



nilda neves tudo o que você me der é seu

Nilda Neves (1961) was born in Botuporã (Bahia). Great-granddaughter of Tupis-Guaranis, she studied accounting and worked as a math teacher and a retailer, among other occupations. In São Paulo, she became a bar owner. Defaults forced her to work as a manicurist, albeit not a very good one. Laughing, Nilda says she was designated to do haircuts – “and I had never cut hair at all”. She once got three DVDs as payment of a debt: two of which were damaged and the third one showed a religious man reading a book. Outraged by the whole situation, she got an idea: “I’ll write a book”. So, a collection of pages filled with stories, chronicles and life thoughts shaped up. With meager resources, Nilda had no choice but to design the book cover herself. People liked what they saw inside and out and encouraged her to seek this new line of work.

Nilda then started painting themes regarding life in hinterland, and portraying different ages and traditions: outlaw hinterlanders, migrants, handcrafts, animals, landscapes, food, occupations, emotional bonds, conflicts and folklore. She employs scumbling and dry brush strokes to fill the canvas, creating textures and patterns. Wit, one of the most remarkable features of Nilda’s work, share the canvas with sorrow, introspection, solitude and emptiness. “I find beauty where people see ugliness”.²

// Renan Quevedo, 2020

Excerpt from the curatorial text of the show *Tudo o que você me der é seu: prosas de mulheres na arte popular*. Central Galeria, São Paulo, 2020.

1 In: interview to the curator in October 3rd, 2019, during a visit to her studio.

2 Idem.