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TERRA ENCANTADA. OIL STUDIES.
Edu de Barros

18th February
13h - 18h

"My work is based on a world experience with particular paradigms, problems, and interests, which creates a contradiction in being here in Barcelona. My paintings come from a prophetic place, they are foreshadowings of an apocalypse and incorporate the density of the political and social events of Rio de Janeiro and Brazil, which here become exotic subjects.

I chose to paint in oil, linking my work to the canon of European art that I saw in museums in Barcelona, Madrid, and Paris. Works by artists enshrined in the history of art, such as Monet, Manet, Cézanne, Picasso, Miró, Goya, and Delacroix, who until then inhabited my imagination only through books or the internet, finally gained physical presence and now affect me in another way."

"Terra Encantada. Oil studies" emerges from this contradiction. *Terra Encantada* is the name of an extinct amusement park that operated for 12 years in the city of Rio de Janeiro, presenting a theme based on stereotypes of Brazilian culture and its indigenous, African, and European origins. Territoriality and identity are, therefore, issues that cut across the body of work. As a Brazilian artist producing in Europe, Edu accessed, from another territory, an image of Brazil, which is linked to both an idea of enchantment and exoticization.

The abandoned park, nostalgia, carnival scenes, and recent news from Brazil with the coup invasion of Brasília, all these elements are superimposed in free association. The compositions display, in multiple layers, a great dance of figures, shapes, and colors, in which the historical relationship of exploitation of the former colonies by the metropolis is exploded or even inverted. Intuitive and subjective, his creative process starts from an image bank — photographs and observation drawings —, which is then relocated and transformed, producing an amalgam of themes and figurations from different origins.

Edu de Barros (Rio de Janeiro, 1992) lives and works in Rio de Janeiro. His work comprises paintings, actions, objects, sculptures, and writing. The artist's pictorial universe is built with elements of a prophetic nature, mixing classic and contemporary languages and representations: apocalyptic signs, elements of cultural insurgency from the favelas and downtown Rio de Janeiro, viral digital content, and descriptive visual icons of everyday life in suspended and convulsive space-times. In his first solo show CROPPED (2020), held at Sé and curated by Clarissa Diniz, he gained notoriety for his productive confinement within the exhibition space in the context of the pandemic. Between 2020 and 2022 he participated in group shows in institutional spaces such as Museu de Arte do Rio, MAM-Rio, MUHCAB, and Comporta (Portugal).

In collaboration with Sé Galería

Next events:
- **LITERAL BARRAKA.** *4th of March. Collective construction and party. Biblioteca Poble-sec - Francesc Boix*