

**Nottingham
Contemporary**

Chico da Silva

***And the soul is for the
birds***

Easy Read Guide



How to use this Guide



In this guide, hard to understand words are underlined. We explain what these words mean after they have been used.

The guide starts with an introduction about the exhibition.

After the introduction, there is a section of the guide telling you about different themes in the exhibition.

You can use the contents page to find out which page of the guide information on each theme is found at.

The contents page is on the next page and tells you what page number to turn to for each section.

The page numbers are written at the bottom of each page.

Contents

Page

Introduction	4
-----	-----
Chico's life as an artist	6
-----	-----
The Pirambu School	10
-----	-----
For More Information	13
-----	-----
Image Credits	14

Introduction



This exhibition is a display of artworks by an artist called Chico da Silva. Chico's full name was Francisco Domingos da Silva, but he was often just called Chico.



We are showing works by Chico at Nottingham Contemporary from 6 June to 6 September 2026.



Chico was an artist from Brazil.



Nobody is completely sure when Chico was born. Some people say he was born in 1910. Other people think he was born later in around 1922 or 1923.



Chico was born in a place called Acre which is in the Amazon rainforest in Brazil.



When he was about 12 years old Chico and his family moved to a city called Fortaleza which is by the sea in an area of Brazil called Ceará. Ceará is where Chico's mother grew up.



Chico lived in Ceará until he died in 1985.

Chico's life as an artist



Chico didn't go to art school. Instead he taught himself to draw and paint.



Chico often made his own paints using natural materials like plants.



Chico did lots of paintings onto the walls of the places where he lived.



Chico made a lot of artworks during his lifetime. He started making paintings as a young man, and carried on making art until the end of his life.



Chico's paintings are very colourful and bold. His paintings often show lots of strange animals and plants.



Chico's paintings were inspired by things he saw in his own life and in his dreams. Inspired means when you see something and it gives you an idea, like wanting to make a painting. The colours and creatures in Chico's paintings were often inspired by the nature and culture in Brazil.



Chico also had some mental health problems. This means when a problem with your brain affects how you can think, feel or act. For Chico, his mental health problems may have changed how he painted and what he painted.



Chico's work was ignored by lots of people while he was alive. This was because his work wasn't traditional. This means he didn't make paintings in the same way as lots of other artists, and didn't follow the rules of the art world.



Chico's work was also ignored by lots of people because he was from Brazil. Lots of people in the art world weren't interested in artist who lived outside of Europe.



In 1943, Chico met a man called Jean-Pierre Chabloz when Jean-Pierre travelled to Brazil and saw Chico's paintings on the walls of buildings.



Jean-Pierre was important in the art world. Jean-Pierre was an artist, but he also wrote about art and bought and sold art.



Jean-Pierre told Chico to draw and paint on canvases and paper instead of painting on walls. This meant that he could sell his work.



After he met Jean-Pierre, Chico's work became much more well-known and he got lots of exhibitions around the world.



One of these exhibitions was at the Venice Biennale in 1966. This is a very big and important art event which happens every two years in Italy.



The relationship between Chico and Jean-Pierre wasn't completely good though. Some people think Jean-Pierre took advantage of Chico. This means using someone to get what you want. Jean-Pierre made money by selling Chico's work.

The Pirambu School



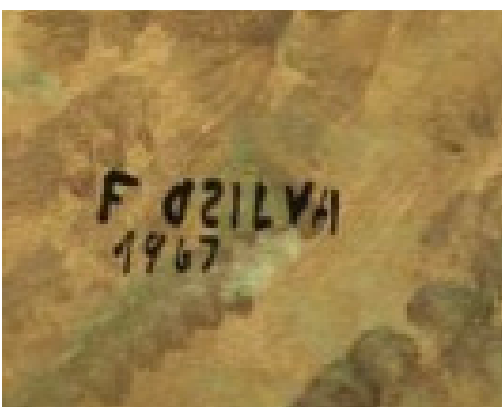
In the 1960s, Chico started a community studio called The Pirambu School. This was a place where people could paint and make art together.



The people in the Pirambu School were mostly Chico's friends and family. He taught them how to make paintings that looked like his paintings.



Over a lot of years, there were around 500 people making paintings in the Pirambu School.



When these paintings were sold, they said Chico had made them, and the paintings were signed with his name on them.



This meant that Chico could sell lots more paintings more quickly than if he had to paint them all himself.



The painters who were making paintings for Chico in the Pirambu school were paid money by Chico for doing the paintings. This meant the people in the area went from being very poor to having more money and being part of the art world.



