

*Tempestade brasileira - A Brazilian storm*

In Gustavo Malheiros' work, life comes before the photograph, and this makes all the difference. That's how, as a grommet, he happened to be photographed with his gang by none other than the then already consecrated Bruce Weber. This in-flagrante picture was a premonition of the kind of photographer Gustavo would one day come to be, and it gave him the opportunity of becoming the great artist's assistant in the New York of the nineties.

As photography as a form of expression became part of his life, within it he found the already present world of surf. In this way, his language and subject of choice would start walking together, hand in hand. Brazil's Arpoador, Saquarema and Guarda de Embaú beaches, Trestles in California, Pipeline in Hawaii, Peniche in Portugal, Jeffreys Bay in South Africa, Hossegor in France and the Mentawai archipelago in Indonesia – the top circuit of perfect waves transcribed into emblematic scenes. The surfer became a photographer and the world of surf itself a photograph all too naturally.

His intimate relationship with surfing would grant him access to its exclusive tribe and foremost idols. As he coexists and participates, Gustavo mingles with audience and idols alike, becoming an observer and a protagonist. While his photography has the strength of simple deeds, it directly translates both unique and banal emotions of the day-to-day. They are partner-like images that range from pure beauty to the subtle beauty of encounters while speaking of a shared passion for life.

“My life has always been around beach and surf”, said Gustavo during the presentation of his book *Tempestade* (Arte Ensaio, 2017), which is dedicated to Brazilian surf on its journey towards the very top of the world ranking, while traveling folding summer and surf, where this carefully selected collection of images comes from.

For Gustavo Malheiros, it is always summertime in some beach of magical waves in one of the seven seas.

Milton Guran, December 2018.