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CARNIVAL ON CANVAS

ROGÉRIO REIS

Rogério Reis sets up a traveling studio and records the identity of Carnival in Rio de Janeiro. In this study, the photographer shows a practically unknown aspect of the popular celebration, synthesizing the "Brazilian soul" in b&w.





Carnival on Canvas is an anthropological inventory of fancy dresses in Rio. Rogério Reis leaves the "Sambódromo" (samba schools parade local) and the prefabricated joy of the official parades and sets up his "time box". In front of a canvas, generally hung up at the back of any newspaper stand, the merry-maker interprets his wishes, criticizes society and spontaneously shows his identity.

This project has been carried out for the last ten years in three different regions of Rio de Janeiro. The Southern Region reflects the gay spirit. The city's financial center, more precisely Avenue Rio Branco, is the setting to criticize the Public Power and humor related to scenes

broadcast on TV. The Northern zone, in Campo Grande, generally concentrates on simple fancy dresses, of paper or cheap symbolic appliquéés. Carnival on Canvas is constantly on tour. Since the Rotterdam Biennial, in 1989, requests have been ongoing. Today the inventory may be seen at the Pully Museum, in Lausanne, Switzerland. The next stop is London, at the Photographer's Gallery.

According to Patrick Rogiers, art critic of the French newspaper *Le Monde* (September 7, 1990 issue). "Carnival on Canvas is the synthesis of the Brazilian soul".

Mayra Rodrigues de Almeida, journalist







