

Fortes D'Aloia & Gabriel

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LUIZ ZERBINI

Os Comedores de Terra
[The Earth Eaters]

ART BASEL UNLIMITED

Stand U48

16–22.06.2025



Luiz Zerbini's *Os Comedores de Terra [The Earth Eaters]* (2025) is a 360-degree installation that joins a five-meter painting and vibrantly colored sculptures, emulating precious stones and ore. Together, they create an immersive space in which an apocalyptic narrative unfolds, condensing images of destruction with mesmerizing textures and visual effects.

Zerbini constructs his composition through documents regarding illegal gold mines in the Amazon, transforming them into a haunting view of a landscape bearing the scars of extractivist activities, such as logging and slash-and-burn farming. In a pit lies an oozing, rainbow-colored mass of gasoline, forming a shimmering film over the surface of a body of water, as columns of fire rise among felled trees. The foreground is marked by lush foliage and flowers, in stark contrast to the ghostly scenes of devastation occupying the background.

Sculptural elements and a three-dimensional spatial scope have accompanied the artist's work for a long time, giving form to a living ecosystem, in *Trees*, at Fondation Cartier (2019), or replicating vegetation, as in the exhibition design for his wide-ranging survey at MASP, in São Paulo (2022). The installation's title alludes to the Yanomami Indigenous name for miners and loggers, who dig the Earth's vital substances and energies out of its entrails. The piece condenses the essential components of a century-long conflict and cements Zerbini's position as an environmental activist. It denounces violence against native populations, their territories, and Brazilian ecosystems. In this political and ecological investigation, the artist reflects on how industrial economies threaten the survival of Indigenous peoples and modes of existence. This painting reflects the spectacle of collapse — how the end of the world can appear visually stunning. It unfolds like an epic, meant to be seen and admired, even as most people remain unable or unwilling to respond to its narrative. We seem to fall into a kind of trance before the beauty of our own undoing.