Some people didn't like that Chico's paintings weren't all made by him. They thought this broke the rules. Paintings were usually made by one person and could be sold as "authentic" artworks. Authentic means a painting is real and was definitely made by the person whose name is on it. Paintings being authentic is important to lots of people who buy art. These people were upset by Chico's works not being "authentic".

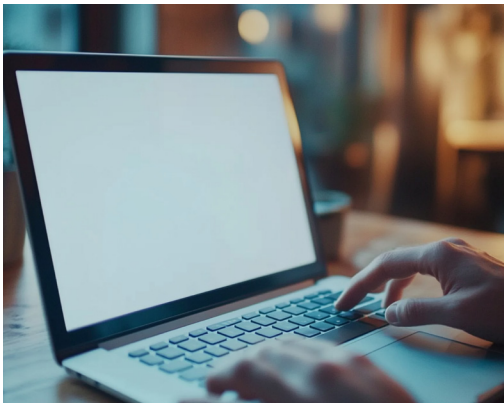


Lots of people in the art world said the Pirambu School should stop making Chico's artworks. The people in the Pirambu School didn't listen to this, and they carried on making paintings.



In 1977, the painters from the Pirambu School painted a mural together. A mural is a big painting on a wall. They filmed themselves making this painting. The film showed that they didn't care if people thought their way of making art was bad, they were going to do it anyway.

For More Information



You can find out more about what we do by looking at our website here:

nottinghamcontemporary.org



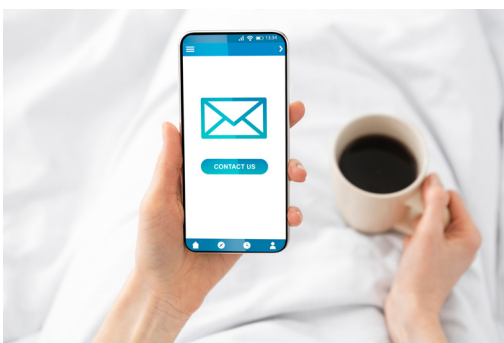
If you would like to help us show more artworks in the future, please think about giving us some money.

We suggest £5 as a good amount.



If you need more information please contact us by:

**Post : Nottingham Contemporary
Weekday Cross Nottingham
NG1 2GB**



Phone: 0115 948 9750

**Email:
info@nottinghamcontemporary.org**

Image Credits

Image credits tell us who took a photograph. The image credits for the photographs you have seen in this easy read guide are shown below.

We have to write these in the way they are written below because of special rules. You don't need to read this part of the guide unless you want to. This part of the guide doesn't tell you anything more about the artworks in the exhibition.

Page 1

1. Chico da Silva (Francisco da Silva), Sem título [Untitled], 1966. Photo: Ding Musa | Courtesy Galatea

Page 2

1. 679576960 shutterstock.com

Page 4

1. Chico da Silva (Francisco da Silva), Sem título [Untitled], 1966. Photo: Ding Musa | Courtesy Galatea

2. 2154381771 & 2157413631 shutterstock.com

3. 2675312853 ByDroneVideos / Shutterstock.com

4. 1355164649 shutterstock.com

Page 5

1. 558184042 shutterstock.com

2. 2675312853 ByDroneVideos / Shutterstock.com

3. 375332500 Alf Ribeiro / Shutterstock.com

Page 6

1. 2273203009 shutterstock.com

2. 2262046071 shutterstock.com

3. 2622093477 shutterstock.com

4. 1558902602 shutterstock.com

Page 7

1. Chico da Silva (Francisco Domingos da Silva), Sem título [Untitled], 1967. Photo: Ding Musa | Courtesy Galatea

2. 2493335441 shutterstock.com

3. 2221901661 shutterstock.com

4. 2207806827 shutterstock.com

Page 8

1. 2414378087 shutterstock.com

2. 2359333313 shutterstock.com

3. 1597738450 shutterstock.com

4. 2459593641 shutterstock.com

Page 9

1. 2213188907 shutterstock.com

2. 1879269739 Chris Lawrence Images / Shutterstock.com

3. 2470386213 shutterstock.com

Page 10

1. 2442248867 shutterstock.com

2. 2658871599 shutterstock.com

3. 618448736 shutterstock.com

4. Chico da Silva (Francisco Domingos da Silva), Sem título [Untitled], 1967. Photo: Ding Musa | Courtesy Galatea

Page 11

1. 1130932508 shutterstock.com

2. 2257409307 shutterstock.com

3. 203013697 shutterstock.com

Page 12

1. 2494265643 shutterstock.com

2. 2621777231 shutterstock.com

Page 13

1. 2500892997 shutterstock.com

3. 1424495612 shutterstock.com

4. 1913129872 shutterstock.com