

For the nineteenth edition of the ongoing exhibition dedicated to nature, Abreu Advogados, in partnership with Carpe Diem Arte e Pesquisa, presents a series of works by the artist Maria Luz and a collection of paintings created by high school students at Colégio de São Tomás.

“Day”

“Day” brings together works by Maria Luz alongside a selection of paintings created by students from the Visual Arts programme at Colégio de São Tomás.

The exhibition stems from an invitation extended to the artist and from a year-long project developed around painting as a way of observing, understanding, and interpreting the world. Rather than simply bringing together two distinct bodies of work, it creates a space where learning and artistic practice meet through a shared attitude: attentiveness to everyday life.

In Maria Luz's work, light, objects, plants, interiors, and the simplest gestures become the subject of painting. Her work reminds us that beauty does not always lie in the extraordinary, but in the way we choose to look. The strength of her images emerges through patience, observation, and an ability to reveal what so often remains unnoticed in the rhythm of daily life.

It is this same openness to looking that has guided the students throughout the project. Over the course of the year, painting became more than a technical exercise; it became a practice of attention, in which each image grows out of observation, choice, and the time devoted to seeing. At a moment when images are produced and consumed at an ever-increasing pace, painting remains an act of presence: a way of slowing down, of understanding light, colour, and material, and of discovering relationships that might otherwise go unnoticed.

The works presented here do not seek to establish similarities between the artist and the students, but rather to reveal a shared ground. Each painting offers a singular response to the challenge of paying attention to the world, affirming that vision can be cultivated and that painting remains a way of knowing, discovering, and relating to our surroundings.

Day celebrates this very act of attention: the moment when looking becomes more than simply seeing, transforming the way we inhabit everyday life.

Maria Luz (Lisbon, 1999) is a visual artist. She holds a BA in Painting from the Faculty of Fine Arts of the University of Lisbon and also studied Industrial Design at ESAD.CR. Her practice is primarily centred on painting and analogue photography, exploring everyday observation, light, and the memory of places.

She has exhibited regularly since 2017 and, in 2022, was awarded the Arte Jovem Prize by Millennium bcp and Carpe Diem Arte e Pesquisa. In 2026, she received a grant from the Luso-American Development Foundation (FLAD) to undertake an artist residency in the United States, completing a residency in New York later that year. Also in 2026, she is participating in the 24th International Art Biennial of Cerveira.

Eduardo Guerra