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Mafalda Santos
Como faremos para desaparecer

11.05.2024 - 14.09.2024





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Mafalda Santos (Porto, 1980) has a bachelor's degree in Painting from the Faculty of Fine Arts of the University of Porto (2004). Between 2000 and 2007 she was the co-director and organizer of PÊSSEGOpráSEMANA, an independent exhibition space in Porto, dedicated to visual arts, performance, video and musical projects.

In 2007/2008, she won a scholarship by Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation for an Artistic Residency at Location One (New York). She was one of the nominees for EDP Young Artists Award in 2007 and in 2005, selected for the exhibition "7 artistas ao 10º mês", at Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

The artist has been exhibiting since 2001 in several institutions, and her work is represented in several public and private collections, from Portugal and abroad, such as António Cachola (MACE); Fundação EDP; Ilídio Pinho; RAR; Fundação PLMJ; Câmara Municipal de Lisboa; Câmara Municipal do Porto; CACE; Coleção Norlinda and José Lima; and INCM.





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Mafalda Santos uses printed paper as raw material for drawing. The artist explores the expanded possibilities and readings this material can evoke the sound it may suggest and the figuratively coming from abstract shapes.

Central to the artist's practice is the concept of repurposing, taking an object—such as a book—that has lost its original tactile and functional qualities and imbuing it with new life. By using printed paper as her canvas, she breathes new narratives and forms into these discarded objects, creating a symbiotic relationship between the past and the present. This process becomes a meditation on memory, inviting viewers to reconsider the significance of archives and the performative nature of art-making.



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In her latest series, Santos expands her creative repertoire by incorporating cement and color pigments into her practice. Through this experimentation, she continues to explore themes of memory, archive, within the context of painting and shifting landscapes. By introducing new materials into her work, Santos initiates a dialogue between different artistic mediums, blurring the boundaries between drawing, painting, and sculpture.





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