



JOÃO FRANCISCO
mille-fleurs



Opening: Saturday, 15th September 2018

From 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

From 15 September to 10 November de
2018
Tuesday to Saturday | 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Galeria 111 - Lisboa
Campo Grande, 113 | 1700-089 Lisboa
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untitled - *mille-fleurs*
2018, 160 paintings acrylic on paper
Total size of 140 x 700 cm (detail)

mille-fleurs

The subject that may aggregate the recent paintings presented herein is the landscape. Even though they are admittedly still-lives, as they consist of real objects, staged and observed, these images look to the exterior, outside. They speak about mountains and deserts, of sea and forests, ruins, gardens. They also look through them to the interior (are not landscapes therein even more dangerous and dark?)

The title of the exhibition and of most of the displayed pieces arise from a theme that should be explained: *mille-fleurs* or a *thousand flowers*. It's a term used to group tapestries produced in the North of France and in Flanders approximately between the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of the Renaissance. What makes them a specific group is the repetitive and obsessive representation of flowers and plants, wholly surrounding the highlighted elements (which can go from dames with unicorns to hunters, through gallant to mythological characters), creating a space that is more mythical than natural, more characterized by decorative exuberance than by the depiction of a real landscape in which the figures exist. These representations of flora, often with the added presence of small animals, are nevertheless extremely accurate: the wild plants species and the domestic ones are easily recognizable, announcing the humanist and scientific culture of the Renaissance.

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Executed throughout several months, the wide range of *mille-fleurs* small paintings may be simultaneously understood as the memory of the passing of time, and as a portrait of a specific space, the garden, registering and showing what was born and what died therein.

Incorporating the formal structure of the mentioned tapestries in which the plants are chained in a regular form creating a grid, this piece is the statement that the fascination with nature, no matter how remote or domestic, real or mythical, lasts even today.

The random discovery of a set of several sketches used to embroider resulted in another set of pieces: in that memory or ghost of the drawings that were passed to the textile support, I recognized the one of the tapestries' cartoons, models in actual size of what would be weaved and that, due to the recurring and violent use, rarely survived (of which Raphael's Acts of the Apostles are a remarkable exception). Creating a somewhat homogeneous background the collage of these drawings, all relating in different grades of realism and stylization to plants, enabled the construction of a domain where painting happens. It is in this game between what is hidden and what remains visible that these pages find their meaning.

Speaking of the landscapes themselves we might see them as pessimistic and dark. Sometimes disturbing and hostile. Perhaps also ironic or ridiculous. Maybe it's the way they need to be. Making Bernard's words my own: (...) *and [I] walked out in my mackintosh alone, and felt grumpy under the eternal hills and not in the least sublime.* (Virginia Woolf, *The Waves*).

JOÃO FRANCISCO was born in Torres Vedras in 1984. Lives and works in Lisbon and Torres Vedras. Degree in Plastic Arts – Painting by Fine Arts Faculty of Lisbon.

In 2007 and 2008 participates in the drawing workshop, at Ar.Co, in Lisbon.

Sole Exhibitions

2016 *Predelas e Volantes*, Cultural Centre of Mercês, Lisbon

2015 *toupeiras e cavalinhos (antique painting)*, Galeria 111, Lisbon

2014 *Ondas*, Escritórios, Lisbon

2013 *Objectos encontrados – a partir das reservas do Museu Leonel Trindade*, Municipal Gallery of Torres Vedras, Torres de Vedras



Uma montanha de coisas, painting and drawing, Galeria 111, Oporto

Uma montanha de coisas, painting and drawing, Galeria 111, Lisbon

2010 *Um tapete voador, uma casa, uma pirâmide, um jardim japonês, uma coleção de grelhas e uma pedreira (e mais algumas coisas)*, painting and drawing, Galeria 111, Lisbon

2009 *Um jardim, um tapete voador, um diorama, algumas paisagens e outras construções*, painting and drawing, Galeria 111, Oporto

2008 *O Arqueólogo Amador (e outras naturezas mortas)*, Galeria 111, Lisbon

Collective Exhibitions

2018 *Pensar em grande*, CAMB, Anjos' Palace, Algés

2017 *Paisagens na Coleção Manuel de Brito*, CAMB, Anjos' Palace, Algés
Ocupar o Lugar – Exposição #2, com Martinho Costa, Daniel Vasconcelos Melim e António Melo, Culture House, Comporta

2016 *Artes & Letras*, CAMB, Anjos' Palace, Algés
Apreço, com Ana Catrina Fragoso e Hetamoé, Zaratan – Arte Contemporânea, Lisbon

2015 *Héstia*, com Domingos Rego, Plataforma Revólver, Lisbon

2014 *50 Anos da Galeria 111*, Galeria 111, Lisbon
Mostra, 8 Building, Lisbon

2013 *Aquisições Recentes*, CAMB, Anjos' Palace, Algés

9º Prémio Amadeo de Souza Cardoso, Municipal Museum Amadeo de Souza Cardoso, Amarante

Esta noite entra pela água – água na leitura bíblica, Church of S. Salvador, Coimbra

2012 *Hortus Botanicus – árvores, flores e frutos na Coleção Manuel de Brito*, CAMB, Anjos' Palace, Algés

2011 *Arca de Noé*, CAMB, Anjos' Palace, Algés
Arte Lisboa 10, Galeria 111, FIL, Lisbon

2010 *Lonarte 2010*, Arte Social, Galeria dos Prazeres, Calheta, Madeira

Século XXI – Anos 10, CAMB, Anjos' Palace, Algés

Sala do Veado – Cabinet d'Amateur – 1990/2010, Sala do veado, National Museum of Natural History and Science, Lisbon

2009 *Em Bragança – Apontamentos de Arte Contemporânea*, Contemporary Art Center Graça Morais, Bragança

Diorama, Sala do Veado, Natural History National Museum, Lisbon
Arte Lisboa 09, Galeria 111, FIL, Lisbon

2008 *Prémio de Pintura e Escultura D Fernando II – X Edição*, Quinta Nova da Assunção, Belas

Exposição de Finalistas de Pintura 2006/2007, Beux-Arts National Society, Lisbon

Exposição de Finalistas de Desenho 2006/2007, Ministério das Finanças, Lisbon

Á Volta do Papel – 100 Artistas, CAMB, Anjos' Palace, Algés

Ato Único – Desenho, Bairro Alto, Lisbon

Arte Lisboa 08, Galeria 111, FIL, Lisboa

2007 *(Re)apresentações – exposição de solidariedade e venda*, Fábrica de Braço de Prata, Lisbon

Exposição de Finalistas de Gravura, Cultural Center of Santarém, Santarém



Depois do Dilúvio, Old Market de Ourique, Ourique

Collections

Contemporary Art Center Graça Morais, Bragança

Collection José Lima, São João da Madeira

Collection Manuel de Brito, Lisbon