



*Il pentito*, 2018, colored pencil on paper, 104 x 76 cm (detail)

**Pedro A.H. Paixão**

***Aurora | Desenhos e outros materiais***

Opening February 1 st, 2020 | 5 pm

From February 1st to March 21, 2020  
Tuesday to Saturday | 10 am -7pm

Galeria 111  
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« A fragment of a 100-year-old photograph placed on a shelf; the memory of another, larger, full-length portrait, now lost; a few lines from a certificate of baptism... These are all that remain of the memory of my great-grandmother Aurora Duarte de Castro, born at the end of the 19th century in Benguela-a-Velha to an unknown Angolan mother and a Portuguese father. She died young, the mother of four children. Her body is thought to lie in the cemetery of Novo Redondo, today known as Sumbe, the old Portuguese stronghold and capital of the province of Cuanza Sul in Angola.»

This show – an installation consisting of drawings and other materials, and a return by the artist to the now dying art of the portrait – heralds a new cycle in the work of Pedro A.H. Paixão, based on his recent studies of central Africa and political painting in Congolese popular culture. From a starting point of a series of family documents and the questions that arise from the silence that surrounds them, the artist presents some of the results of his studies of the complex story that led to the formation of the state of Angola. Through his drawings he concentrates on part of that long and difficult beginning, taking as his starting point the middle of the 19th century. This was a time in which the burgeoning Angolan middle class, though dreaming of political independence, was crushed by campaigns of defamation, free-trade strategies and military action by the Portuguese. These events, occurring as they did before the loss of Portuguese dominion over Brazil and the Orient, worsened the plundering of the country that was already taking place. A spiritual plunder was already occurring, instituted by the development of the Atlantic slave trade and by the various Christian missions that were active in Angola.

The dream-like dimension of the work presented in this installation, suggestive of American film noir or the secret world of the Sicilian *cosa nostra*, alludes to the overwhelming intensity that dominated that long-delayed - and now dormant - beginning.

**PEDRO A. H. PAIXÃO**

Lobito, 1971. Lives and works between Lisbon and Milan.

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Pedro A. H. Paixão studied Painting and Drawing at Ar.Co, Lisbon, Portugal.

Holds a MA in Fine Arts from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, U.S.A., and a PhD in Philosophy from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of University of Porto, Portugal - *cum laude* distinctions.

He is a member of the Institute of Philosophy of the University of Porto, Portugal.

Scholarship holder of: Luso-Americana Foundation, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, in Lisboa, and Solomon R. Guggenheim (N.Y.), in Venice.

He taught Aesthetics at the Università IULM and was a *visiting professor in research* at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy.

### **Solo Exhibitions (and in partnership)**

- 2020** *Aurora | Desenhos e outros materiais*, Galeria 111, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2019** *Paulus* (with François Bucher), cur. Paulo Pires do Vale, CAV – Centro de Artes Visuais, Coimbra, Portugal
- Sonhos e Raciocínios - 500 anos depois de Leonardo da Vinci*, Faculdade de Artes da Universidade do Porto, Oporto, Portugal
- 2018** *Floating world, works 1996-2018*, Centro Internacional de Artes José de Guimarães - CIAIG, Guimarães, Portugal
- Tabou*, Galeria Irène Laub, Brussels, Belgium
- 2016** *A cor de um eclipse* (with Catarina Dias), AR Sólido Project, Lisbon, Portugal
- Sic Transit Gloria Mundi*, Museu do Dinheiro, Lisbon, Portugal
- Fogo Posto*, Carmona e Costa Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2015** *Do fundo*, Galeria 111, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2012** *Studies in Red*, Galeria 111, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2011** *The human dimension of the sky* (with Paulo Brighenti), 102-100 Galeria de Arte, Castelo Branco, Portugal
- 2009** *A Festa* (com Rui Moreira), Fundação Carmona e Costa, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2007** *Desenho no Desenho de Bruegel*, Carlos Carvalho Arte Contemporânea, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2005** *Bouzean* (with Rui Moreira), Faro Capital da Cultura, Fabrica da Cerveja, Faro, Portugal
- 2004** *Slow Motion: Pedro Paixão*, Escola Superior de Arte e Design Caldas da Rainha - ESAD, Caldas da Rainha, Portugal
- 2003** *Ar*, Centro Cultural de Belém - CCB, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2000** *Flieg!*, Centro de Arte Moderna José de Azevedo Perdigão – CAM, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal

