

Introduction of photos

Dani Sandrini

Pictures shown at this paper are part of the project “terra terreno território”, name of Dani Sandrini’s work that surprises us by using a nineteenth century technique to question, through photography, what is like to be an indigenous native in a big city like São Paulo.

The images of this work are printed directly on plant leaves as a solarprint.

In addition to Guarani living in native villages inside the city, São Paulo is home to fifty-three other ethnic groups (2010 Census/IBGE) in urban neighborhoods, being the fourth municipality of Brazil in the indigenous population.

The connection of the indigenous people with the land, the forest and the cycles of nature is very evident, even among those who have been living in the city for a long time.

Thus, the use of the plant as a shelter in this process is almost ritualistic, and also relates to the manual work and focusing on the process, that is so important in these communities.

Like nature — where everything changes — these processes result in ephemeral images that are affected by the passage of time. Just as indigenous culture is in permanent transformation (and not frozen in time five hundred years ago), images can even be erased, depending on the light conditions - a reference to the historical erasure that this culture undergoes over the years.

This point encourages the discussion about photography and its quality of memory and document as something immutable, broadening its horizons and linking to documentary in a much more subjective way.