



FACT SHEET

MADERAS QUE HABLAN GUARANÍ
WOOD THAT SPEAKS GUARANÍ



1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Project title: MADERAS QUE HABLAN GUARANÍ (WOOD THAT SPEAKS GUARANÍ)

Exposition type: Temporary-Itinerant

Duration:

Start:

End:

Responsible agencies and partners:

Museum of Pre-Columbian and Indigenous Art (MAPI) and CII-PROPIM - Tacuarembó University Center - Faculty of Humanities and Education Sciences (FHUCE) - University of the Republic (UdelaR).

Commissioner: Facundo de Almeida Ph.D.

Scientist: Carmen Curbelo BSc

Curator: Luis Bergatta

2. INTRODUCTION

The "*Maderas que hablan guaraní*" (Wood that speaks Guarani) exhibition aims to disseminate knowledge on the current national territory as part of a wider region that goes beyond our borders and extends to those of other nation states (Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay), because it responds to other types of boundaries, those of cultural behaviors and traditions. These other boundaries, in which tangible and intangible remnants, of which imagery is only a part, ignore current political boundaries, and have contributed to the formation of local identities much more than they are given credit for. The exhibition consists of material objects from the Jesuit Missions of Paraguay: 1. Images and other religious objects that are scattered throughout our country, which were one of the outputs of the study on material elements linked to the indigenous missionaries, which was carried out throughout the country in 2006 and 2007. The exhibited items were selected from a larger number of others recovered and come from different parts of the country. They have been chosen taking into account their cultural, testimonial and documentary value. 2. Archaeological materials from the "San Francisco de Borja del Yí" missionary town (1833-1862), recovered during the project "Missionary Archeology in our country: Santa Rosa del Cuareim, San Borja Yí and other towns" CSIC-UdelaR, (1995-1999) by archaeologist Carmen Curbelo, which have a testimonial and documentary value that allow us to perceive the impact of the Jesuit missionary system and indigenous missionaries in the social processes that have occurred in our country since the 17th century.



3. BACKGROUND

In 2007-2008 for the first time, MAPI, jointly with the CII-PROPIM-CUT-FHUCE-UDELAR, presented the results of scientific studies (archaeological, anthropological and historical) related to a particular socio-historical period of the country linked to the Jesuit Missions of Paraguay, in a national and regional exhibition space, during their three periods: Jesuit, Post-Jesuit and the emergence of the Nation States. The exhibition was called "Maderas que hablan guaraní. Presencia misionera en Uruguay" (Wood that speaks Guaraní. Missionary presence in Uruguay). It sought to transcend the aesthetic and historical view of Missionary objects, incorporating an anthropological dimension into the classical artistic exhibition of these objects. In this way, the images that make up this exhibition have a clear religious and aesthetic value, but are not confined to them alone.

Their testimonial and documentary value invite us to carefully observe the impact of the Jesuit missionary system and indigenous missionaries on cultural processes that took place in the region from early European colonization until the formation of the Nation State, an aspect that has been neglected in our national and regional history. This exhibition has another component that complements the anthropological vision of the sociocultural system related to the Jesuit Missions and their relation to the current national territories that they encompass, including Uruguay. The archaeological objects and their research has permitted the expansion of knowledge on the town of San Borja del Yi, providing more information on the daily activities of its inhabitants, and recognizing different cultural aspects that distinguishes them as a cultural group. The importance of the study of this archaeological site and its subsequent exhibition lies in understanding the process -from the late 17th to mid-19th centuries- associated with the arrival of indigenous missionaries in Uruguay, contributing to the settlement of the missionary campaign -as day laborers-, to the formation of urban centers -Paysandú, Tacuarembó, Minas, Maldonado, Salto, Durazno, among others-, and the founding of towns such as San Borja del Yí - the last manifestation or expression of indigenous missionaries as a group in the country.



