

# ***HONEY***

**PAULO NAZARETH**

**EDUCATION KIT**



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## **PAULO NAZARETH**

HONEY delves into the work of Brazilian artist Paulo Nazareth, suggesting that perceptions of racial identity are as fluid, viscous, multifaceted, and contextually shaped as honey. Like honey, these different understandings embody flexibility and adaptability, while also carrying bittersweet connotations: the sweetness of indulgence and delight, the sting of mockery and playful sarcasm, the veneer of passive-aggressive politeness, the weight of efficiency and labor, the chaos of messiness, and even the potential for harmful reactions.

Performing at times as an Indigenous man and at others as a Black person, Nazareth navigates identity with fluidity depending on the context and circumstances. His mixed heritage—Indigenous, Afro-Brazilian, and European—enables him to challenge fixed notions of identity to subvert preconceived ideas of the self. Through his vast, surprising, and witty body of work, he persistently shifts his approach, experiments with diverse tactics, and adopts unconventional methods to reject exoticization, resist the constraints of narrow political identities, and defy expectations tied to his “authentic” self.

**Curated by Claudia Calirman**

March 19 - May 16, 2025

Gallery opening hours: 10am - 5pm, Monday - Friday





# SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS

**In this exhibition is a room where you are invited to draw a portrait of your mother. After drawing your mother's portrait, write a short reflection taking into account the following questions:**

- What does 'mothering' mean to you?
- Who can be a mother?
- What does your portrait say about your mother?

**Start a conversation with another student about the ship diagrams drawn onto rocks. You could ask questions like:**

- What is the significance of it being on rock?
- Research the history of the image
- Why might this be relevant for a Brazilian artist?

**Write a short reflective piece about the metaphor of Honey in this exhibition:**

- The curator identifies several contradictions: what are they?
- What are some personal values, hobbies or identities in your life that flow together like honey or are separate/contradict one another?
- Think about how the word 'honey' is used in the world.

**Write a short visual analysis of one work in the exhibition**

- Use concepts like line, tone, light and dark, spacing and other descriptive language to analyze the meaning of the work

**Write a short reflective piece about the significance of the work Tunic remaining unfinished.**

*TUNIC [AMERICAN RED SEA] 2011*  
Drawing and embroidery on  
Egyptian muslin tunic  
Photo by Studio Birdhaus

# FURTHER READING

Saidiya Hartman, "Venus in Two Acts." *Small Axe*, vol. 12 no. 2, 2008, Project MUSE, <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/241115>.

Denise Ferreira da Silva, "Facts of Blackness: Brazil is not (Quite) the United States ... And, Racial Politics in Brazil?" (1998). *Social Identities*, 4:2.

bell hooks, *Black Looks: Race and Representation* (Boston, MA: South End Press, 1992).

Grada Kilomba, *Plantation Memories: Episodes of Everyday Racism*. Münster: Unrast Verlag, 2008.

Brian Mier, "Djamila Ribeiro: The Fight against Racism & Sexism in Post-Coup Brasil." *Brasil Wire*, November 10, 2017.

Napê Rocha, *Corporeidades encruzilhadas—Paulo Nazareth e Cadernos de África* (Rio de Janeiro: 2024).

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*DRY CUT [MINIMENT IN HONOR  
OF MAHOMMAH BAQUAQUA] 2022*

*Wood, carton paper, paint*

Photo by Studio Birdhaus



