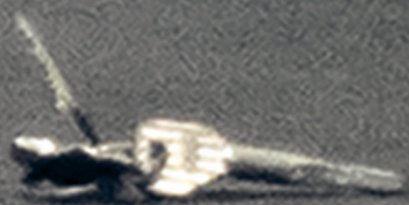


U-jazdowski

Laura Lima

*A Room and
a Half*



10
Ascenseur
2013

9
Bird
authors:
Zé Carlos Garcia
and Laura Lima
2016

A Room and a Half is an invitation to enter a situation that escapes logic, balancing on the edge of an understatement and a joke. The first solo exhibition in Poland of Laura Lima, one of the most recognizable Brazilian artists of her generation, tells about the margins of our perception, blurring the differences between reality and illusion. In the works presented in Warsaw, the artist uses architecture to modify the feeling of the space.

Laura Lima creates situations or images in which she then places living beings – humans or animals – for the duration of the exhibition. Although Lima's projects have some performative aspects, the artist stubbornly avoids such expressions as "performance" or "installation" as there are no narrative moments, scripts, or even endings in her work. There are also no attempts or aspirations to create choreographies of movements. Lima, however, is eager to talk about the "images" into which the viewer enters and wherein they move.

The first work in the exhibition is reminiscent of the atmosphere of a saloon or also a night club filled with the smell of cigars and whiskey. Bulging outwards from the walls are parts of the body – hands, ears, feet – like on baroque tables or chairs, whose legs shift into cat paws. Even though they are clearly alive, they remain immobile for the exception of two hands, which knead tobacco and roll cigarettes, inviting the viewers to feel at home inside the exhibition space. After walking through the first space, one enters an empty room. On the floor lies the carcass of a big black bird, which looks as if it fell whilst in flight and landed here by mere accident. The *Bird* is a work that Laura Lima created together with Brazilian artist Zé Carlos Garcia, who worked for years as an installation designer for a famous carnival in Rio de Janeiro. Today, he uses these skills in his own artistic practice, working with feathers and creating sculptures as well as spatial objects inspired by bird anatomy. In the next room, an enigmatic image can be seen. There is a hand there, which through a gap at the bottom of the wall is desperately trying to reach the keys lying slightly beyond its reach.

In the title of the exhibition, the artist plays with the ambiguity of the Portuguese word *quarto*, which can mean both room and the number four. In the four rooms, wherein the exhibition *A Room and a Half* is located, we experience one continuous situation. Every following room draws the viewer ever deeper, allowing for the discovery of this situation's secrets. Here, Lima's attachment to the logic of dreams or childish fantasy can be clearly observed. Contained in the title "half" is perhaps one of these hidden secrets as well as an attempt to attract attention to the ambivalence between what is visible to the viewer and what is hidden from their sight.

8
Seven mistakes
2017

7
Fumoir
2009

6
I like it because it is soft
2017

5
A Piece of Cloth with a 'Bunch' of Lines
2017

4
Untitled
2017

3
Untitled
2017

2
A Glass of Martini
2017

1
A Glass of Whiskey
2017

One of Lima's artistic strategies is to return to the themes that were present in her earlier projects; except they appear in new configurations – they are further developed, juxtaposed, becoming part of the new images. This is also the case for the exhibition *A Room and a Half*, where the artist returns to three of her former works – *Fumoir*, *Ascenseur* and *Bird* – which previously functioned in other contexts. Last year, the last one appeared unannounced on a beach in Monaco, almost as if the carcass of the bird was thrown ashore by the sea's waves.

Since the mid-1990s, Laura Lima has been creating images that are hard to classify – placing living entities in inconspicuous relationships with objects and space. These are attempts to visually articulate one's own glossary of concepts, which the artist has been evolving since the beginning of her artistic career. Most emblematic for this glossary is the most prominent group of works entitled *Man = flesh/Woman = flesh*, where living beings act as material and perform precise instructions throughout the duration of the exhibition. Here, you can discern the artist's reference to the achievements of Brazilian art of the 1960s and 1970s and to the revolutionary changes in the way the viewer as well as sculpture are approached, which were introduced by Brazilian neoclassicism. Artists such as Flávio de Carvalho, Lygia Clark, Hélio Oiticica, and Lygia Pape were pioneers of participatory art and expanded the field of artistic expression, transforming the position of the artwork's viewer from that of passive to active. Above all, however, they showed how a broader understanding of sculpture and the act of opening it to the viewer initiates actions of a performative character.