LUIZ ZERBINI

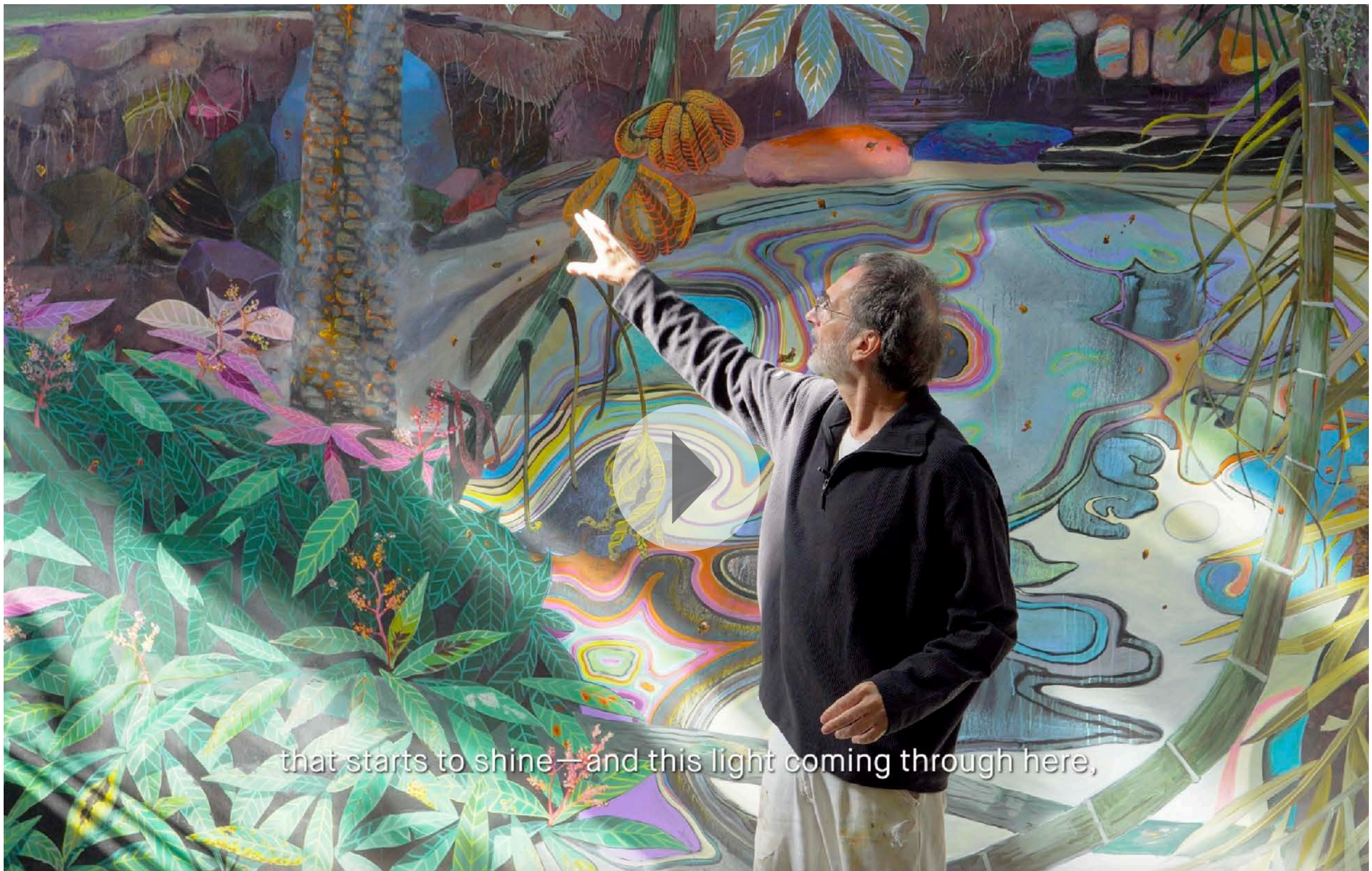
Os Comedores de Terra [The Earth Eaters], 2025

Acrylic on canvas, eucalyptus, pinewood, papier-mâché, polystyrene, polyurethane and mineral pigments

375 x 500 x 130 cm [148 x 197 x 52 in]



Os Comedores de Terra [The Earth Eaters], 2025
Back



Watch: Luiz Zerbini talks about Os Comedores de Terra [The Earth Eaters]

Password: fdag



Os Comedores de Terra [The Earth Eaters], 2025
Detail



Os Comedores de Terra [The Earth Eaters], 2025
Detail



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Detail



Os Comedores de Terra [The Earth Eaters], 2025
In process



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In process



Os Comedores de Terra [The Earth Eaters], 2025
In process

Luiz Zerbini

São Paulo, Brasil, 1959

Among the artist's recent solo exhibitions are *Afinidades III – Cochichos*, MON – Museu Oscar Niemeyer, Curitiba, Brazil (2024); *Paisagens Ruminadas*, CCBB – Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, Brasília, Brazil (2024); CCBB – Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2024); *A mesma história nunca é a mesma*, MASP – Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo, Brazil (2022); and *Intuitive Ratio*, South London Gallery, London, UK (2018). The artist has also participated in the group shows *Lugar de estar – o legado de Burle Marx*, MAM – Museu de Arte Moderna, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2024); *Siamo Foresta*, Triennale Milano, Milan, Italy (2023), *Nous les Arbres*, Power Station of Art, Shanghai, China (2021); *Trees*, Fondation Cartier, Paris, France (2019).

Public collections include Fondazione Sandretto re Rebaudengo per l'Arte, Turin, Italy; Fondation Cartier pour l'art contemporain, Paris, France; Instituto Inhotim, Brumadinho, Brazil; Instituto Itaú Cultural, São Paulo, Brazil; MAM – Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; MAM – Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil, MASP – Museu de Arte de São Paulo Assis Chateaubriand, São Paulo, Brazil and Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brasil.

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