

MAURICIO DIAS & WALTER RIEDWEG

b. 1964, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (Dias)

b. 1955, Lucerne, Switzerland (Riedweg)

Live in Basel, Switzerland and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

“Our artistic practice and our daily lives, which we’ve shared for nearly twenty years, unfurls in that territory between one and the other, an unknown terrain of desire and fear, of a world to explore, that’s out there to be discovered.”

Dias & Riedweg includes Mauricio de Mello Dias (b. 1964, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) and Walter Stephan Riedweg (b. 1955, Luzern, Switzerland), who have worked together since 1993 to make collaborative and interdisciplinary public art projects, videos, and performances.

Dias studied in the school of fine arts at the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro from 1982 to 1986. After traveling through Europe, he took courses in engraving at the Schule für Gestaltung in Basel, Switzerland. He subsequently studied at the Printmaking Workshop in New York. Riedweg’s formal education focused upon theater and music; he studied at the Musik Akademie in Luzern, the Scuola di Teatro Dimitri in Verscio, Switzerland, and participated in several workshops at the Performance Studies Department at New York University.

Together, Dias & Riedweg combine video, ethnography, and performance art to tackle social and political issues; in their projects, the artists examine human subjectivity as it is conditioned by ideas of nationhood and mediated by contemporary technology. Based in Rio de Janeiro, the duo often looks to the conditions of that city’s favela cultures to consider how a city is constituted. Much of their production is based upon social exclusion. Using the tools of both documentary and fiction, the duo make works which narrate experiences of social alienation and distance, and they consider these experiences as immigrants themselves: “Perhaps the condition of the immigrant, as someone who brushes up against difference at every turn, is almost the ideal condition for poetic creation,” notes Riedweg.

Mauricio Dias & Walter Riedweg’s works are represented in several major collections including Centro Cultural Belém, Coleção Joe Berardo, Lisbon, Portugal; Colección Bergé, Madrid, Spain; Frac Ile-de-France — Le Plateau, Paris, France; Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, Finland; Kunstcredit Basel, Basel, Switzerland; Kunstmuseum Luzern, Switzerland; Kunststiftung Heute, Bern, Switzerland; Musée National d’art Moderne Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France; Museo Universitario de Arte Contemporáneo (MUAC), Mexico City, Mexico; Museu d’Art Contemporani de Barcelona (MACBA), Spain; Museu de Arte do Rio, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, Coleção Pedro Barbosa, São Paulo, Brazil; Museu de Arte

Moderna do Rio de Janeiro, Coleção Gilberto Chateaubriand, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Museu Nacional de Belas Artes do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Museum of Contemporary Art (MoCA), Los Angeles, CA, USA; National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, UK; Pinacoteca de São Paulo, Brazil and Videothek, Basel, Switzerland.