

**Celso Renato**

\*1919 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

†1992 Belo Horizonte, Brazil





Celso Renato's work consists of a rigorous and indirect dialogue between painting and material. His practice feeds on abstract expressionism, the assimilation of geometrical attributes and the conflicting dialogue between the painting and its respective physical support; primarily being discarded wood and remnants from buildings. His work refers to the basis of constructivism, passing through informal to geometric abstraction, materializing into a unique form marked by expressive and austere characters, as his use of white, black and red colors. The result is a vibrant trace of the planes that delineate and embody a pictorial exercise woven into its own physical and aesthetic boundaries, bringing together a survey of nature, sculpture, and collage.



A close-up photograph of a piece of aged, brown leather. The leather has a textured, cracked surface and is decorated with a border of horizontal stripes in red, black, and white. The stripes are arranged in a repeating pattern of red, black, and white, with some stripes appearing slightly wider or more saturated than others. The leather is set against a plain white background.

SELECTED  
EXHIBITIONS





**Celso Renato**

Mendes Wood DM & Michael Werner Gallery, New York, USA  
2017

Mendes Wood DM was pleased to present the first solo exhibition of Celso Renato (1919 - 1992) in the United States. A seminal contributor to the constructivist movement of Minas Gerais (Brazil), Renato imbued his abstract-geometric compositions with forms derived from Indigenous and African motifs. Using red, white and black paint on found pieces of wood and architectural salvage; Renato's works inhabit a playful duality, harmonizing the rudimentary and the sophisticated to build a new vernacular.















**Celso Renato**

Mendes Wood DM São Paulo, Brazil

2015

Mendes Wood DM had the pleasure of presenting the first solo exhibition by Minas Gerais artist Celso Renato (1919 - 1992) in the last 20 years. His career as an artist began when he was middle-aged, starting in the 1970s and '80s-- the period in which his work took on the dimension and relevance that established him in the art world. The work featured in this exhibition spans this period, the most recent piece dating from the early 1990s.

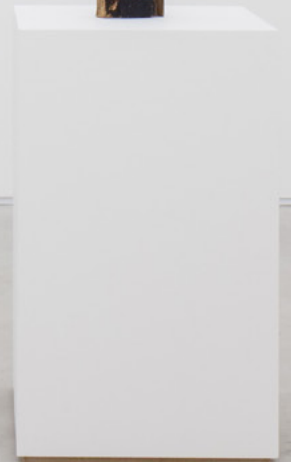
Alongside Amilcar de Castro (1920 - 2002), Celso Renato is considered one of the most particular artists in dialogue with the Minas Gerais constructivist tradition. His artistic production started out with a strong influence from informal abstraction, working with large-scale canvases filled with bold forms and vivid colors.





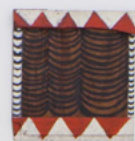
















SELECTED  
WORKS





Celso Renato

*Untitled*

80's

painting on wood

80 × 80 cm

MW.CRT.P.016





Celso Renato, *Fragmentos*, undated, wood painted with acrylic paint, 33 × 21 × 10 cm, MW.CRT.S.017









**Celso Renato**

*Untitled*

undated

acrylic on wood

124 × 92 cm

MW.CRT.S.019









Celso Renato

*Untitled*

undated

acrylic on wood

80 × 70 × 4 cm

MW.CRT.S.020



**Celso Renato**

*Untitled*

1982

acrylic on wood

80 × 70 × 4 cm

MW.CRT.S.021









Celso Renato

*Untitled*

1980

oil on wood

46 × 34 cm

MW.CRT.S.023









**Celso Renato**

*Untitled*

1966

acrylic on wood

48 × 30 × 5 cm

MW.CRT.S.018





**Celso Renato**

*Untitled*

undated

acrylic on wood

40 × 18 × 6 cm

MW.CRT.P.010





Celso Renato, *Untitled*, undated, acrylic on wood, 23 × 22 × 4 cm, MW.CRT.P.002





**Celso Renato**

*Untitled*

undated

acrylic on wood

57 × 35 × 4 cm









**Celso Renato**

*Untitled*

undated

acrylic on wood

57 × 35 × 4 cm

MW.CRT.P.006





Celso Renato, *Untitled*, undated, acrylic on wood, 23 × 22 × 4 cm





**Celso Renato**

*Untitled*

undated

acrylic on wood

75 × 31 × 7 cm

MW.CRT.P.009





Celso Renato, *Untitled*, 1985, acrylic on wood, 79 × 85 cm





Celso Renato, *Untitled*, 1988, painting on wood, 22 × 30 × 9 cm, MW.CRT.P.014









**Celso Renato**

*Untitled*

1992

oil on wood

59 × 23 cm

MW.CRT.P.001





“The artist is born an artist. He is an artist by birth. There’s no other way. You can teach the craft of painting pictures, writing verses, and all the rest of it, but you won’t get anything from anyone who wasn’t born with that peculiar gift.”

