



# A Neurological Perspective on Tarsila do Amaral's "Abaporu": Migraine Aura Inspiring Art?

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## OBJECTIVE

To examine "Abaporu" through the perspective of neuroaesthetics, exploring potential parallels between its visual elements and sensory disturbances characteristics of migraine aura.

## METHODS

This study employed a thematic analysis to explore possible connections between the visual elements of Tarsila do Amaral's "Abaporu" and neurological phenomena, specially focusing on how the artwork may reflect subjective experiences of altered perception similar to those observed during migraine aura.

## RESULTS

- "Abaporu" exemplifies Amaral's systematic use of gigantism and deformation, already present in her 1920s production.
- Exaggerated proportions (large feet, oversized hand, small head) evoke macropsia and micropsia.
- These distortions resonate with clinical phenomena observed in Alice in Wonderland Syndrome and migraine aura.
- Vibrant color palette and melancholic undertones suggest exploration of sensory disturbances and emotional nuances.
- "Abaporu's" distortions invite a neuroaesthetic reading.

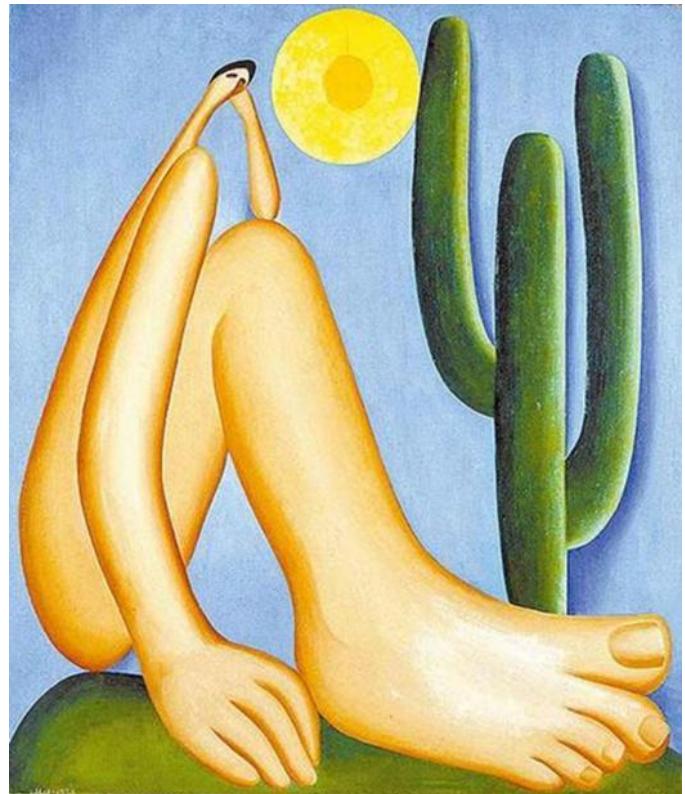


Figure 1. Abaporu (1928), by Tarsila do Amaral.

## CONCLUSION

Although there is no concrete evidence to prove the connection between Tarsila do Amaral and migraine, the visual motifs and techniques in "Abaporu" suggest a compelling intersection with neuroaesthetics. This enriches our understanding of art's intuitive portrayal and resonance with neurological experiences, prompting further interdisciplinary exploration in art history and neuroscience.