

(Library ebook) Art Systems: Brazil and the 1970s (Latin American and Caribbean Arts and Culture)

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Elena Shtromberg

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Elena Shtromberg : Art Systems: Brazil and the 1970s (Latin American and Caribbean Arts and Culture) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Art Systems: Brazil and the 1970s (Latin American and Caribbean Arts and Culture):

From currency and maps to heavily censored newspapers and television programming, Art Systems explores visual forms of critique and subversion during the height of Brazilian dictatorship, drawing sometimes surprising connections between artistic production and broader processes of social exchange during a period of authoritarian modernization.

Positioning the works beyond the prism of politics, Elena Shtromberg reveals subtle forms of subversion and critique that reinvented the artists' political terrain. Analyzing key examples from Cildo Meireles, Antonio Manuel, Artur Barrio, Anna Bella Geiger, Sonia Andrade, Geraldo Mello, and others, the book offers a new framework for theorizing artistic practice. By focusing on the core economic, media, technological, and geographic conditions that circumscribed artistic production during this pivotal era, Shtromberg excavates an array of art systems that played a role in the everyday lives of Brazilians. An examination of the specific historical details of the social systems that were integrated into artistic production, this unique study showcases works that were accessed by audiences far outside the confines of artistic institutions. Proliferating during one of Brazil's most socially and politically fraught decades, the works—spanning cartography to video art—do not conform to an easily identifiable style, form, material use, or medium. As a result of this breadth, *Art Systems* gives voice to the multifaceted forces at play in a unique chapter of Latin American cultural history.

"In spite of being intended for art historians and the specialized academic community, this book is also accessible to all those who are interested in Brazilian cultural and art history, thanks to its clear structure. It contributes significantly to its field by providing both absolutely exquisite, detailed analyses and an extensive number of documentary sources from the 1970s and numerous testimonials collected over years of research." (Hispanic American Historical 2017-02-01)

"In prose that is engaging and clear, Elena Shtromberg proposes a novel approach to the study of Brazilian conceptual art during the 1970s, the most repressive period of military rule. By analyzing works in relation to larger systems of communication, she sheds light on vast realms of social life in Brazil during a phase of authoritarian modernization. While *Art Systems* explores works that explicitly expressed dissent, it also reveals more subtle forms of critique that effectively reimagined the terrain of political intervention through artistic practice." (Christopher Dunn, Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, Tulane University, and author of *Brutality Garden: Tropicalia and the Emergence of a Brazilian Counterculture*)

"An engaging, creatively organized text, *Art Systems* offers thoughtful and amply researched historical contextualization of a generation's philosophical and aesthetic motivations." (Claire F. Fox, Professor of English/Spanish and Portuguese, University of Iowa, and author of *Making Art Panamerican: Cultural Policy and the Cold War*)

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About the Author
Elena Shtromberg is an assistant professor in the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Utah.