

Burle Marx: Invented Paradises

Burle Marx's art exudes power. A lyrical power, which crosses various languages and supports, reflecting a fertile conception of nature: a fertile, open, and dynamic ecosystem, with which we should live in harmony, and not exhausting it in a predatory way.

After an initial figurative phase, his painting bent to abstraction by the impulse of cubism. Over time, it gained more expressive and organic contours, perhaps in tune with Paul Klee and Joan Miró, while expressing, at the same time, a particular vision of the Brazilian, Atlantic and tropical landscape.

Fine arts and landscaping. Neither language is subservient to the other, in Burle Marx's work. They feed and fertilize each other, in a kind of cyclical movement. At the base of both is an unnatural understanding of the world. If his painting is more abstract than naturalistic, his gardens are more constructed than spontaneous - although the curved and ameboid shapes of their contours may suggest the opposite. They are pictorial gardens, made by contrasting textures and large patches of flat color. In them, the undulating arabesques of the contour lines contrast with the rough and bristly quality of the plant species, which are almost always a little docile to contact.

Therefore, anyone who thinks that Burle Marx is the artist of tropical hedonism is mistaken. This is a complacent and patronizing view that some foreigners wanted to input to our modernism. The power of nature that emanates from Burle Marx's art is not a "natural" expression of Brazilian history. On the contrary, our tradition has always been that of deforestation and extraction, and not that of cultivation.

Defender of ecology from an early age, an expeditionary traveler who got to know our flora as much as possible, studying and collecting plant species that he started to cultivate in the nurseries-studios on his site, Burle Marx invented his own paradises, which we can thus call Brazilians. Or rather: a powerful, creative and generous Brazil, which one day was designed. And that remains in the air like phantasmagoria, waiting (who knows?) That their energies can be released again.