— Celso Renato



## Education

1944

Law from the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG), Brazil

## Solo Shows

2017

*Celso Renato*, Mendes Wood DM & Michael Werner Gallery, New York, USA

2015

*Celso Renato*, Mendes Wood DM, São Paulo, Brazil

1990

*Celso Renato*, Itaugaleria, Minas Gerais, Brazil

1988

Pace Arte Galeria, Minas Gerais, Brazil

1985

*Retrospectiva*, Museu Mineiro, Minas Gerais, Brazil

1982

Galeria Luisa Strina, São Paulo, Brazil

1980

Galeria Teleming, Minas Gerais, Brazil

1965

Galeria Guignard, Minas Gerais, Brazil

1962

Galeria Edifício Malleta, Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil

## Group Shows

2023

*Paper trails, d'Ouwe Kerke, Retranchement*, Netherlands

*Linhas Tortas*, Mendes Wood DM São Paulo, Brazil

2018

*Veredas*, Mendes Wood DM São Paulo, Brazil

2017

*Markers*, David Zwirner, London, United Kingdom

*Building Material: Process And Form In Brazilian Art*, Hauser and Wirth, Los Angeles, USA

2015

*Kiti Ka'Aeté*, The Modern Institute, Glasgow, UK

2004

*Tudo é Brasil*, Itaú Cultural, São Paulo, Brazil

*Tudo é Brasil*, Paço Imperial, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

2003

Coletiva Marília Razuk, São Paulo, Brazil

2002

*Mapa do Agora: Arte brasileira na Coleção João Sattamini do Museu Contemporâneo de Niterói*, Instituto Tomie Ohtake, São Paulo, Brazil

1994

*Bienal do Século XX*, Fundação Bienal de São Paulo, Brazil

*4 x Minas*, Museu de Artes de São Paulo (MASP), São Paulo, Brazil

*4 x Minas*, Museu de Arte Moderna Bahia, Bahia Brazil

*4 x Minas*, Museu de Arte Moderna Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

*Identidade Virtual*, Museu dIncofidência, Minas Gerais, Brazil

1992

*Begegnung mit den Anderen*, Kasel, Germany

*Ícones da Utopia*, Fundação Palácio das Artes, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

1990

*Construção Selvagem*, Centro Cultural São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

*Construção Selvagem*, Palácio das Artes, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

*Construção Selvagem*, Centro Cultural São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

1989

*20th Panorama de Arte Atual Brasileira*, Museu de Arte Moderna, São Paulo, Brazil

*20th Bienal Internacional de São Paulo*, São Paulo, Brazil

*Mineiros na 20th Bienal Internacional de São Paulo*, Pace Arte Galeria, Belo Horizonte, Brazil

1988

*Sete Artistas Brasileiros*, Fundação Guayaasamin, Quito, Equador

*Sete Artistas Brasileiros*, Instituto Cultural da Embaixada Argentina, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

1986

*17th Panorama de Arte Atual Brasileira*, Museu de Arte Moderna, São Paulo, Brazil

1985

*Destaque da Arte Contemporânea Brasileira*, Museu de Arte Moderna, São Paulo, Brazil

1984

*Tradição e Ruptura: Síntese de arte e cultura brasileira*, Fundação Bienal de São Paulo, Brazil

*10 Artistas Mineiros*, Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil

1983

*17th Bienal Internacional de São Paulo*, São Paulo, Brazil

1981

*8th Salão Global de Inverno*, Museu de Arte de São Paulo (MASP), São Paulo, Brazil

*8th Salão Global de Inverno*, Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

1976

*Arte Não-Figurativa Hoje*, Palácio das Artes de Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil

1975

Salão de Arte de Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil

1970

O Processo Evolutivo da Arte em Minas: 1960-1970, Palácio das Artes de Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil

1968

23th Salão de Belas Artes da Cidade de Belo Horizonte, Museu de Arte da Pampulha, Minas Gerais, Brazil

1967



9th Bienal Internacional de Artes de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

3th Salão de de Arte Contemporânea de Campinas, Museu de Arte Contemporânea José Pancetti, Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil

1966

21th Salão de Belas Artes da Cidade de Belo Horizonte, Museu de Arte da Pampulha, Minas

Gerais, Brazil

1965

8th Bienal Internacional de Artes de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

20th Salão de Belas Artes da Cidade de Belo Horizonte, Museu de Arte da Pampulha, Minas

Gerais, Brazil

1964

Artistas Mineiros, Galeria Atrium, São Paulo, Brazil

Salão de Artistas Mineiros, Universidade de Minas Gerais, Minas Gerais, Brazil

19th Salão de Belas Artes da Cidade de Belo Horizonte, Museu de Arte da Pampulha, Minas

Gerais, Brazil



Mendes  
Wood  
DM

Rua Barra Funda 216  
01152 - 000 São Paulo SP Brazil

13 Rue des Sablons / Zavelstraat  
1000 Brussels Belgium

47 Walker Street FL1/Cellar  
New York, NY 10013

[www.mendeswooddm.com](http://www.mendeswooddm.com)  
[@mendeswooddm](mailto:@mendeswooddm)