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Tina Martins: from occupation to reference house Camila Diniz Bastos

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Camila Diniz Bastos is part of Reference House of Women Tina Martins. She studies poetics of Western architecture, mediation of information in production and in the uses of dwelling, and architectures of insurrection.

The beginning

Or how to affect and be affected in the last instance: the woman's body

Data from the Brazil's Violence Map, 2015¹ Women section:

Between 2003 and 2013, the number of female victims of violence increased from 3,937 to 4,762, which means a growth of 21.0% in one decade. The 4,762 deaths in 2013 represent 13 daily femicides.

Brazil is the 5th most violent country for women, preceded only by El Salvador, Colombia, Guatemala and Russia.

The number of homicides involving white women as victims dropped 11.9%, from 3.6 homicides per 100,000 white women in 2003 to 3.2 per 100,000 in 2013.

In contrast, the numbers related to black women grew 19.5% , passing over the same period, from 4.5 homicides per 100,000 black women to 5.4 per 100,000.

Considering all age groups, domestic violence is largely preponderant. Immediate relatives or partners and ex-partners are the offenders in 67.2% of all reports of care in the SUS (Brazil's publicly funded healthcare system).

It is for women's lives

Between the walls and windows of a dusty building on Guaicurus Street , was born on March 8th 2016, the Occupation Tina Martins. Occupying a building that had been empty since 2009, the women² from Women's Movement Olga Benário give light and life to the street that has carried for a long time the weight of abandonment and historic neglect in the city of Belo Horizonte³.

The first self-organized occupation for women in Latin America came to life, questioning the issue of violence against women.

Olga Benário is a classist feminist movement, created in 2011. It is present in 17 states of the country and has a national and regional coordination. The term "classist" comes from the grassroots work and provide activities among the working and peripheral women who face double shifts (inside and outside their homes). It is important to emphasize that feminism is diverse since it is composed by the different voices of different women requiring the understanding of the specificity of each group without becoming distant from the common claims. The fight for the right to universal access to child care is among the guidelines of the Movement, so women can work and ensure their financial independence and execute as many activities as they wish. Regarding this issue, the Women's Movement Olga Benário manages since 2013 the Tia Carminha Day Care, located in the Urban Occupation⁴ Eliana Silva, in the southern region of Belo Horizonte, in the State of Minas Gerais. The Occupation is organized by MLB (Movimento de Luta nos Bairros, Vilas e Favelas - Struggle Movement in Neighborhoods, Villages and Slums).

MLB was founded in 1994 and is a national organization that has as main cause the access to housing. By understanding that "housing" does not solely concern the isolated process of building houses, the movement also fights for "the right to the city" and has a national thesis of Urban Reform.

In Belo Horizonte, the region of Barreiro is where most of the families organized by MLB live, and where Olga's performs its grassroots work in the urban occupations Eliana Silva - which exists since April 2012 - and Paulo Freire, founded in May 2015.

When both movements joined on March 8th 2016, the initial idea was to make a political act of resistance to bring more visibility to the issue of violence against women, by finally taking out of the room where it happens, everyone listens and only few speak of. In addition to this, the movement demanded for the creation of more rooms in shelters, more public day care centers in the suburbs and police stations dedicated to women open 24/7.

All these issues are described in the guidelines of the Law "Maria da Penha", sanctioned on August 2006⁵. The law became a national symbol of women's struggle against oppression and violence. It created mechanisms to restrain and prevent domestic and family violence, and to punish the aggressor more effectively. It sets out the different forms of violence (physical, psychological, sexual, patrimonial and moral) and discusses the integrated measures of prevention. Its Article 8 establishes in its clauses, guidelines for public policies that should be conducted through a coordinated set of actions of the Federal, State and Municipal Governments combined with non-governmental actions.

Among the perspectives presented by Maria da Penha Law, the Federal Government and its Secretariat of Policies for Women, released in 2013 the program "Woman, live without violence". It aimed to integrate and expand the existing public services directed at women in situations of violence, through the articulation of specialized care in health, justice, public security, social assistance network and the promotion of financial autonomy. The main axis of the program is the implementation of the "House of Brazilian Women", which integrates, in the same space, the following specialized services: welcome and examination; psychosocial support; police station; Juvenile Court ; Public Prosecutor's Office; Public Defender; promotion of economic independence; day care and playroom; accommodation and transport.

