

History of Art and Architecture Colloquium

**MODERN FORM, URBAN EXPERIENCE:
BURLE MARX'S PROJECT FOR COPACABANA BOARDWALK**

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Noon

Room 202, Frick Fine Arts



Burle Marx, Copacabana boardwalk. Photo: Nelson Kon

When landscape architect Roberto Burle Marx presented his project for Rio de Janeiro's famous Copacabana boardwalk at the 1970 Venice Biennale, he chose to exhibit it vertically, as a panel. The enormous mosaic of Portuguese stones, interspersed with sparse garden beds in which he planted different types of trees, was thus first exhibited as an abstract, modern sketch that offered an overarching view of the space. This approach threatened to hide the project's many layers of cultural and historical meaning: in fact, Burle Marx's abstract form was a nod to both modern visual experience and to the particular geometry of indigenous Brazilian art.

Vera Beatriz Siqueira is a Professor of Art History at the Art Institute at the State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ). She has written several books on twentieth-century Brazilian artists and architects, including *Burle Marx*, *Iberê Camargo*, *Lasar Segall*, *Oswaldo Goeldi*, *Wanda Pimentel*, *Milton Dacosta*, and *Ivan Serpa*.

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