

**PURSUE**

*Mário and  
the City*

**I**

**SÃO  
PAULO**

Presentation text



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The city of São Paulo occupies a unique central place in the work of Mário de Andrade. His hometown is not merely a setting or a source of inspiration, but a mirror in which the poet claimed to recognize himself. Perhaps that is why he wrote to Paulo Duarte the lines that, later set to music by Itamar Assumpção, give this exhibition its name: “São Paulo is something else; it is not exactly love, it is absolute identification — it is me. And I do not love myself. But I pursue myself. ‘Pursue’ is a beautiful word in all that its etymology suggests and confesses. I pursue São Paulo.”

The city runs through his work from his modernist debut in the wilds of Pauliceia to the final verses of *Lira paulistana*. This exhibition is a tribute to this intense relationship between poet and metropolis. It was from this house at Lopes Chaves Street that Mário de Andrade set out on his “tender itineraries,” his wanderings through São Paulo. Here, where he lived and produced much of his work, he found his safe haven and starting point for observing and experiencing the city in transformation. Today, standing in this very space, we are invited to walk in his footsteps and revisit the city he pursued.