### **Group Exhibitions**

- 2019** *Sonhos e Raciocínios – 500 anos depois de Leonardo da Vinci*, FBAUP, Oporto
- Achrome*, Irène Laub Gallery, Brussels Belgium
- 2018** *Politics of Discontent*, curated by Jonathan Sullam, Irène Laub Gallery, Brussels Belgium
- Frente .verso. inverso - Arte contemporânea de língua portuguesa nas coleções* em Portugal, UCCLA, Lisbon, Portugal
- 1ª edição Prémio Navigator Arte em Papel, Chiado 8, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2017** *Now it is Light*, curated by Sofia Lemos, Galeria da Boavista – EGEAC, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2016** *GENTE – De Amadeo de Souza-Cardoso a Pedro A.H. Paixão, Cem Anos de Representação Humana* curated by Arlete Alves da Silva, Centro de Arte Manuel de Brito, Algés, Portugal



- Índios da Meia-Praia*, curated by Nuno Faria, Galeria 111, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2015** *Oracular Spectacular: Desenho e Animismo*, Centro Internacional de Artes José de Guimarães – CIAJG, Guimarães, Portugal
- 2014** *Rituais com Máscaras: um face a face*, Centro Internacional de Artes José de Guimarães – CIAJG, Guimarães, Portugal
- 2013** *Lições de Escuridão*, Centro Internacional de Artes José de Guimarães – CIAJG, Guimarães, Portugal
- 2012** *Para Além da História*, Centro Internacional de Artes José de Guimarães – CIAJG, Guimarães, Portugal
- 2007** *50 Anos de Arte Portuguesa*, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal  
*25 frames por segundo*, Vídeos da Coleção PLMJ, PLMJ Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2003** *Guardi. A Arte da Memória*, Centro Cultural de Belém - CCB, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2000** *Mnemosyne*, Encontros de Fotografia de Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal
- 1999** *A indisciplina do Desenho*, Ministério da Cultura - Instituto de Arte Contemporânea: Fundação Cupertino de Miranda, Vila Nova de Famalicão; Museu José Malhoa, Caldas da Rainha; Museu de Aveiro, Aveiro, Portugal
- 1997** *Rijeka Bienal of Arts*, Rijeka, Croacia
- 1996** *Sete Artistas ao Décimo Mês*, Centro de Arte Moderna José de Azevedo Perdigoão – CAM, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal

#### Art Fairs

- 2018** Drawing Room, Lisbon, Portugal  
Drawing Room, Madrid, Spain
- 2016** Drawing Now, Paris, France
- 2012** ARCO, Madrid, Spain
- 2011** ARCO, Madrid, Spain

#### Awards

- 2018** Winner - *Navigator Arte em Papel Award*, Navigator Company and Expresso
- 1999** John Quincy Adams Award, School of the Art Institute, Chicago, U.S.A.

#### Public Collections

Manuel de Brito Collection, Portugal | PLMJ Collection, Portugal | Contemporary Art Centre of Málaga Collection, Spain | Benetton Foundation, Italy | Carmona e Costa Foundation, Portugal | MAH Collection, Portugal | Figueiredo Ribeiro Collection, Portugal

#### Projects

Founder and director of the editorial project *Disciplina Sem Nome*, for the editor Assírio & Alvim(2005-2014)/ Documenta (2015-), with the support of Calouste Gulbenkian and Carmona e Costa Foundations, Lisbon, Portugal.

He was *Guest Editor* of the number 130 *On the addressee* of the New York magazine *New Observations*. This number was presented at the *New York Art Book Fair 2014*, at PS1/ MoMA, New York, U.S.A.