



LOST LANDSCAPES

Lecture by the Brazilian artist **Ana Maria Tavares**
Professor Escola de Comunicações e Artes - ECA
Universidade de São Paulo, Brazil

Berkeley History of Art Lecture Series

308J Doe Library
Monday Nov 09, 5:15pm

In a presentation of past and recent works the artist will focus on how modernist Brazilian architecture has inspired her to interrogate the idea of future and the construction of new realities. Issues such as the relation of art, design and architecture as well as the construction of fictional spaces will be addressed.

Ana Maria Tavares

Born in Belo Horizonte in 1958. Lives and works in São Paulo.

Ana Maria is known for installations employing materials such as steel, glass and mirrors. Resembling architectural structures, her installations call to mind the artificial, emotionally vacuous atmosphere of airports, office buildings, and other forms of urban architecture. Through her re-deployment of industrial architectural materials, such materials lose their function, and viewers are subtly thrown off balance in their physical experience and sense of time. Recently, Tavares has been creating films in which steel columns connect with stairways running in all directions. By introducing reflections she renders the space in the films all the more complex. *Airshaft (to Piranesi)* (2008) examines the realities of human circulation through anonymous urban spaces as found all over the world. The video depicts a modern architectural space in the manner of the complex, labyrinthine expanses depicted by the 18th century Italian artist Piranesi, but wavering fluidly like a mirage. The chaos of Brazil's enormous urban spaces is reflected here. Tavares's videos produce an encounter with "somewhere" that is not quite "here" and make us aware of how unreal our reality can be.

(From Yuko Hasegawa, Catalogue of the exhibition "When Lives Become Form Contemporary Brazilian Art: 1960-present," Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo, 2008)