The Brazilian modernist movement, from its early development circa 1917 through its first creative phase ending in 1929, encompassed the fine arts as well as literature in a broad attempt to renovate artistic and intellectual life. The Week of Modern Art celebrated in the Municipal Theater of São Paulo from 11 to 18 February 1922 was a focal point for the critical spirit seeking to redefine artistic values and stood as a symbol of a new expressive and interpretive tradition that would profoundly alter Brazilian writing.
Culminating in the Modern Art Week (Semana de Arte Moderna) which took place at the Teatro Municipal (Municipal Theatre) in São Paulo, in 1922, Modernist ideas had already gathered a large group of friends practicing literature, music, painting and sculpture beyond the Group of the Five, like the poet Manuel Bandeira, the composer Heitor Villa-Lobos, the sculptor Victor Brecheret, the writer, translator, painter and sociologist Sérgio Milliet and others. Modernismo in its initial impulse, changed the cultural axis of Brazil from Rio de Janeiro to São Paulo. That meant acknowledging the dynamis. After his return to São Paulo, where he received his degree in law in 1919, he and Mário de Andrade (no relation) helped organize the Semana de Arte Moderna (“Week of Modern Art”) at São Paulo in 1922, to introduce the Modernist movement to the public. Focusing specifically on the nationalistic aspects of Modernism, Andrade, in his literary manifesto Pau-Brasil (1925; “Brazil Wood”), called for a rejection of Portuguese social and literary artifice and a return to what he saw as the primitive spontaneity of expression of the indigenous Brazilians, emphasizing the need for modern Brazil to become. Because the São Paulo Museum of Modern Art houses one of the most important collections of Brazilian art in the world, this exhibition represents only one constellation of artworks among many others that could be imagined. It is not intended as a definitive survey of contemporary artistic production in Brazil, but rather to contribute to the ongoing conversation about what Brazilian art is and can be. Public Programs. During the course of the exhibition, featured artists Vik Muniz and Cássio Vasconcellos will travel from Brazil to Phoenix to give public lectures on their artistic practice. Lau