In Belo Horizonte, the construction of the House of Brazilian Women was announced in June 2015, on a land located on Contorno Avenue 777, downtown Belo Horizonte⁶.



Currently, the area is occupied by the parking area for ROTAM (Metropolitan Tactics Military Police Battalion) after unclarified agreements between the Municipality of Belo Horizonte and the State Government. With the entrance of the Women's Movement Olga Benário in the former restaurant building of Engineering School (Federal University of Minas Gerais, on the corner of Espírito Santo Street with Guaicurus Street), the State Government argued that the future occupation of the place was already being discussed and that, therefore, our claims would be resolved by this apparatus. Our counter-argument that there was no document proving the beginning of construction work or of the reversed funds was answered after a week with the promise of the bidding of the project for August 15, 2016 and the starting construction in 2017⁷. The issue is that Belo Horizonte would keep that institutional space empty for at least another two years without this institutional space and, with the passing days in the occupation, we understand that still would not be enough.

It would not be enough because all the different specificities are handled by the State in a homogeneous way, through the application of standardized treatments to all of them. It would not be enough because the trans women face enormous difficulties in government institutions, as well as prejudices and subjugations by employees who are unprepared to deal with the gender issue.

It would not be enough because Minas Gerais has 853 municipalities, 300 daily computed requests for shelter, and only 13 women sheltered throughout the whole State.

But more than reductionism to criticize the malfunction of the current public spaces and policies, it is necessary to highlight the difficulty of spreading information and the inhibition OR embarrassment that denunciation causes to most abused women.

Tina Martins is the decision to take a position about the knowledge built in the 87 days of (r)existence in that building. After turbulent negotiations with the State and Federal Governments, we grew, evolved and now we are **Tina Martins Woman's Reference House**.

We came out victorious, with the guarantee that we would be able to provide our services at least until December in a different located at Paraíba Street, "Funcionários" Neighborhood. In January, we will restart the negotiations to reiterate the power of direct actions by the organized civil society.

We assumed a position towards the learning built in our daily lives and from the possibility to transform this knowledge into something concrete. When we realize that pressure would not be enough, we endeavor on what we wish Tina became. It was an exercise to analyze what has already happened in the occupation by demand from the women who arrived every day, and as far as "our legs could go."

The struggle for a Reference House is a learning process that we are still experiencing and perhaps, exactly because of that, it's so difficult to effectively organize deep reflections towards everything.

Tina Martins Woman's Reference House is the materialization of the knowledge built day after day.

Of women taking care of women.



In this sense, we see Tina Martins as an alternative spatial praxis, that departs from the body nanoscale (from the occupants as of the sponsors of the House) and results in a luminescence in the middle of the discouragement scene which we live.

We know that we cannot save all women of the world, we know our shortcomings and our daily battles, but we are determined to take a step further in the fight against the sexist and patriarchal society around us, by starting the construction of a welcoming and empowering space for women in vulnerable situations.

This space only exists because of the confidence given to us by all the women who share their life stories at Tina Martins. While we organize ourselves according to legal, projective and structural teams, everything is only made possible thanks to the girls-women that are not seen in the negotiations and publications. But they are there, with their bodies, in the purest instance of dedication of being there. They are welcoming, listening and comforting all the women who come to us.

This paper is dedicated to all of them.

¹Available at: <www.mapadaviolencia.org.br>

² The current occupiers are in the age range of 17 to 30.

³ The Guaicurus street was linked to prostitution and became famous in Brazil due to the novel "Hilda Furacão", written by Roberto Drummond. Situated in the downtown of Belo Horizonte, the street have inadequate infrastructure (poor lighting, uneven sidewalks, trash in the streets, etc.) and does not offer security to passersby.

⁴ As "urban occupation" we understand the act of occupying empty or underutilized lands or houses that do not comply with the so-called "social function of property", present in the Brazilian Constitution.

