

For the thirteenth edition of the ongoing program of exhibitions dedicated to nature, Abreu Advogados in partnership with Carpe Diem Arte e Pesquisa, presents a series of works by the Brazilian photographer, Pedro Lobo.

Pedro Lobo

The ecological concerns that arose from the sixties to our present days are expressed in several cultural, social and artistic movements. Most of them believe in the transformational and benevolent power of getting back in touch with the land, of renewing a multidimensional relationship with the natural surroundings of our existence, the outdoor vast open spaces.

Beyond the increasingly dramatic information related to the current ecological crisis, we see various aesthetic and artistic commitments to reawaken a certain awe and sacredness, to cultivate a sense of wonder as well as the capacity to deeply connect to the whole living forces through imagination, emotion and empathy.

With this photographic series of natural landscapes and elements, captured in several locations among which Brazil, Portugal, France and England, Pedro Lobo expresses a mindful interaction with the land, its spontaneous manifestations and phenomena, movements and light modulations. Through his eyes and lens, trees, branches and leaves, water and earth surfaces become sites for meditation, introspectiveness and self-knowledge. As such they appear as a potential compass for subjective visions, inscriptions and framings.

As autonomous subjects, vulnerable and poetic icons, trees and landscapes have been a part of Lobo's artistic production since the beginnings of his trajectory with photography in the 1970's. The hunting for traces, imprints and marks left by humans appear to be an horizontal strand permeating all of his visual work and the diversity of his series, whether shot in rural or urbanised spaces, either serene or uneasy, wide or tight. Setting his images as traps to capture and engage the viewers, Lobo subtly addresses complex topics through the sense of silence and sober beauty he chooses to focus on as a visual strategy. Thus, the artist indirectly evokes issues of environmental degradation, drought or deforestation, but without exploiting the graphic and depressing dimensions of such realities.

In this specific selection of images performed for Abreu, Lobo tends towards a more abstract, enigmatic and oneiric visual language, giving the landscapes a captivating dimension. With their dreamlike quality and their interplay of light, textures and colours, duplication and symmetry, juxtaposition and multiplication, or their blurring and weaving effects, the images convey a strong sense of presence and rhythm that contributes, in their imaginative way, to "mapping us back into the world".

Katherine Sirois
Lisboa, 2023

Bio

Pedro Lobo, Brazilian photographer, studied at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, USA and at the International Center of Photography, NYC, USA, with a Fulbright Scholarship and is primarily dedicated to projects that combine personal expression and social content. Lives and works in Borba, Portugal.

Some projects:

"TerraTempo" - V Prêmio Marc Ferrez de Fotografia, FUNARTE, RJ, 1993,

"O Alcance das Medidas" exposição individual no Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, RJ 1995,

"Memórias Escondidas – Budapeste", 1998

"Arquitetura Popular no Rio de Janeiro" – Bolsa Vitae de Fotografia 2002/3

"Morro Labirinto" coletiva com artistas brasileiros e alemães no Paço Imperial e no ICBRA/Berlin, 2002

"Favelas: estratégias de sobrevivência" com Severino Silva – Festival de Aarhus, Dinamarca, 2002 e no FotoRio 2003

"São Paulo 450 anos", 2004

"Serra/Cerrado", coletiva no Espaço Contemporâneo do Museu Imperial, Petrópolis, RJ, 2004

"Espaços Prisioneiros - Carandiru", Blue Sky Gallery em Portland, OR, EUA, 2005 e no Centro Colombo Americano de Medellín, Colômbia, 2006

"Arquitetura de Sobrevivência", 1º Prêmio no TOPS IN Photo Festival, Shenyang, China, junho 2008

"Favelas: Arquitetura de Sobrevivência", Museu Municipal de Estremoz Professor Joaquim Vermelho, Estremoz, Portugal, 2009

"Architecture of Survival", City Gallery at Waterfront/Halsey Institute of Contemporary Arts, Charleston, SC, EUA, 2010

"In Nomine Fidei", Hellerau Center for Contemporary Arts, Dresden, Alemanha, 2011

"Espaços Aprisionados", curadoria Miguel Rio Branco, Galeria 1500 Babilonia, Rio de Janeiro, 2015

"Projeto Brasil - Architektur des Überlebens/Rio is a Hot City", com Severino Silva, curadoria Dieter Jaenicke e Pedro Lobo, Hellerau Center for Contemporary Arts, Dresden, Alemanha, 2016

"NOT YET", livro organizado por Rosely Nakagawa e Gabriel Zellmeister, publicado por Sistema Solar/PT e Editora Tempo d'Imagem/BR, 2020

"Ainda Não", exposição com curadoria de Jorge Cid, A Pequena Galeria, Lisboa, PT, 4 de maio a 25 junho 2022 – indicada para a Deustche Borse of Photography.

"Not Yet - um livro doloroso", exposição com curadoria de Rui Prata, Imago Lisboa Photo Festival 2022, Sociedade Nacional de Belas Artes, Lisboa, PT, 9 setembro a 8 outubro 2022

"Istmo", livro organizado por Rosely Nakagawa, publicado por Sistema Solar/PT, com apoio de A Pequena Galeria (Lisboa), 20

¹ Cf. David Abram, *The Spell of the Sensuous: Perception and Language in a More-Than-Human World*, New York: Vintage, 1996.

¹ No ensaio: *A Sedimentation of the Mind: Earth Projects*, Robert Smithson explora a ideia entre a abstração na geologia e a ligação entre a mente humana e a terra. *Artforum*, New York, Setembro 1968.

¹ Term utilizado por Gary Snyder, autor de *Practice of the Wild* (1990), *Mountains and Rivers without End* (1996)