

...the E. Arts a Cast on ne i to in lor. an. wanted to with him. some. derful. the. ave. (885-159 5411 Spring you will depict the microbes)

Jonas dos Santos

Space/ Metaphor: The Trek of the Eco Star 1994

people to th
about the
"onmer"

could be
try. It is
character.
and painting
in dashes
ide ideas
the openin.
Amer

1994 GU

MENS CALL

NEW YORK: O

Artist's work of
environment
flamboyant
Jonas dos Santos
Brazil
continuous
flights

Braziliana
flamboyant

Hallwalls
Contemporary Arts Center

EXPERIENCE

offer conu

They all
as Santos
nd culture

that world c
lous cloud.



13
Ash
90340
Ford
Lumina
Lumina
18 Lake
Ford
Lumina
18 Lake
Ford
Lumina

the Buffalo New

most vivid
he

in Vario c
whille
who ha
ever do
problems
their e
to appe
desigie
and is p
astries
every
pende
this world
that mark

The spirit of Jonas dos Santos' installations and performances is rooted in the celebration of Carnival and religious rituals in his native Brazil. Months are spent inventing elaborate costumes, music, floats, decorations, performances, music and street events to outdo all from the previous year. It is a celebration of the power of human ingenuity, and a ritual that has been a part of many cultures for hundreds of years. It is transformed by the soil it finds itself on, and the needs of those who participate. In medieval Europe it functioned as an outlet for the tensions of everyday life, poverty, a rigid class system, and a religion which treated sex as an evil only tolerated for procreation. The world turns inside out, opposites merge; man becomes woman, human becomes animal, and the rules of everyday conduct are replaced with whatever the imagination invents. Dos Santos tells a story of how a man started a samba school in a small town in Brazil. In the beginning, people in the town would gather to play music for Carnival. Over time, the samba school transformed the town. The act of gathering to play music inspired the town to also work together to plant trees, cook meals together, and share their resources. Preparing for Carnival creates a sense of community and shared responsibility, and participating in Carnival is a celebration of transformation, of endless possibility.

Using humble materials such as cardboard, newspaper and twine, dos Santos has developed a vocabulary rich in references to plants, animals, microscopic life, the elements, and the human form. In *Space/ Metaphor: The Flight of the Eco Star 1994*, dos Santos also draws on images from astronomy, Star Trek, and science fiction. Comments on the history of art are present through fragmented frames, some mammoth in scale, covered with pyramid shaped thorns. Images are painted on the walls using stencils and sponges. Nothing is permanent, and everything is left open for interpretation. Balls of newspaper become oxygen molecules, flowers covering a hedge, a propulsion mechanism for a spaceship. Essential to dos Santos' installation and performance work is the participation of others. In his travels, dos Santos has visited scores of communities, leading artists, students, senior citizens, and many others through his working processes. He creates an atmosphere not unlike that of the days leading to Carnival, with the anticipation, the intensity of a group working together and learning about new possibilities, and the celebration of our resources and the power of the human imagination.

My thanks to everyone who participated in this project, the staff and Board of Directors of Hallwalls, and to Jonas for his generosity, humor, and wisdom, and for being such a remarkable resident artist.

Sara Kellner, Exhibitions Curator July 1, 1994

Space/ Metaphor: The Trek of the Eco Star 1994

Installation/ Performance

Artists Residency at Buffalo Arts Studios and Hallwalls: June 1 - July 9, 1994

Exhibition: July 9 - August 20, 1994

Performance: 9:30 P.M., July 9, 1994

Opening Reception: 8 P.M. - 11 P.M., July 9, 1994

Credits

Performers: Jackie Felix, Terrylee Williams, Michelle Falzone, Eric Chu, Jeff Dorn, Molly Hill

Sound: Remixed and modified by Link Harper

Technical Producer: Link Harper

Technical Assistants: Don Metz, Jeff Dorn and Dan Rigney

Documentation: Link Harper, Chris Hill, and Ed Sobala.

Assistants: Jackie Felix, Michelle Falzone, Eric Chu, Nobuyuki Kosuge, Jorge Fiedler, Terrylee Williams, Joanna Angie, Kathy Sherin, Bob McCabe, Jeff Dorn, Polly Little, Mark Lavatelli, Alfonso Volo, Jamey Monroe, Lynn Nowakowski, Sue Kovach, Kristen Penman, Melissa Saviano, Kristienne Fulcher, Molly Hill, Patrick Mills, Jack Sheffler, Suzanne Kovic, Michael Baszkowski, Miles Slatin, Julie Zabinski, and Dan Rigney, Sue Fegler, and Matt Schwonke.

Special thanks to Joanna Angie, Bob Budin and all the artists at Buffalo Arts Studios. Charles and Angeliki Keil, Alvin and Jackie Felix, Kathy Sherin and Bob McCabe, Cara and Steve Rosenthal, Armor Box Corporation, The Buffalo News, and AIM Corrogated.

**Hallwalls
Contemporary
Arts Center
2495 Main Street,
Suite 425
Buffalo, NY 14214
716/ 835-7362
Fax 716/ 835-7364**

Jonas dos Santos' residency, exhibition and performance have been made possible by the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, in partnership with the New York State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center is supported by the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, the Lannan Foundation, the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, the Margaret L. Wendt Foundation, The Buffalo Foundation, The Nicholas Patterson Perpetual Fund, The Cameron Baird Foundation, M&T Bank, The Buffalo News, the Arts Council in Buffalo and Erie County Decentralization/ County Initiative Program, the county of Erie, the city of Buffalo, and the members of Hallwalls.