⁵ Law No. 11.340, of August 7, 2006. Available at: <http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/ato2004-2006/2006/lei/l11340.htm>

⁶ Source: <<http://www.spm.gov.br/noticias/spm-apresenta-projeto-da-casa-da-mulher-brasileira-de-belo-horizonte>>

⁷ The bid was not displayed until this date (02/11/2016).

TINA MARTINS

FROM OCCUPATION TO REFERENCE HOUSE

THE OCCUPATION



MARCH 8

BETWEEN WALLS AND WINDOWS OF A DUSTY BUILDING IN GUAICURUS ST., THE OCCUPATION TINA MARTINS WAS BORN ON MARCH 8, 2016. THE OCCUPATION TINA MARTINS.

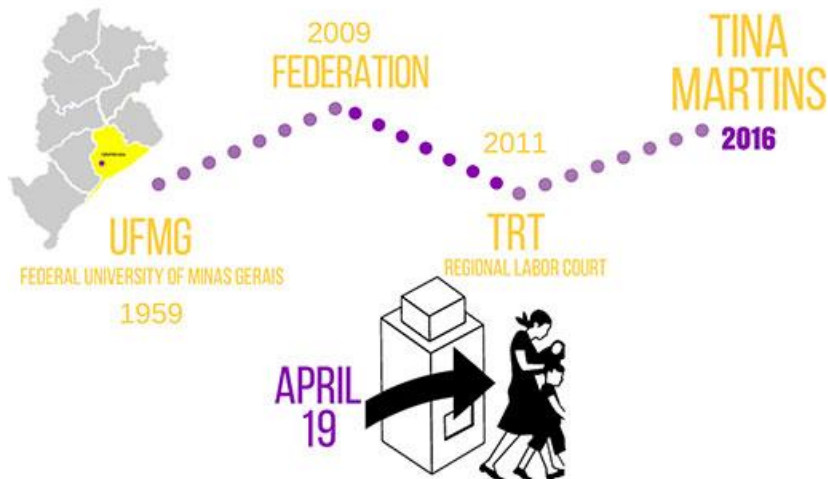
THE WOMAN'S MOVEMENT OLGA BENÁRIO WANTED TO MAKE A POLITICAL AND RESISTANCE ACT BRINGING TO SURFACE THE ISSUE OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN. BESIDES THAT, THEY WANTED TO VOCIFERATE FOR NEW VACANCIES IN SHELTERS, MORE PUBLIC DAY CARE CENTERS AND 24-HOUR POLICE STATIONS FOR WOMEN.



