



ana júlia vilela e dona roxinha: hoje acordei linda

11.07.2023 – 02.24.2024

Central Galeria is pleased to present *Hoje acordei linda (I woke up beautiful today)*, a joint exhibition by artists Ana Júlia Vilela and Dona Roxinha, matched by an essay written by curator Paula Borghi.

The title references one of Roxinha's pieces and reveals a dualistic approach to contemporaneity: optimistic at times, pessimistic at others. As noticed by Paula Borghi, based on IG's anecdote on the "Good News Day" (recently told in episode 42 of podcast Rádio Novelo Apresenta), "there will always be good news and bad ones. [...] A given day, for instance, one wakes up feeling beautiful. At others, one wonders whether all men just hate women".

Colored in a pastel gamut, Ana Júlia and Roxinha's paintings delve into the nuance of their day-to-day reality. Although belonging in distinct generations, the artists often share worldviews. Ana Júlia was born soon after the rise of the home internet, which makes her more familiar with the creation and consumption of both text and image as posted in derogatory social media lingo. Dona Roxinha, on the other hand, is from a different period of time and a dissimilar sociability, when "memes were analogical, such as bumper stickers", as written by Borghi.

Hoje acordei linda displays paintings on canvas as well as on wood portraying, often ironically, concurrent statements that approach ordinary subjects as permeated by issues that reference the female gender and feminist commentary.

Ana Júlia Vilela was born in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais. Holding an MFA in Visual Arts from Universidade Federal de Pelotas (UFPEL), she unfolds her poetics primarily into paintings and drawings. Her work alternates from graphical to pictorial as she sees the canvas both as a surface and as a window. Employing the instantized expression of social media into a personal iconography, full of fluid shapes and nonlinear narratives that merge humor and pop culture, she develops a particular atmosphere through a wide array of potential themes.

Maria José Lisboa da Cruz was born in Lagoa de Pedra, Alagoas, in 1956. Known as Dona Roxinha, she started working in cassava, beans and corn farming in her late teens. She broke gravel in quarries and was a street cleaner for two decades. At the age of 59, she took on drawing and soon expanded her work, replacing the small paper sheets with the walls of her home. In 2021, she started painting on MDF and other materials she'd find in vacant lots during walks with one of her kids and her husband. In 2023, she held her first solo show, "Roxinha, uma vida de novela" ("Roxinha, a Soap Opera Life"), at Museu do Pontal, Rio de Janeiro/RJ.

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exhibition: Ana Júlia Vilela e Dona Roxinha: Hoje acordei linda

address: Central Galeria / Rua Bento Freitas, 306 / Vila Buarque / 01220 000 / São Paulo

opening: Tuesday, 11.07.2023 / 6pm – 9pm

dates: 11.07.2023 – 24.02.2024 / Monday–Friday: 11am – 7pm / Saturday: 11am – 5pm

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