

## **Destiny Brazil – Between Reality and the Imaginary** Reflections on Power, Identity & Spiritualism

After FUSO 2024, the video art platform VIDEO WINDOW presents another programme dedicated to Brazilian video art, ambiguously entitled *Destiny Brazil*, with one film each by Aline Motta, Camila Freitas and Janaina Wagner. The programme provides through the three works a fragmentary insight into life realities in Brazil, from Rio de Janeiro deep into the Amazon. At the same time, it offers a comparison of different positions of mid-career female artists, distinguished by their unique voices and recognised both nationally and internationally.

Despite their education, longer stays or residencies abroad, the artists maintain in their works a profound connection to Brazil. The three essay-like videos delve into social, cultural and political realities, including religious and mythological worlds mainly rooted in the country's colonial past, such as the history of slavery (the Black Atlantic), the syncretic Afro-Brazilian cosmology (Umbanda), with indigenous, African and Christian elements, and the conflict-ridden claim to natural resources in the Amazon region. The works invite the audience to reflect on questions of power, collective memory, cultural identity and beliefs of people who resist power structures.

In *(Other) Foundations* (2019) by Aline Motta, the artist embarks on a journey to Lagos in Nigeria. It initiates a self-reflection about her roots and belonging, which oscillates between Africa and Brazil.

Camila Freitas' work *Apparition* (2024) offers an intimate insight into the spiritual practices of Umbanda experienced by her grandmother.

*Curupira and the Machine of Destiny* (2021) by Janaina Wagner takes the viewers to the middle of the Amazon on the legendary Trans-Amazonian Highway and leads them on the road to an imaginary encounter with *Curupira*, a mythological figure who protects the forest against external power.

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