

For the seventh edition of the ongoing exhibition programme dedicated to Nature, Abreu Advogados, in partnership with Carpe Diem Arte e Pesquisa, presents a series of works by the artist António Faria.

António Faria

António Faria's works alert us to a reality that is both abstract and figurative. In a certain sense, the artist's entire gesture, which boils down to the contemplative and solitary thought-work of the brushstroke on the paper, clearly can have an abstract (non-figurative) dimension of intense and detailed movements. On the other hand, it is also clear that these are representations of woods and leafy forests that the artist imagines, thus constructing a whole classical aesthetics in the techniques of representation, which is also revealed in the existence of a foreground and background. However, the entrance of the painting or even, in some cases, the intensity of this "vegetation", denies the clues for this very access, as happens in the work of the artist Henry Michaux (1899-1984), whose works may represent anything, a person, a branch, a tree, but also just a gesture or the author's writing.

António Faria constructs each drawing as if it were a book, with its own language and gestures, but also alerting us to an increasingly sensitive subject in the contemporary world. Where have our forests gone? Are red, are yellow or dark and gloomy in some cases? Where are their inhabitants? Extinct for the most part.

As he was born and lived in Sintra and has always enjoyed drawing trees, - "everything I wanted to communicate emotionally is in nature" - Faria invites us to reflect and contemplate, within the scope of this exhibition, in this building and in this programme, about the spirit of our times and the logics applied in the preservation of nature. Ten thousand years ago, in the Ice Age, where we are physically today, there were forests with grandiose trees, abundant water lands and mammoths, aurochs, bears, sabre-toothed tigers and countless species already extinct. The level of the seas themselves would be different. All this no longer exists and our contribution to environmental changes is undeniable. I imagine that every observer will not remain indifferent to this tribute that António Faria leaves to the nature of trees.