

Territory of Memories

The exhibition *Territory of Memories*, by Caninana (Ayra Aziza), delves into the interplay between displacement, belonging, and memory, creating a sensitive map of individual and collective trajectories. Her work explores the impacts of migration and exodus, revealing how territories – physical, affective, and symbolic – embed themselves into human experience and redefine ways of being and existing in the world.

From a matriarchal lens of history, Caninana traces fragmented memories, narratives of resistance, and the faint echoes of whispered stories. Her works not only document but reinvent memory landscapes, weaving together subjectivity and collective experience. In this way, the artist transforms memory into a living material, in which the gestures of the past find new possibilities of existence in the present, opening pathways to future imaginaries.

This journey extends beyond the artist herself and intertwines with the migrations of her ancestors and her roots. The exhibition takes us to Itatim and Santa Teresinha, in Bahia – the towns her predecessors left behind – tracing the paths that led them to Guarujá, the artist's hometown. Yet, the journey does not end there: the crossings continue and connect her with Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo, which, more than transit points, are spaces where Caninana constructs new possibilities of being, living, and expanding her practice and poetics.

The central axis of *Territory of Memories* is the work *Vidas Férteis* [Fertile Lives] (2025), Caninana's reinterpretation of Cândido Portinari's *Retirantes* (1944). Where Portinari portrays the aridity and brutality of the backlands, Caninana subverts this narrative, revealing the fertility inherent in displacement and resistance. Her work reimagines bodies in motion, considering them carriers of stories in constant germination. Through this act, the artist spreads a reflection on our Afro-Pindorâmicas identities – those which, driven by movement, shape and recreate themselves, rooted in the ancestral forces and suspended by the winds of history.

Through images and records that blur the boundaries between reality and fiction, *Territory of Memories* invites viewers to traverse landscapes of affection and displacement. Here, memory is not a static archive but a territory in perpetual reconfiguration – a space where time accumulates, unfolds, and, like a rhizome, continually sprouts new pathways of meaning.

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