OVER 50 WOMEN PASSED BY THE OCCUPATION IN THE FIRST MONTH



THE BUILDING OF THE GUAICURUS STREET



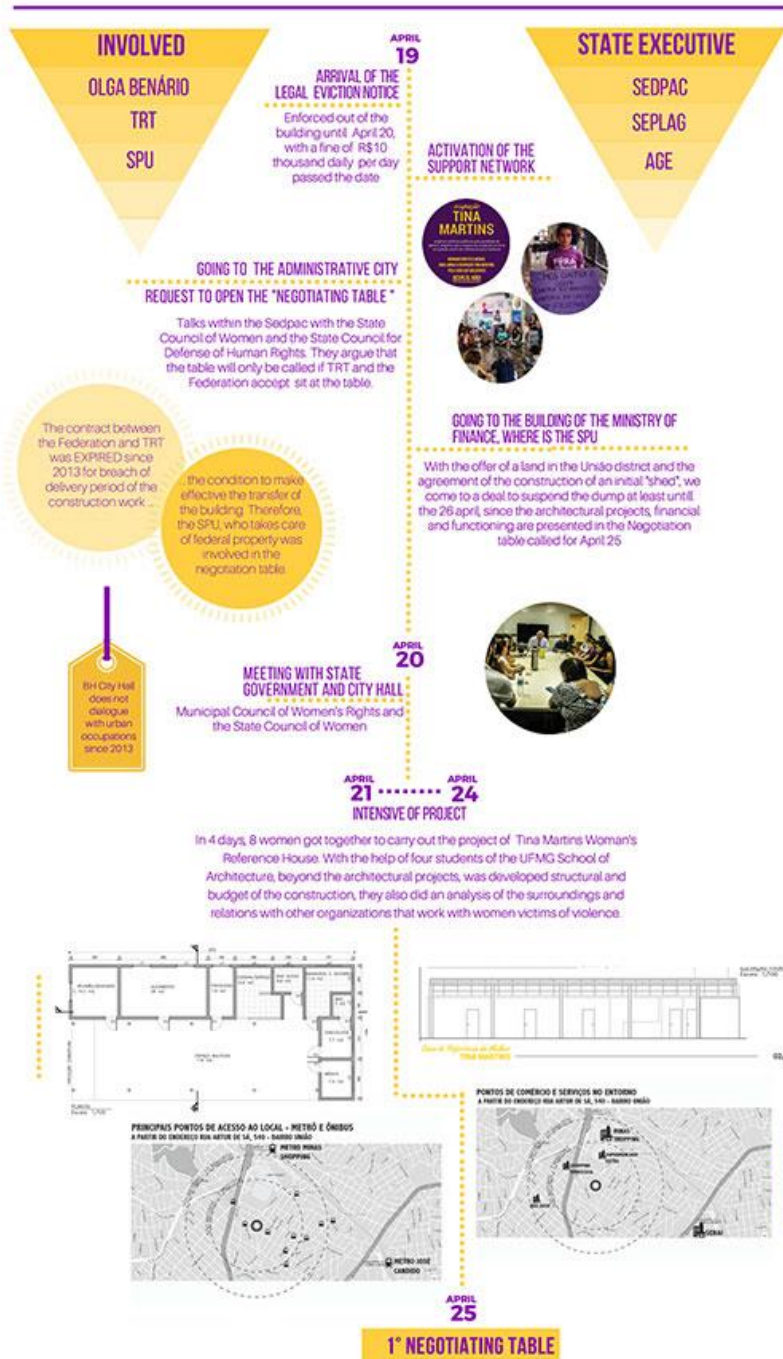
ARRIVAL OF THE LEGAL EVICTION NOTICE

TINA MARTINS

FROM OCCUPATION TO REFERENCE HOUSE

HISTORIC OF NEGOTIATIONS

AGENTS IN THE TINA MARTINS CASE



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APRIL
25



1° NEGOTIATING TABLE

Presentation of the document and gain extension of term for another seven days, still no suspension of the daily fine

APRIL
26

MPF + SPU

Indicative of the Federal Public Ministry (MPF) that the land offered by SPU might be the result of an irregular dump done by the Belo Horizonte City Hall

TABLE POSTPONEMENT REQUEST

Search for vacant State's and Federation's properties, impossibility access lists



STRATEGIC REFORMULATION

MAY
3

2° NEGOTIATING TABLE

During the table, the water and the light of occupancy were cut off. There is a tension in the table intensified by the information of the illegal agreement between TRT and the Federal Government and by the refusal of the land previously offered



STATE TAKES UPON TO HIMSELF TO FIND THE NEW PROPERTY

Creation of the "Sectorial Chamber": Seplag, Sedpac and Woman's Movement Olga Benário

Purpose: 30 days to ensure another property, provisional character, and make the change until July 3.



MAY
12

3° SECTORIAL CHAMBER

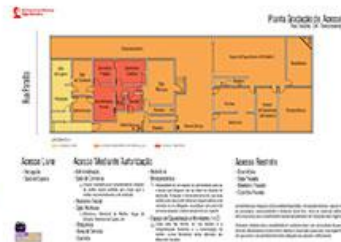
After several properties that do not match with the demands, the government speaks for the first time about the house on Paraíba Street 641

MAY
14 / 15

2° INTENSIVE OF PROJECT

It was agreed by the Sectorial Chamber that the adjustments in the house working design, as well as its space reassignment should be issued on the day 16 and then be presented at the Negotiating Table k called for May 17.

