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CLAUDIA ANDUJAR

A Sônia

22.05 — 31.07.2025

The Galería Elba Benítez is pleased to announce the coming exhibition of a selection of photos from Claudia Andujar's historic photographic project *A Sônia*, opening on May 22.

In 1971, the renowned documentary Brazilian photographer Claudia Andujar encountered by chance a young woman named Sônia who had come to São Paulo in search of work as a model and needed a photographer to assist her in assembling a portfolio. The result of the collaboration between photographer and model developed into an astonishing photo-essay that presented Sônia as both individual and as archetype of feminine qualities as seen through a feminine gaze. The photographs themselves freely employ experimental techniques such as reversing positive and negative images, dislocated cropping and angles, and vivid post-production coloration, all of which come together to create a dream-like atmosphere for Sônia's palpable sensuality before the photographer and her camera.

As Andujar once wrote about *A Sônia*:

Sônia didn't know how to pose. But that's exactly where her innocent charm came from. Her nonprofessional gestures and attitudes revealed an easygoing, peaceful sensuality. She no longer seemed to be facing a photo camera, she seemed removed from the world.

George Stolz

Galería Elba Benítez

Claudia Andujar (Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 1931; lives and works in São Paulo) is a photographer, human rights advocate and environmental activist. Andujar's career is generally associated with her work documenting and defending the indigenous Yanomami people of the Brazilian Amazon region, although her practice has also encompassed many artistic projects such as *A Sônia*. While Andujar's photography is generally motivated by social documentary impulses, it often freely employs non-documentary and experimental photographic techniques in order to capture the spiritual, emotional and psychological aspects of individuals and cultures that otherwise evade the camera's objective lens.

Andujar has had solo shows at the Arles Rencontres de la Photographie (2025; upcoming); Banco de la República (Bogota, 2024); MAM Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo (2023); MUAC Museo Universitario Arte Contemporáneo (Mexico City, 2023); Fundación MAPFRE (Barcelona, 2021); ICA Institute of Contemporary Art (Miami, 2021); Fondation Cartier (Paris, 2020); Instituto Moreira Salles (Rio de Janeiro, 2019, 2018); Museum für Moderne Kunst (Frankfurt, 2017); Museu de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires (MALBA) (2016); Instituto Inhotim (Brumandinho, 2015); Museu de Arte Moderna da Bahia (Salvador, 2007) or the Pinacoteca de São Paulo (2005). Claudia Andujar was selected to participate at Guangzhou Image Triennial (2017); Maison Européenne de la Photographie (Paris, 2013) and the 12th Istanbul Biennial (2011). In 2018 Andujar was awarded the Goethe-Medaille (Weimarestete).

Andujar's work is included in international collections such as the Museum of Modern Art (New York); TATE Modern (London); Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía (Madrid); Museum für Modern Kunst (Frankfurt); Stedelijk Museum (Amsterdam) among others.

A Sônia will be Claudia Andujar's second solo exhibition at the Galería Elba Benítez and will be part of the OFF Festival of PHotoESPAÑA 2025.

The Galería Elba Benítez would like to thank the Galeria Vermelho for its support and collaboration with the exhibition *A Sônia*.

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