

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

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Barrão, *Classificados*, 2009
Courtesy of the artist and Galeria Fortes Vilaça, São Paulo

Barrão Mashups

January 29 to June 10, 2012

Ridgefield (January 2012): Brazilian artist Barrão re-purposes popular ceramics he finds at second-hand stores, flea markets, and dumpsters by clustering them all together for the production of his large-scale, whimsical sculptures.

Mashups, the artist's first solo museum exhibition in the United States, will open at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum on January 29, 2012. It will present three works built from fragments of preexisting objects, including an exotic five-foot-tall tree made from glued-together decorative porcelains. Instead of producing tropical fruits, the tree sprouts a diversity of creatures, including roosters, dogs, and swans.

Barrão's free-spirited juxtaposition of the remnants of functional and decorative objects establishes new sets of relationships between the parts. United in his sculptures, the disparate pieces are freed from their previous functions to form a whole new identity, one that escapes immediate commodification. The sculptures transform the detritus of our everyday lives into new configurations, inserting discarded objects back into circulation as art works, with an ample balance of presence and mystery.

Curator Mónica Ramírez Montagut has written about Barrão's work for an illustrated monograph published by The Aldrich in association with *Mashups*, available from the Museum store. She says, "Modern consumerism fosters a constant desire to acquire and amass a surplus of objects and consumer goods, like popular ceramics. Barrão shares the street vendor's fascination with forsaken objects that were once perceived as valuable and now find themselves homeless, objects that used to be considered beautiful and are now kitsch, and that were previously a sign of their times and are now passé. His sculptures have the power of enchantment, rewarding viewers who take the time to identify and acknowledge their perception of the works."

Found Opening: The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum will celebrate the opening of *Barrão: Mashups* along with five other *Found* exhibitions—by artists who work with appropriated ideas and salvaged materials—at a reception on Sunday, January 29, 2012, from 3 to 5 pm (\$7 adults; \$4 seniors; FREE for members, pre-K–12 teachers, and children 18 and under). Prior to the reception, the Museum will host a panel from 2 to 3 pm, where artists Barrão, Jim Dingilian, Roy McMakin, and Kathryn Spence will discuss their relationships with the found objects central to their work. Onsite parking is available, as is direct round-trip transportation from New York City. Reserve your seat on the January 29 Aldrich shuttle, now leaving from a new location; please consult aldrichart.org for particulars.

Also on view: *Jim Dingilian: Subtractive Images*, *Roy McMakin: Middle*, *Regina Silveira: In Absentia (Collection)*, *Kathryn Spence: Dirty and Clean*, and *Xu Bing: Tobacco Project*.

Sponsors: The Aldrich is supported, in part, by the Connecticut Office of the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Art Works. The official media sponsors of exhibition openings are *Ridgefield Magazine* and WSHU Public Radio.

Artist: Barrão lives and works in Brazil and is represented by Galeria Fortes Vilaça, São Paulo. Recent solo exhibitions include: Galeria Laura Marsiaj, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil (2010); *Natureza Morta, Próximo Futuro*, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Portugal (2009); Galeria Fortes Vilaça, São Paulo, Brasil (2009); Galeria Laura Marsiaj, Rio de Janeiro, Brasil, 2006. Barrao—along with Luiz Zerbini and Sergio Mekler— is a member of Chelpe Ferro, an artists' collective founded in 1995. Each of the already independently successful artists joined together with the objective of doing some leisurely experimentation outside the constraints of their primary individual careers. Chelpe Ferro's first US exhibition, *Visual Sound*, was presented at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, in 2011.

Museum: The Aldrich is one of the few independent, non-collecting contemporary art museums in the United States, and the only museum in Connecticut devoted to contemporary art. The Aldrich is accredited by the American Association of Museums. Founded on Ridgefield's historic Main Street in 1964, the Museum concentrates its exhibition program on solo exhibitions by emerging and mid-career artists, complemented by acclaimed gallery-based education programs that use the work on view to help adults, families, and over 7,000 students annually to connect to our world through contemporary art. The Museum is located at 258 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877. All exhibitions and programs are handicapped accessible. Free on-site parking. Regular Museum hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 12 noon to 5 pm. For more information call 203.438.4519.

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