

13 April to 31 May 2019

Galeria Miguel Nabinho
Rua Tenente Ferreira Durão 18-B
Lisbon, Portugal
www.miguelnabinho.com

HORA CERTA/right time

Nuno Cera

***Hora Certa* marks the observation of a lapsed present, bearing a state of suspension and expectation of a blurred future: the exhibition presents a series of recent photographs taken in Covilhã, Hong Kong, Macao, Mafra, Montreal, Torres Vedras, the islands of Madeira and the Azores, accompanied by a series of *ready mades*.**

We must continue to think of photography as desire, as a dialectical image, and perhaps as a utopia. - Luigi Ghirri, *Thinking of a Necessary Image* (1987)

Our only subject of study is time. - Alain Resnais (1968)

The idea for this exhibition derives from an experience over a recent artist residency in Macao, organized by the local cultural organization *BABEL*, and the artist's return to that region after 20 years, a time when he was investigating urban transformations following the transfer of the sovereignty of Macao. HORA CERTA is a return to a way of thinking and practicing photography from that time: exploring urban landscapes, architectures, infrastructures, passages, and capturing moments found in everyday disruptions, between affluence and debris.

His concern is with the validity of the present when submitting it to the scrutiny of his own, contemporary gaze. The photographs nourish a state of suspension and expectation. HORA CERTA provokes contradictions, and corresponds to the artist's reflection on time, places and their transformations. The presented visual perceptions are derived from the various observations of both the private and the public sphere, or of the specific and the general.

Partly organized in diptychs and triptychs, the sixteen photographs present such observations ranging from an abandoned industrial ruin in Torres Vedras to a five star casino restaurant in Macao, or from a burned structure on the island of Madeira to an image of a mobile phone in Montreal, from a street view in Hong Kong to a pier on the Azores. The collection includes an isolated photograph of a towers owl, that seemingly observes the exhibition space, with the presence of the artist in his reflection in the animal's irises.

The exhibition juxtapositions a series of *ready mades*: six public street lamps that Cera has found in a small village the district of Viseu, Alcaface. To him they represent an – almost photographic – memory of the disastrous wildfires of the summer of 2018, and reveal the violence of the event. In conjunction with the photographs, a suspended and melted present is exposed.

Nuno Cera

*1972 in Beja, Portugal

Nuno Cera is a photographer and video artist, who addresses spatial conditions, architecture and urban situations through fictional, poetic and documentary forms.

He was awarded the João Hogan Scholarship in 2001 by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation for resident artists at the Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin. In 2003, together with the architect Diogo Seixas Lopes, he published *Cimêncio*, a work about the suburban landscape. In 2004 he was shortlisted for the first edition of the *Besphoto – Photo Award*. In 2006 he was artist in residence at the ISCP - International Studios and Curatorial Program, NYC, USA. In 2007 and 2008 he received grants from the DGARTES – Ministry of Culture, Portugal, for his video project *Sans, Souci*, and for his artistic investigation on 9 mega cities *Futureland*. For his project *The Symphony of the Unknown* he received grants by the Fundación Botin Grant (2012) and by the International Artist Residency Récollets in Paris (2013).

As the invited artist by A+A he realised the photographic projects of the architectural guides *Álvaro Siza, 2017, Eduardo Souto de Moura, 2018 and João Luís Carrilho da Graça, 2019*. He was invited artist of the official Portuguese representation *Public without rhetoric* at the 16th Venice Architecture Biennale *Freespace*, in 2018.

His work is internationally exhibited, published, and represented in several public and private collections.

Upcoming and parallel exhibitions:

El Futuro ya ha Comenzado - Álvaro Siza Vieira, Manuel Marques de Aguiar and Nuno Cera, XIII Havana Biennial, 12 April to 30 September 2019; *The Blur City / A Cidade Desfocada*, Fundação Oriente, Macao, 27 April to 26 May 2019.

nunocera.com