

Bárbara Wagner & Benjamin de Burca

English



Estás vendo coisas

April 26, 2019–March 29, 2020

Bárbara Wagner

b. 1980, Brasília; lives in Recife

Benjamin de Burca

b. 1975, Munich; lives in Recife

Estás vendo coisas (You Are Seeing Things), 2016

Digital color video, with sound, 17 min., 25 sec.

Collection Pérez Art Museum Miami, museum purchase with funds provided by Jorge M. Pérez

Artists Bárbara Wagner & Benjamin de Burca define their collaborative practice between documentary filmmaking and art making, while engaging popular culture to raise fundamental questions about social visibility.

In the celebrated video *Estás vendo coisas* (You Are Seeing Things, 2016)—recently acquired by Pérez Art Museum Miami—the artists dive into the subculture of brega music in Recife, Brazil. Having emerged in the 1970s, “brega” is an informal term applied to a body of mass-oriented popular music strongly associated with the notion of “bad taste.” While it is still often regarded as a tacky genre, fusing Brazilian *techno* beats with lyrics composed of exaggerated declarations of love, confessions of infidelity, and delusions, it remains extremely popular. In the genre’s social and professional environment, video clips are a gateway for an aspired future bolstered by a powerful capitalist appetite for material success. With today’s easy access to technology, brega is produced and distributed via sophisticated methods, oftentimes giving visibility to disenfranchised communities in the peripheries of northeastern Brazil.

Scripted and performed by actual members of the brega scene, *Estás vendo coisas* documents the routines of Pork, a hairdresser and MC, and Dayana Paixão, a firefighter and singer, as they live out parallel lives. Wagner & de Burca expose viewers to a landscape in which image construction in the realm of the spectacle becomes a form of affective labor, bearing a huge impact on the creation of voice, status, and identity for a new generation of self-made musicians. In contrast to approaches that often satirize the subject by amplifying its carnivalesque aspects, this film exudes a psychological and melancholic tone, highlighting how inherited aesthetic judgements differ across social classes in developing economies.

Jennifer Inacio

Assistant Curator



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of Art
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Biography

Bárbara Wagner (b. 1980, Brasília) and Benjamin de Burca (b. 1975, Munich) live in Recife, where they have collaborated since 2011. The duo will represent Brazil in the 2019 Venice Biennale and have presented solo shows at the Art Gallery of York University, Toronto, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, and Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit. Among their group shows, highlights are FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art; Instituto Moreira Salles, São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro; Berlinale Shorts, Berlin; Panorama de Arte Brasileira, São Paulo; Museum of Modern Art, Rio de Janeiro; Skulptur Projekte, Münster; Bienal de Arte de São Paulo; Museum of Art of São Paulo; EVA International, Limerick; and Biennale Arts Actuels, Réunion. Their works are part of several collections, among them Museum of Art of São Paulo; Museum of Art of São Paulo; Museum Het Domein, Sittard, Holland; and Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation (CIFO), Miami, among others.



Bárbara Wagner & Benjamin de Burca: Estás vendo coisas is organized by PAMM Assistant Curator Jennifer Inacio in the Bank of America Gallery. This exhibition is supported by Ornare. Ongoing support for PAMM’s project galleries from Knight Foundation is gratefully acknowledged.

Cover image: Bárbara Wagner & Benjamin de Burca, *Estás vendo coisas* (You Are Seeing Things), 2016. Digital color video, with sound, 17 min., 25 sec. Collection Pérez Art Museum Miami, museum purchase with funds provided by Jorge M. Pérez

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