"In *Man = flesh/Woman = flesh* there is no hierarchy between the people, animals or objects; a hierarchy between the animate and inanimate is nonexistent. This means that the entity allocated in the work is not one who experiences or constructs the subjectivity. Tasks entrusted to humans or animals shape the image. It is worth adding that the institution is also a body here, just as I am a body beyond my work. Depending on the project, the institution must develop a complex plan for how to care for an exhibition, which is tended to by living people," says the artist.

Laura Lima

(b. 1971) Brazilian artist living and working in Rio de Janeiro. The work of Laura Lima has been featured in individual exhibitions at such prestigious institutions as the ICA Miami (2016); Museo de Arte Moderno, Buenos Aires (2015); Bonnefantenmuseum, Maastricht (2014); Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm (2014); Migros Museum,

Zurich (2013); Performa 15, New York; Casa França Brasil, Rio de Janeiro (2011). Her works were included in major group exhibitions, amongst others, the Lyon Biennial (2011); 14 Rooms, Fondation Beyeler, Basel (2014); São Paulo Biennale (1998, 2006).

U-jazdowski
23/06—01/10/2017

Laura Lima

A Room and a Half

Curator
Agnieszka Sosnowska
Coordination
Michał Grzegorzek



Collaboration on the Exhibition Arrangement
BudCud

Graphic Design
Tomasz Bersz

Artist's assistant
Pola Tyszowiecka

Translation
Agnes Dudek

Exhibition Participants:
Marta Bystron, Konrad Chrzanowski, Anna Gadek, Barbara Herman, Martyna Kowalek, Halina Matienko, Anna Opolska, Oriana Radziuk, Sara Szostak (coordination), Jacek Woloszczak

Thank you:
the entire team of Ujazdowski Castle Center for Contemporary Art and Helmut Batista, Elsa Botner, Marcio Botner, Zé Carlos Garcia, Rodrigo Gomes de Castro Silva, Gabriel Junqueira, Denise Milfont, Teresa Paletta, Piotr Partyka

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TYGODNI

Program of Accompanying Events

Guided tour around the exhibition of Laura Lima

24/06/2017

3:00 p.m.
tour in English
free admission,
gathering in the main hall

Laura Lima
Meeting with the artist
along with a lecture

01/07/2017

7:00 p.m.
Auditorium inside the Ujazdowski Castle Laboratory Building
within the frames of the performative weekend
The Way We Perform Now.

Closing of the Exhibition
30/09/2017

Oneiric U-jazdowski
Special workshops
for adults
3:00 p.m.
free admission,
gathering in the main hall

Concert for 4 rooms (and a half)

Concert of instrumental and vocal improvisations amid the exhibition space
6:00 p.m.
free admission,
gathering in the main hall

{Smykowizje}

a series of workshops
for families with children
between the ages of 0–5

24/06	12/08
15/07	19/08
22/07	09/09
29/07	16/09

10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
admission fee
sign up at
info@u-jazdowski.pl
gathering in the main hall

a guided tour in carrycots

28/06	09/08
12/07	23/08

12:00 p.m.
free admission,
gathering in the main hall

{How Does Art Taste?}

a series of workshops
for families with children
between the ages of 5–10

08/07	26/08
22/07	09/09

12:00 p.m.
admission fee
sign up at
info@u-jazdowski.pl
gathering in the main hall

{Art Does Not Know Age}

a series of meetings
for adults 50+

28/06
12/07
09/08

12:00 p.m.
free admission,
gathering in the main hall

{Art From a Vantage Point...}

a series of guided tours
under free Thursday entry

29/06	17/08
20/07	31/08
	28/09

6:00 p.m.
free admission,
gathering in the main hall

Saturday guided tour
in English

a series of free English
guided tours

15/07	26/08
29/07	09/09
12/08	23/09

3:00 p.m.
free admission,
gathering in the main hall

Additional information can
be found on our webpage
www.u-jazdowski.pl