CASA DE REFERÊNCIA DA MULHER



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MAY
16

PROJECT PRESENTATION IN THE SECTORAL CHAMBER

Meeting House of Human Rights approved by sectoral chamber

THE HOUSE
STILL
PROVISIONAL!!!!!!!



MAY
17

3' NEGOTIATING TABLE

Approval between the parties of the new project. According to State Advocacy, by treating of an election year, the transfer of properties is not allowed, then what happens was the passage of the possession of the property enter departments of the state government.

MAY
18

SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT

"the transfer will give of FAPEMIG to SEDPAC that will take possession of the property located in Paraíba Street, in 641, in this capital." [...] "The allocation will be to SEDPAC, which amalgamated the actions of the movement that will continue in Tinga Martins Women's Reference House [...] In January 2017 the Negotiating Table will sit with the movement, under the direction of the work of SEDPAC to a reassessment of activities by movement in this property [...]"



MAY
21

"TINA WILL CHANGE"

Called Supporters Network to present the address change and clarify the issues of the establishment of the agreement functioning of the House

MAY
31

FINAL TABLE

Signing of the agreement with the promise to resume the table for January 2017



JUNE
2
LEAVING
THE
OCCUPATION



JULY
3
COMING
INTO THE
NEW HOUSE



TINA MARTINS

FROM OCCUPATION TO REFERENCE HOUSE



THE REFERENCE HOUSE



WE ARE A HOUSE-PROFIT, MANAGED BY THE WOMAN'S MOVEMENT OLGA BENÁRIO WHICH AIMS TO BE AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE WOMAN VICTIM OF VIOLENCE IN THE CITY OF BELO HORIZONTE AND THE METROPOLITAN REGION.

ACTIVITY:

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Listening to understand the situation of each one, and its forwarding: reception, legal assistance, counseling, etc.

PERMANENT INFORMATION

Disseminate information about laws, rights, programs and policies in order to strengthen the support network of women

FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE

We offer courses and training workshops following the ideology of solidarity economy. In order to facilitate the return to formal education and the labor market

CULTURAL FORMATION

We have permanent spaces in which they occur conversation circles, political and cultural formation, lectures, films and other activities.

SPACES OF THE HOUSE:



Study Room



Living Room



Administrative Office



Library



Kitchen



Multifunctional Warehouse

TINA MARTINS

FROM OCCUPATION TO REFERENCE HOUSE



THE REFERENCE HOUSE



MANAGEMENT

The management and maintenance of the space are the responsibility of Woman's Movement Olga Benário, a classist feminist movement, created in 2011. It is present in 17 states of the country and has a national and state coordination.

The term "classist" comes from the grassroots work and has as focus activities among the working and peripheral women who face double shifts (inside and outside their homes). It is important to emphasize that feminism is diverse, because it is composed by the different voices of different women, requiring the understanding of the specificity of each group.

MAINTENANCE



The House is not for profit and is maintained through a support network to financial donations, food, hygiene and cleaning products.

Activation is done by online campaigns disseminated through Facebook, email and whatsapp groups. We also do some own products, like shirts and bandanas.

ACTIVITIES

ASSISTANCE

LANGUAGE CLASSES

WORKSHOPS

FORMATIVE ACTIONS

MOVIE



The offered activities take place through partnerships with volunteers women willing to carry out classes, lectures, conversation circles, etc.

In this way, besides to contribute to the consolidation of the House, we have more and more women coming to us and keeping this operating cycle.

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03: First interview given to Rede Minas by Olga Benário Women's Movement - March 2016

04: Launch of the book "War of Places" written by former UN Rapporteur, the architect and urbanist Raquel Rolnik at Ocupação Tina Martins - April 2016.

05: Assembly of the Women's Movement Olga Benário - March 2016

Source: Ocupação Tina Martins' Collection

Author: Communication Team Tina Martins

Year: 2016

Viewed: September 2016

Pictograms A, B, C (from top to bottom): Figures for collective mapping, licensed by Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International.

Source/Author: Iconoclasistas

Year: 2015

Retrieved from: <http://www.iconoclasistas.net/pictogramacion/>

Viewed: September 2016

Map 1: Belo Horizonte - Highlight of the Center-South Region

Source: Mapas para Colorir- Regiões do Município de BH-MG. Edited by the author.