4. JUSTIFICATION

When we talk about the Jesuit Missions of Paraguay, we immediately evoke the Christianized Indian towns, which are nowadays situated in Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay, and the period (17th and 18th centuries) during which they were governed by the priests of the Order of St. Ignatius of Loyola. This is due to the fact that the research into the social and economic phenomenon that the Jesuit Missions had on the consolidation of the Spanish empire in America has traditionally been directed towards the interior of current political boundaries which still have monumental remains of the towns that made up the Jesuit missionary system. However, the Jesuit missionary social system extends over a much larger area that covers half of our current territory. Their influence, which goes far beyond their limits, clearly expands up to the mid-19th century, and to a less clear extent, right up to today. The implementation of projects that allowed us to recognize the situation of the settlements after the Jesuit era, which united large numbers of mostly Guaraní speaking indigenous missionaries in Uruguay, as well as the retention of objects of Jesuit missionary origin, allows other aspects of the missionary system to be properly recognized, on the one hand, their retention and consequences in cultural patterns of their indigenous members and on the other, when the system had disintegrated.

Their musealization, at a national level, allowed knowledge to be disseminated on the current national territory as part of a wider region that goes beyond our borders and extends to those of other nation states. This becomes more important when you consider that the issue has been neglected or minimized in the formation of the National Institutional History and the shaping of a national identity that did not take cultural minorities into account. At a regional and international level, through the creation of an itinerant exhibition, it is intended to contribute knowledge from anthropology on the Jesuit missionary sociocultural system and the current situation of cultural permanence arising directly from the Jesuit Missions and/or corresponding to the complex and lengthy cultural processes arising from their presence, as well as the various cultural landscapes derived from the Christianization undertaken by the Jesuits in South America.

4.1. TARGET AUDIENCE

- Specialists, researchers and those interested in the subject.
- Public and private education institutions
- Artists and craftsmen.
- Religious institutions and believers.
- Persons working in heritage conservation and management.



5. AIMS

General:

1. To develop a vision of the Jesuit Missions of Paraguay from tangible and intangible remains associated with the historical cultural processes, contributing, from an anthropological approach, to the understanding of the Jesuit missionary system in its broadest sense -time (609-1820) and area (towns and villages)-.
2. To contribute to the visibility and understanding of social, historical and cultural processes that took place in a large territory, which exceed the current national political boundaries and their impact in shaping local identities.

Specific:

1. To contribute to the understanding of the presence of indigenous missionaries in Uruguay, from the Missionary era to the present.
2. To contribute to the knowledge of the current situation of cultural permanence originated directly from the Jesuit Guaraní Missions and/or corresponding derivatives cultural processes derived from their presence.
3. To provide data for the visibility and ownership of cultural property associated with the Missions as part of local, national and regional heritage, both tangible and intangible.
4. To contribute to the knowledge of the circumstances that result in the development and use of religious images in the Missions, and the changes observed in some images relayed from their interpretation in cultural contexts associated with long duration.



7. DESCRIPTION

The exhibition consist of:

1. 30 images, polychrome wood carvings, from the Jesuit Missions of Paraguay, 17th-18th centuries. Three kinds of sizes: the largest for churches -up to 2m-, medium for homes and travel -between 0.40 and 0.60m-, and the smallest -up to 0.15m-, for personal use, worn inside clothes or under hats.
2. Three oil paintings on various media (fabric, leather and wood) from the Jesuit Missions of Paraguay, 17th-18th centuries.
3. Other objects such as a baptism book, bell, etc.
4. Archaeological material from the site of San Francisco de Borja Yí.
5. Texts and infographics.
6. Audiovisual, with scientists in charge of research, image collectors and theologians.
7. Audio works of the era (the Jesuit Zippolli) performed by the De Profundis Vocal Ensemble.
8. Exhibition catalog, brochures and postcards.

8. ACADEMIC AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

8.1. ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

To be defined with the partner.

8.2. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

To be defined with the partner.

9. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTS

1. Diagnostics, exhibition design.

2. Progress report

3. Final evaluation.

10. PROMOTIONAL AND MARKETING MATERIALS



Exhibition catalog

Brochure



10. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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