

# FROM FORCED EVICTIONS TO SACOPÃ

The iconography of Rio de Janeiro consists of aerial views that capture its striking landscape. Over time, these images have taken root as symbols not only of the city but of Brazil itself, with their circulation abroad feeding an imaginary of exoticism with a view overlooking the sea.

In this room, works by PV Dias interact with those of the Swiss printmaker Johann Jacob Steinmann (1800–1844), who portrayed this perception in number of images of the Rio landscape. Some of these scenes from the 1800s are still recognizable, like Largo do Paço, or Praça XV square. Others, however, have undergone major changes over the years, such as the area surrounding Outeiro da Glória before land was reclaimed from Guanabara Bay, or Morro do Castelo before it and other hills were razed. Places that did not gain their present-day contours without considerable strife.

Dias's proposed titles poke critical fun at the inseparable relationship between the way the city took shape and the social upheavals that accompanied it. One good example is Rodrigo de Freitas lagoon, the very place this exhibition venue overlooks. When favelas were burnt down and their leaders were imprisoned under the business/military dictatorship, thousands of the residents of favelas like Praia do Pinto and Catacumba, on the banks of this lagoon, lost their homes and were effectively expelled from one of the most highly valued parts of the city. In counterpoint to such cases of historical violence, it is important to note contemporary expressions of resistance in this same part of the city, where, despite the challenges imposed by real estate speculation, collectives such as Quilombo do Sacopã are fighting for their right to remain.