Year: 2015

Retrieved from: <http://www.mapasparacolorir.com.br/mapa/municipio/mg/municipio-belo-horizonte-regioes.jpg>

Viewed: September 2016

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Source: Ocupação Tina Martins' Collection

Author: Communication Team Tina Martins

Year: 2016

Retrieved from: <https://www.facebook.com/Ocupacaotinamartins>

Viewed: September 2016



Floor Plan 01: Layout plan "Initial Warehouse"

Section 01: Front Elevation "Initial Warehouse"

Source: Operating Project of Tina Martins Woman's Reference House - April 2016

Author: Architectural Team Tina Martins

Year: 2016

Available at: The project can't be made available until completion of negotiations with the Government of the State of Minas Gerais.

Map 01: Main Ways to Access the Area - Metro Stations and Bus Stops

Map 02: Commercial Buildings and Service Providers in the Surrounding Area.

Source: Operating Project of Tina Martins Woman's Reference House - April 2016

Author: Architectural Team Tina Martins

Year: 2016

Available at: The project can't be made available until completion of negotiations with the Government of the State of Minas Gerais.

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Source/Author: Iconoclasistas

Year: 2015

Retrieved from: <http://www.iconoclasistas.net/pictogramacion/>

Viewed: September 2016

Figures 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 (circles from top to bottom)

10: Article of Jornal R7: "Federal Public Ministry wants to prevent irregular action of the City Hall to evict families in Via 710"

Source/Author: Jornal R7 - Online

Date: 14/10/2015

Retrieved from: <http://noticias.r7.com/minas-gerais/mpf-quer-impedir-acao-irregular-da-prefeitura-para-remover-familias-na-via-710-14102015>

11: Article of the newspaper "O Tempo": "City Hall evicts families from area that does not belong to it, says the Federal Public Ministry"

Source/Author: Jornal O Tempo - Online

Date: 14/10/2015

Retrieved from: <http://www.otempo.com.br/cidades/prefeitura-remove-fam%C3%ADlias-de-%C3%A1rea-que-n%C3%A3o-lhe-pertence-diz-mpf-1.1141053>

12: Graphic design piece of the campaign #FicaTina - April 2016

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14: Picture + Graphic design piece #FicaTina, asking for donations - May 2016

15: Logo for Tina Martins Woman's Reference House - May 2016



Source: Ocupação Tina Martins' Collection

Author: Communication Team Tina Martins

Year: 2016

Retrieved from: <https://www.facebook.com/Ocupacaotinamartins>

Viewed: September 2016

Floor Plan 02: Access Gradation of the House at 641 Paraíba Street

Source: Second Operating Project of Tina Martins Woman's Reference House - May 2016

Author: Architectural Team Tina Martins

Year: 2016

Available at: The project can't be made available until completion of negotiations with the Government of the State of Minas Gerais.

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Source/Author: Iconoclasistas

Year: 2015

Retrieved from: <http://www.iconoclasistas.net/pictogramacion/>

Viewed: September 2016

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18: Graphic Design Piece - Farewell Party for the Building/Ocupação : Clandestina - June 2016

19: First day at the new address, 641 Paraíba Street - June 2016

Source: Ocupação Tina Martins' Collection

Author: Communication Team Tina Martins

Year: 2016

Retrieved from: <https://www.facebook.com/Ocupacaotinamartins>

Viewed: September 2016

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Pictograms F, G: Figures for collective mapping, licensed by Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International.

Source/Author: Iconoclasistas

Year: 2015

Retrieved from: <http://www.iconoclasistas.net/pictogramacion/>

Viewed: September 2016

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Source: Ocupação Tina Martins' Collection

Author: Camila Bastos

Year: 2016

Viewed: September 2016

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30: Graphic design piece: Invite to Workshop Instructors - August 2016

31: Graphic design piece: CineOlga - August 2016

Source: Ocupação Tina Martins' Collection

Author: Camila Bastos

Year: 2016

Viewed: September 2016

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Source/Author: Iconoclasistas

Year: 2015

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