

The origins of art Naïf can be found in the caves of prehistory where the first humans left their traces.

The naïf word was first pronounced in the nineteenth century thanks to Henri Rousseau "le douanier", to describe his painting, with all his ingenuity. After Rousseau modern naïf painting managed to regain a place in the sun. In the late nineteenth century and throughout the twentieth century, artists like Picasso, Modigliani, Gauguin and others were looking for inspiration in different cultures like in primitive art from Africa and Oceania.

Rousseau painted forests, wild and exotic animals in Paris. The Jardin des Plantes was his source. He possessed within himself everything that the others wanted to acquire. Kandinsky wrote: 'Rousseau opened access to new possibilities of simplicity ... "It was thanks to him, the Vivin, Bombois, Bauchant and Séraphine that naïve art was relaunched and has established itself in the modern age.

The naïf painter, is a self-taught, independent, free from an art school, or style. They have their own language with features are ingenuity and freedom. The naïve express themselves in a particular way, they have their own ideas that can be found in the depths of their being. One does not learn to be naïf, they are born that way. The naïf painting everyday, parties, folkloric and religious traditions, launches appeals to safeguard the planet's eco-system, peace, love, dreams and imagination with pure emotion. According to Lucien Finkelstein, founder of MIAN, "they are the anarchists of the brush."

Thru naïf painting, its good humor and color, I propose a playful journey through Rio, so that you can discover some Olympic and Paralympic modalities as well as a true marriage between art and sport. While Rousseau launched the naïve art in modern times, Pierre de Coubertin, also started the idea of Olympic sport. These two great personalities could say: *Mens sana in corpore sano*.

As curator and Director of the MIAN - Museum International of Art Naïve of Brazil, in Rio de Janeiro, I present works of naïve artists that are part of the collection of MIAN. The main objective is to value, promote and disseminate the art naïf, one of the most genuine artistic expressions and representative of the culture of the Brazilian people.

This exhibition's theme covers a lively and colorful panorama of the city of Rio de Janeiro, host of the Olympics in 2016, with some of its cultural attractions as well as its beaches, the Corcovado, the Sugar Loaf, the Maracana Stadium and also Olympic and Paralympic modalities. I would like to thank the invitation of the Consulate of Brazil in Geneva and of Espace_L to participate in this exhibition project "Rio Naïfet les Jeux Olympiques/Paralympique" to be held at the Consulate and Espace_L in Geneva and the Fundação Brasileira in Brazil, during the year 2016.

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