

Abstract

This work focuses on the preservation of Alberto Carneiro's "ephemeral works" through documentation, having *Árvore jogo/lúdico em sete imagens espelhadas* (1973-1975) as a case study. These art works are composed of natural, raw materials and by a large number of elements that are spread throughout the exhibition space. In them, intangible aspects as the relation with the exhibition space, the spatial distribution of the various elements or the multi-sensorial interaction with the observer are fundamental. We discuss the issues on the conservation of these works concluding that traditional conservation's strategies are unfit for these cases. First, the preservation of the work's material consistency is not essential for its survival in the future, second it is necessary to preserve intangible aspects that are usually ignored. Therefore, documentation becomes the main strategy for preservation. The second part of the work, which centres on the case study, begins with a brief presentation of *Árvore jogo/lúdico...*, continues with a discussion of the applied methodology for the study and documentation of this work – search for existing bibliography, interviews with the artist, following of the installation of the work and search for new ways of documentation – and finishes with the presentation of the results.