AMAZON WEEK 2003
November 3–7

All events are free and open to the public. See map below for location of events and parking information. For more information, contact the Brazil Center at 512/471-8418 or brazil@uts.cc.utexas.edu, or read the press release.

Monday, November 3
Panel. Environmental and Social Change in the Amazon: Disturbing Thoughts from the Tropics
Pearce Hall, Texas Union 2.404, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

The dramatic changes taking place in the Amazon are both environmental and social. They carry implications of negative consequences for both the welfare of Amazonian inhabitants and for the native biodiversity. However, there are also optimistic signs being uncovered by new research methodologies. This panel will explore these new paths to investigating Amazonian dynamics.

Frontier Myths from the Amazon
Kenneth R. Young, Department of Geography
(Ir)reversible Amazonian Deforestation in Threshold Landscapes?
Kelley A. Crews-Meyer, Department of Geography
Spatial Land Use Patterns in Traditional Forest Communities
Rodrigo Sierra, Department of Geography

Chair and Moderator: Paul F. Hudson, Department of Geography
Discussants:
Matthew J. Fry, Department of Geography
Cullen K. Hanks, Latin American Studies
Lars Pomara, Department of Geography

Tuesday, November 4
Panel. Mitologia ind?ena e a tradi?o oral
Lone Star Room, Texas Union 3.208, 5:00–7:00 p.m.

Vozes da Amaz?ia
Maria do Socorros Simões, Universidade Federal do Pará
Do mito ao palco
Márcio Souza, novelist, playwright, and former President of the Brazilian Foundation for the Arts

Chair and Moderator: Leopoldo Bernucci, Chair, Department of Spanish and Portuguese

Tuesday, November 4
Good Reads: Hemispheres Book Club
Mad Maria, by Márcio Souza  
Discussion led by author  
Barnes & Noble, 2246 Guadalupe (across from the Texas Union), 7:00–9:00 p.m.

"In the early twentieth century, a smoke-belching train called Mad Maria comes into the jungle. Its destination is nowhere, and its absurd journey is a darkly comic drama of man's fractured visions and shattered ideals. Márcio Souza's riveting novel creates a stark portrait of Brazil with unmistakable political overtones for contemporary times."

Mad Maria, while fiction, is solidly rooted in Brazilian history. Márcio Souza's attention to historical detail is remarkable, in everything from minor elements (such as references to Confeitaria Colombo, a popular restaurant of the time) to the presence of important real-life figures (e.g., Rui Barbosa, J.J. Seabra, Percival Farquhar). Please visit the Hemispheres website for a brief set of background notes on the novel.

Wednesday, November 5  
Distinguished Speaker Series Lecture  
Chicano Culture Room, Texas Union 4.206, 6:00–7:30 p.m.

From the Amazon to the Jungle  
Katie van Scherpenberg  
Brazilian Artist in Residence

Introduction by Gabriel Perez-Barreiro  
Curator, Latin American Art, Jack S. Blanton Museum

A painter and environmental artist from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, van Scherpenberg grew up in the city of São Paulo and the Island of Santan, about 400 kilometers from the mouth of the River Amazon in the Northern state of Amapá. She will discuss the influence this had on her work and choice of materials, and the two outdoor, ephemeral works of art she will create during her residency at UT (see below).

Thursday, November 6  
Brown Bag. Study and Research Opportunities in the Amazon  
GEB 4.200C, 12:00–1:30 p.m.

Participants will include Márcio Souza, Maria do Socorro Simões, Eduardo Brondizio, Richard Bilsborrow, and Kenneth Young. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to the Brazil Center by Wednesday, November 5.

Thursday, November 6  
Session. Agricultural Expansion and the Transformation of the Amazon  
Lone Star Room, Texas Union 3.208, 5:00–7:00 p.m.

The changes taking place in the Amazon are often driven by the expansion of different kinds of agriculture. However, there are also ways that development can be sustainable, for example by taking examples from the life styles of the indigenous peoples of the Amazon. This panel will explore these issues with the presence of two well-known researchers.

