New Museum to Present the First US Survey of Works by Bárbara Wagner and Benjamin de Burca

New York, NY…From June 30 to October 16, the New Museum will present “Bárbara Wagner & Benjamin de Burca: Fives Times Brazil,” the first survey exhibition in the United States featuring works by Bárbara Wagner (b. 1980, Brasília, Brazil) and Benjamin de Burca (b. 1975, Munich, Germany). Working together for a decade, the duo produces films and video installations that feature protagonists engaged in cultural production, collaborating with non-actors to make their films—from writing scripts to staging performances on camera. The resulting works are marked by economic conditions and social tensions present in the contexts in which they are filmed, giving urgency to new forms of self-representation through voice, movement, and drama.

Installed on the Third Floor, “Five Times Brazil” will focus on five projects developed by the artists over a period of particular socio-political turmoil in Brazil: Faz que vai [Set to go] (2015) focuses on four dancers whose practices complicate the relationship between traditional and contemporary frevo in northeast Brazil; Estás vendo coisas [You are seeing things] (2016) delves into the landscape of Brega music in Recife; Terremoto Santo [Holy Tremor] (2017) turns to gospel produced and performed by young preachers, singers, and composers in rural Pernambuco; Swinguerra (2019), commissioned for the Brazilian Pavilion in the 58th Venice Biennale, looks into dance competitions in the outskirts of Recife; and a new piece, Fala da
"Terra [Voice of the Land] (2022) features the practice of Coletivo Banzeiros, a theater group composed of members of the Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra (Landless Workers’ Movement)—an organization that has been fighting for land reform and against social inequities affecting rural workers in Brazil for forty years. Together, the works in the exhibition highlight the strength and complexity of artistic expression, and demonstrate how culture can offer profound sources of resistance and community.

“Bárbara Wagner & Benjamin de Burca: Five Times Brazil” is curated by Margot Norton, Allen and Lola Goldring Curator, and Bernardo Mosqueira, ISLAA Curatorial Fellow, and is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue published by the New Museum. The catalogue includes a conversation between the artists and Margot Norton; and texts by Vivian Crockett, Bernardo Mosqueira, and Wendelien van Oldenborgh.

ABOUT NEW MUSEUM
The New Museum is the only museum in New York City exclusively devoted to contemporary art. Founded in 1977, the New Museum is a center for exhibitions, information, and documentation about living artists from around the world. From its beginnings as a one-room office on Hudson Street to the inauguration of its first freestanding building on the Bowery in 2007, the New Museum continues to be a place of experimentation and a hub of new art and new ideas.

SUPPORT
Support for this exhibition is provided by the Toby Devan Lewis Emerging Artists Exhibitions Fund.

Artist commissions are generously supported by the Neeson / Edlis Artist Commissions Fund.

Additional support provided by Marcelo Martins, Frances Reynolds / Instituto Inclusartiz, and Brenda Valansi.

Education and community programs are supported, in part by the American Chai Trust.

Special thanks to Fortes D’Aloia & Gabriel, São Paulo.

Thanks to Camila Yunes Guarita.

Support for the publication has been provided by the J. McSweeney and G. Mills Publications Fund at the New Museum.

This exhibition is made possible, in part, by in-kind support from

kvadrat