

Drawing and painting with plants: experimenting with plant-based inks and surfaces in the Amazon

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Avocado Paintings, 2023.
 avocado (*Persea americana*)
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Background

- Faculty of Visual Arts / UFPA Federal University of Pará (Belém, in the Brazilian Amazon): low-income Art students + resource-poor faculty + unrealistic curriculum demands
- Art supplies: high cost for artists and the environment (animals, plants, minerals, plastics)

Methodology

- Amazonian and non-Amazonian plants.
- low-cost and low-tech means of production to demonstrate resourcefulness: sourcing from markets / supermarkets, juicing, cutting, drying, and recycling.

References

- Amazonian indigenous cultures: plants used as food and body paint.
- concept of "plant civilization" for the Amazonian plant-based indigenous cultures by Berta G. Ribeiro: Ribeiro, Berta G. "Artesanato Indígena: Para que? Para quem?" In *As Artes Visuais na Amazônia: Reflexões sobre uma Visualidade Regional*. Belém: FUNARTE SEMEC, 1985.
- material experiments of contemporary artists:
 Ed Ruscha. *News, Mews, Pews, Brew, Stews & Dues*, 1970, screenprints made of chocolate syrup, caviar, baked beans, strawberries, mango chutney, Branston Pickle, etc., on paper.
 Rivane Neuenschwander. *Firmamento*, 2012, drawings made of tomato juice on porcelain.

- 1 Avocado Paintings, 2023. Gouache and acrylic paint on dried avocado skin (*Persea americana*).
 - 2 Amazonia I (*Drawing Meditations*), 2023. Homemade inks of Amazonian edible plants on paper: açai fruit (*Euterpe oleracea*), bacaba / white açai (*Oenocarpus bacaba*), caruru (*Talinum fruticosum*), jambú (*Acmella oleracea*), maniva / cassava (*Manihot esculenta*). 60 drawings, 30 x 21cm each, detail.
 - 3 Amazonia II (*Drawing Meditations*), 2023. Homemade inks of edible plants on paper: urucum (*Bixa orellana*). 60 drawings, 30 x 21cm each, detail.
 - 4 Jenipapo (*Drawing Meditations*), 2022. Homemade Genipap fruit ink on paper (*Genipa americana*).
 - 5 Paintbrush I (*Material Meditations*), 2023. Homemade brush of (my own) human hair, orchid stem, recycled aluminium, and cotton thread.
 - 6 Paintbrush II (*Material Meditations*), 2023. Homemade brush of dried corn silk and leaves (*Zea mays*), and cotton thread.
- All artworks and tools by Frederico Câmara © 2023. Poster design: Frederico Câmara.



Amazonia I, 2023
 açai fruit (*Euterpe oleracea*)



Amazonia I, 2023
 bacaba / white açai (*Oenocarpus bacaba*)



Amazonia I, 2023
 caruru (*Talinum fruticosum*)
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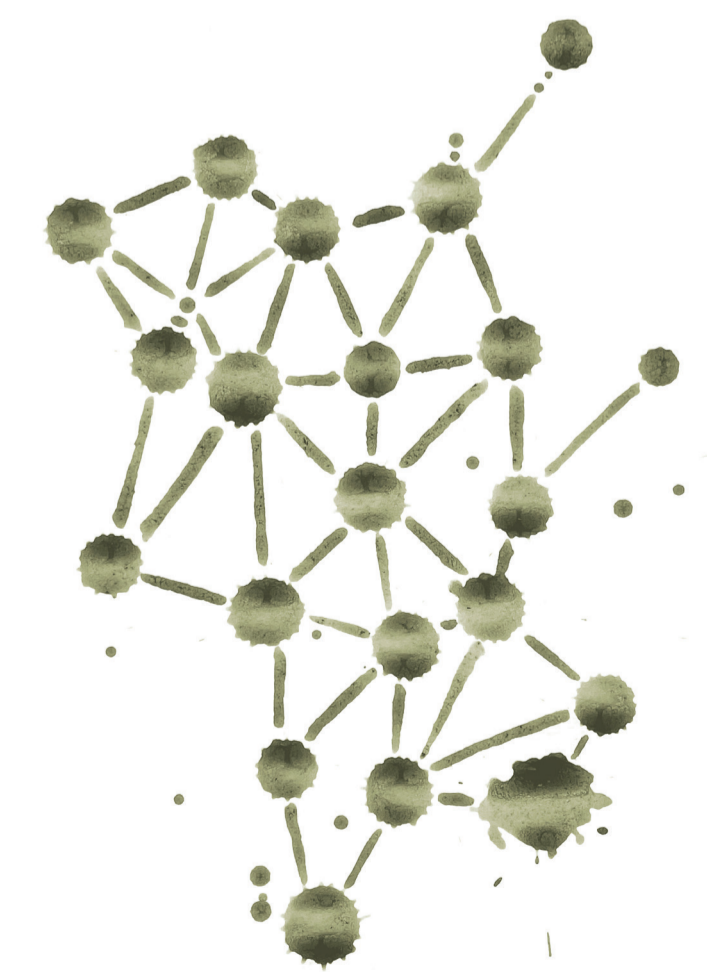
Amazonia I, 2023
 jambú (*Acmella oleracea*)



Amazonia I, 2023
 maniva / cassava (*Manihot esculenta*)



Amazonia II, 2023
 urucum (*Bixa orellana*)
 3



Jenipapo, 2023
 genipap fruit (*Genipa americana*)
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