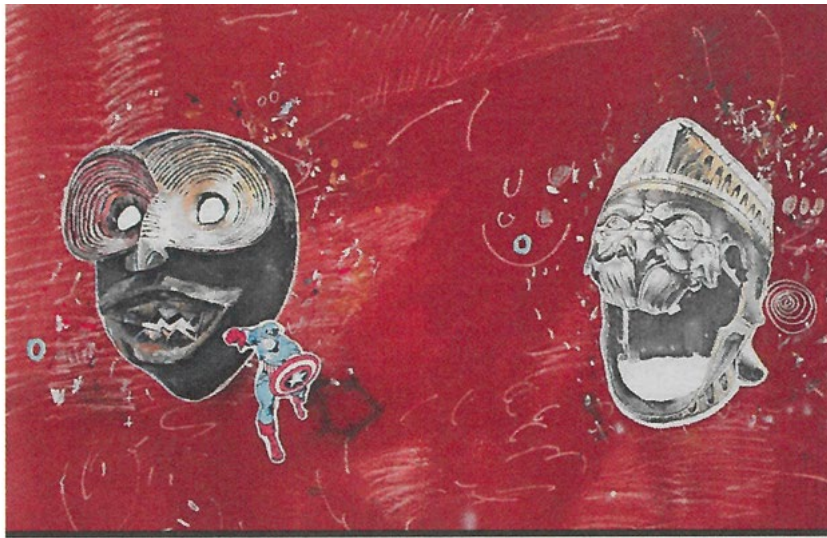


Clark, Robert, *Opening this week: Paulo Nimer Pjota*,
Guardian Guide, 23-29 April, p.33



Paulo Nimer Pjota London

In his first solo UK show Paulo Nimer Pjota presents creations referencing both pop and high-brow culture, carried off with the seemingly spontaneous gestural flare of the graffiti artist he once was. The São Paulo-based Pjota is good at exploiting the innate evocative potency of his raw materials, at times using unstretched canvas to summon centuries-old high cultural traditions, at others painting on scraps of sheet metal reminiscent of shanty town ingenuities. His painted backdrops tend to have the

grubby pastel tones of Brazilian stucco backstreets. As for his imagery, it's a curious amalgam of widely divergent samplings. A Kwakiutl mask might be set next to a Mickey Mouse who reaches out for a Kalashnikov rifle. Pjota's penchant for the flashy mannerisms of tattoo design affords the work a slightly subversive air. Then there are lineups of empty resin pots mimicking ceramic artefacts. It's a streetwise mock-archaeological project, a palimpsest of writings on the wall. **Robert Clark**
Maureen Paley, E2, Thu to 29 May