From Acai Palm Fruit to Soybean: Farmers, Land Use, and Development in the Brazilian Amazon  
Eduardo S. Brondizio  
Department of Anthropology and ACT, Indiana University

Population and Land Use: Colonists and Indigenous Populations in the Ecuadorian Amazon  
Richard E. Bilsborrow, Department of Biostatistics, School of Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Chair and Moderator: Rodrigo Sierra, Department of Geography and Director,
Thursday, November 6
Film Premiere
A Volta ao Amazonas em 80 minutos (Around the Amazon in 80 Minutes)
Selections from the One Amazon Festival 2003
WEL 1.316 (corner of Speedway & 24th), 8:00 p.m.
FREE ADMISSION

Portuguese with English subtitles
Introduction by Márcio Souza, former President, FUNART
Discussion with filmmakers/festival producers Júnior Rodrigues and Sérgio Andrade to follow screening

The one-minute films communicate and immortalize the filmmakers’ understandings of a landscape, a moment, or a gesture. They create a permanent record of daily life in the cities, towns, and rural areas in the Amazon rainforest. The films reach beyond frontiers and begin a dialogue between the inhabitants of the rainforest and the outside world.

Film program
Map of location and parking
Press release: Around the Amazon in 80 Minutes
Press coverage of film festival in Manaus
Letter of introduction from producers and Secretary of Culture
Júnior Rodrigues C.V.
Sérgio Andrade C.V.

Special thanks to the Secretary of Culture, State of Amazonas, Brazil, for sponsoring the screening and visit of our two guests.

November 3–?
Exhibits: Ephemeral, Environmental Installations
Occupied Spaces and Small Pororoca
by Katie van Scherpenberg
Brazilian Artist in Residence

A painter and environmental artist from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Brazilian Artist in Residence Katie van Scherpenberg will produce two outdoor, ephemeral works of art on the banks of Waller Creek, across the street from the Blanton Museum of Art. At UT, van Scherpenberg will create two works: Occupied Spaces and Small Pororoca.

Occupied Spaces will comprise a series of squares of red oxide pigment placed on the sunken lawn at the corner of 24th and San Jacinto. In the words of the artist, “It has a rather strange effect because the lawn seems to be under pieces of tinted glass. Locked under the embrace of the red pigment that changes its character, people will no longer recognize the lawn as an ordinary place. The squares will also remind one of an exhibition of paintings, yet they will finally disappear into the grass, as time and weather dictate.”

For Small Pororoca, the artist will stain the limestone banks of Waller Creek with red pigment, creating an effect as though the Amazon River had flooded the banks and left earthy pigment behind.

The oxide to be used by van Scherpenberg for these works is a natural earth-based pigment and will not harm the environment in any way. In both cases, the sites will be documented photographically every day as time and environmental conditions change their appearance. The resulting photographic work will be incorporated into the Blanton’s collection and will be on view in the exhibition Swimming in...
October 27- November 7
Art Exhibit: Objects of Use, Objects of Ritual
Material Culture of Amazonian Indigenous Populations
Antonio LaPastina Collection
Benson Latin American Collection, SRH Unit 1
October 24–November 7

The objects in this exhibit are representative of the material culture of several indigenous groups from the Amazon region. They were collected over the last 50 years in different parts of that vast expanse that crosses the borders of nine contemporary nations. The hundreds of cultures still active in this region represent only a small fraction of the vast civilizations that flourished in the region prior to the arrival of Europeans colonizers.

These objects, some used for everyday chores, others associated with specific rituals, embodied local aesthetic notions. They represent the material culture of peoples struggling to survive in a land ever encroached by deforestation, urbanization and exploration by groups that have very different views regarding the value of this ecosystem.

These objects are presented here not as exotic artifacts of these cultures for the contemporary western eyes, but symbolic of the loss that we are experiencing every time another indigenous inhabitant of the Amazon region dies due to fights over land use or to diseases contracted from miners, poachers or well-intended missionaries and anthropologists.

These objects are symbolic of the struggles to survive. But they are also a lesson to us, in the ability of these societies to find beauty in the details of the world around them, in their ability to re-appropriate the waste of the contemporary industrial world in order to produce objects in harmony with their aesthetic values.

---

The Brazil Center would like to thank the sponsors of Amazon Week 2003:

Center for Environmental Studies in Latin America
Outreach Office of LLILAS
Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies
Department of Spanish and Portuguese
Department of Geography
Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art
College of Liberal Arts
College of Fine Arts
Cine las Americas
Vitae Foundation
Secretary of Culture, Amazonas, Brazil
Brazilian Foreign Service

and our student volunteers

Ana Boa-ventura, César Alves Ferragi, Ellen Wyoming, Elói Martins Senhoras, Emily Rabelo, Helena Colyandro, Jim Kirby, Joel Schuler, Kacy Mckinney, Luiz Fujiwara, Maira Evo Magro, Maren Jiménez, Maria Fernanda Zanetti de Souza, Maria Rios, Rachel Braff, Roberta Clemente, and Wilson Fusco.