

## MARIO CRAVO NETO

MARIO CRAVO NETO WAS BORN IN APRIL 20, 1947 IN THE CITY OF SALVADOR, Bahia, where he presently lives and works. Brought up in the artists' milieu of his home town, he was initiated to sculpture and photography at the age of seventeen. During this period his father, sculptor Mario Cravo Júnior, invited to take part in the "Artist in Residence" program sponsored by the Ford Foundation and the Senate of West Berlin, traveled with his family to Germany. In Berlin, besides dedicating most of his time to creative work, Mario Cravo Neto experienced close contact with artists and intellectuals from all over the world. Family travels to Spain and Italy to visit sites and museums and direct contact with artists such as Emilio Vedova and photographer Max Jakob broadened the horizons of the young Mario Cravo Neto, who returned to Brasil in 1965 to complete his secondary education. He moved to New York in 1968 to study at the Art Student League under the guidance of Jack Krueger, one of the precursors of the Conceptual Art movement in New York. The two year period of study was of fundamental importance in delineating his future course as a man and as an artist. A series of color photographs entitled "On the Subway" were for the first time published at Camera 35 magazine and the black and white photographs depicting aspects of human desolation in the large metropolis date from this period. In his Soho studio parallel to his photographic work, he developed tri-dimensional works based on the "terrarium" process, which involves growing plants in a sealed environment. He returned to Brasil in 1970 and premiered a large installation of the living sculptures created in New York at the XII Bienal of São Paulo, followed by several one man and group exhibitions in Brasil and abroad. As a result of an automobile accident on March 31- 1975, Mario Cravo Neto, bedridden with both legs broken, was forced to interrupt his professional activities. After one year of convalescence, hindered from giving continuity to his prior research, he began focusing his attention on staged studio photography, using people and ordinary found objects on his photography and tridimensional work as well. The works that the artist has been showing in Brasil and abroad are an outgrowth of this period of his artistic career. Besides his work on black and white photography, Mario Cravo Neto is also working in color for his book project on the body in the bahian landscape.