chile, France and the United States. His paintings may be found in museums of Florence, Berlin, Detroit, Sao Paulo, Bahia, New York and Washington, D. C.

74D "The Window", oil on canvas, 1956

DJANIRA was born in 1914 in Avare, Brazil. Of Austro-Indian descent, Djanira Gomes Pereira is virtually self-taught. Djanira paints in oil and tempera without models. She composes directly at her easel, believing that a work loses spontaneity when transferred from a sketch.

She has exhibited and traveled in Argentina, Uruguay, England, France, Brazil and the United States.

74E "Warrior", drawing, 1958

MARCELO GRASSMANN was born in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 1925. He holds that he is self-taught. At the First National Salon of Modern Art (Rio de Janeiro, 1954-55), he won as a prize a trip to Europe. In the national category at the Sao Paulo Biennials he received the first prize for engraving in 1954 and the first prize for drawing in 1959. He obtained the drawing award at the First Paris Biennial (1959) and a special price for sacred art at the Venice Biennial of 1958. Examples of his work are to be found in the museums of modern art of Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, and Buenos Aires; in the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts; at the Pan American Union; and in many private collections in Brazil, France, and the United States.

Grassmann's creations closely resemble the fantasies conceived by sixteenth-century Flemish artists. His is a world of halluci-

nation and strife, peopled by witches, warriors, and strange beasts, depicted with fluid lines in a highly individual style marked by exuberant tropical imagination. His dream realm does not show the literary influences characterizing the works of the surrealists, but displays rather a purely plastic power of invention.

74F\* MANABU MABE was born in Kumamoto, Japan, in 1924. He began the study of painting at primary school in his native country, but the financial situation of his family forced him to abandon his classes. In 1934 the family emigrated to Brazil, finding work on the coffee plantations of the State of Sao Paulo. In his spare time Mabe practiced painting and the art of calligraphy. He established a small home industry, producing hand-painted neckties, doillies, and napkins, which he sold to department stores in Sao Paulo or hawked in person on the streets of that city.

The artistic career of Manabu Mabe has been meteoric in its rapidity and brilliance. In 1955 he was virtually unknown, but in 1959, as Time put it, was "the year of Manabu Made". In the course of a few months he received the principal award at the Sao Paulo Salon of Contemporary Art, the first prize for a Brazilian painter at the V Sao Paulo Biennial, and the Brau Award for the best painter in oils at the First Paris Biennial. Since that time he has continued to garner honors and has secured an international reputation as one of the most important younger painters of today.

Mabe figured in the group show "Japanese Artists of the Americas" held at the Pan American Union building in 1961, but not until 1962 the first individual presentation of his work took place in the United States at the OAS Headquarters.

\* "Composition", oil on canvas, 1961

## 74G "Rooter", drawing, 1960

ALDEMIR MARTINS was born in Caera, Brazil in 1922. He has dedicated his creativity to engraving and drawing. In 1956 he received the First Prize at the Venice Biennial, being the first Latin American draftsman to receive such distinction. Since then he has been awarded four times in Sao Paulo's International Biennial. He has exhibited his works in Bolivia, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Switzerland and the United States.

## 74H "Peasants", oil on canvas

CANDIDO PORTINARI, painter and muralist was born in Brodowski, Sao Paulo State in 1903, and died in Rio de Janeiro in early 1962. Until he was thirteen years old, he lived and worked on a farm with his parents and his twelve brothers and sisters. Once in Rio de Janeiro he studied at the School of Fine Arts with well known painters as Lucilio Alburquerque, Rodolfo Chambelland and Rodolfo Amoedo. In 1927 he was awarded a Silver Medal in a National competition. In 1928, thanks to a prize in cash, he could move to Paris, from where he visited Italy and Spain. In 1935 one of his oils was awarded a prize by the Carnegie Institute of Pittsburgh. In 1939 he was selected to show his works at the World's Fair Exhibition in New York. In 1939 he also finished the murals for the Ministry of Education in Brazil. In 1941 he decorated Pampulha's Chapel in Brazil, designed by Niemeyer. Portinari enjoyed enormous success in Europe, the United States and Latin America. One can find his murals at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., (1941), and in the United Nation's Building in New York (1953).

## 74I "Composition", oil on canvas, 1960

FIRMINO FERNADES SALDANHA. Contemporary

architect and painter. Won First National Prize in painting in 1947. Since then has been awarded several prizes in national exhibitions of paintings, has participated in the Sao Paulo Biennial, and has exhibited his works individually throughout South America.

74J "Curvilinear", oil on canvas, 1969

Although he had been a mature painter for many years, ALBERT TEIXEIRA first won the acclaim of critics and the public when he was awarded First Prize in Brazil's Esso Salon of Young Artists in 1965, emerging as an outstanding colorist with a firm handling of pigment and impasto and a simple, direct concept of abstract expression.

Teixeira was born in 1925 in Sao Joao do Estoril, Portugal, but has been a Brazilian citizen for almost twenty years. He began to study art at the National Society of Fine Arts in Lisbon in 1947, and after moving to Brazil continued his studies with the painter Sanson Flexor in Sao Paulo (1952-1955). Early in his career he advocated a figurative expression, which under Flexor was to be rejected for pure geometric abstraction. The rigidity of the geometric concept later caused him to seek a freer expression, resulting in a loose, vibrating abstraction.

Teixeira has held one man exhibits in Sao Paulo's Antigo-Novo Gallery, (1960), Sao Luiz Gallery (1963), and Seta Gallery (1966). He has been a frequent participant in the Sao Paulo Biennial and has exhibited his work abroad in group shows of Brazilian art.

The artist's first one man exhibition in the United States was held at the Headquarters of the Organization of American States in 1969.