

For the fifth 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 Fábio Colaço.

## **Fábio Colaço**

Money Miracles is a response to Carpe Diem's invitation to conceive an exhibition of my latest works. My artistic practice uses various medium such as video, installation, sculpture or performance to investigate the mechanisms of production of truth present in the current social, economic and political reality.

The group of works gathered in this exhibition point us to a reflection on the changing perception and value of money, as well as the unprecedented power it has exerted in the human imagination from Antiquity to Contemporaneity. Since the appearance of the first coins in ancient Lydia (present-day Turkey) in the 7th century BC, the development of money paper in China in 7 AD, the establishment of banks during the Renaissance and, more recently, the beginning of electronic money, the concept of money has changed over time. Money is losing its physicality and becoming even more abstract and immaterial, mainly from the creation of cryptocurrency: a digital currency, which is the cryptographic technique for regular exercises for the creation of currency units and the transfer of funds, reduced operating of a central bank. Capitalism itself diversified industrial production into the production of services, intangible forms and complex financial products. Terms such as 'Cognitive Capitalism' and 'Bio-Capitalism' have come to mean the accumulation of wealth through the exploration of knowledge as well as the human body and its faculties. At the same time, although Industrial Capitalism and Tangible Production have not eclipsed but are increasingly "disappearing", Financial Capitalism - the production of money through money - has acquired a dominant position in the Global Economy. Money is being made from nothing. Everything that was once solid now melts into the air. Successive financial deregulation (to facilitate private enterprise) allowed the power of money to grow with its quantity. Paradoxically, although money has become much less 'tactile', its power has grown exponentially to the detriment of other values. While some speak of the "tyranny of money," money is a language everyone understands and something most people want. "Protect me from what I want" is a sentence by the American artist Jenny Holzer with an ambiguous meaning if we think about our relationship with money.

As Byung Chul-Han would say, "we live in the age of psychopolitics" embraced by the new power techniques of Capitalism that influence psychic life, making it its main force of production. Contemporary monetary systems adapted to a neo-liberal capitalist system are today a repository of gaps and loopholes.

**Fábio Colaço**