



Smithsonian

National Museum of the American Indian

Valdir Cruz photographs from Brazil

Mattie Lewis

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Museum of the American Indian
Title:	Valdir Cruz photographs from Brazil
Date:	1995-1996
Identifier:	NMAI.AC.366
Creator:	Cruz, Valdir (1954)
Extent:	30 Gelatin silver prints
Language:	English .
Summary:	This collection includes 30 photographs by Valdir Cruz taken among the Macushi and Patamona people in Brazil.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Gift of Kurt Olden, 2004

Processing Information

Collection processed by Mattie Lewis, Archives Technician in 2025.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Valdir Cruz photographs from Brazil, image #, NMAI.AC.366; National Museum of the American Indian Archives Center, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

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Biographical / Historical

Valdir Cruz (1954-) was born in Guarapuava, Brazil and moved to the United States in 1978. His interest in photography came from reading National Geographic and in 1983 he began studying at the Germain School. From 1995-2000 he photographed indigenous people in the Brazilian rainforest. He won a Guggenheim Fellowship for the project. He has published multiple photography books and has his work in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, Museum of Fine arts in Houston, and Museu de Arte de São Paulo, among others. He spends his time working between his studios in São Paulo and New York City.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains 30 selenium toned silver gelatin prints taken by Valdir Cruz as part of his "Faces of the Rainforest" project, which was supported in part by the Guggenheim. The photographs were taken in Raposa Serra do Sol, Roraima, Brazil among the Patamona and Macushi people.

Image numbers P32397-P32425.

Arrangement

Arranged by community, then by catalog number.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Macushi (Macusi)
Patamona

Cultures:

Macushi (Macusi)
Patamona

Places:

Brazil

Container Listing

Oversize B51; Oversize B52	Macushi, 1995 10 Gelatin silver prints Notes: Ten silver gelatin prints taken by Valdir Cruz among the Macushi people. Images mostly depict individual portraits with dramatic lighting. Other photographs include grain, school children, and a local village. The people are not identified by name. Image numbers P32397-P32406.
Oversize B52; Oversize B53; Oversize B54	Patamona, 1996 20 Gelatin silver prints Notes: 20 silver gelatin photographs taken by Valdir Cruz among the Patamona people in Brazil. Image depict family portraits, thatched roofs, and a local village. Image numbers P32407-P32426.