

## CAROLINE PAGÈS GALLERY // PRESS RELEASE



Miguel Branco, Untitled, 2008, bronze, 31 x 45,5 x 15,5 cm, edition of 4

### **Rodolfo Bispo, Miguel Branco, Manuel Ocampo, Jean-Xavier Renaud**

#### *Entre Chien et Loup*

January 15 – March 7, 2009

**Opening reception on Thursday, January 15 at 10 pm**

**The artists will be present**

Guided tour by the artists on Saturday, January 17 at 5 pm

#### **Caroline Pagès Gallery**

Rua Tenente Ferreira Durão, 12 – 1º Dto.

[Campo de Ourique]

1350-315 Lisbon

Portugal

T [+351] 21 387 33 76

M [+351] 91 679 56 97

gallery@carolinepages.com

www.carolinepages.com

Opening hours: Monday through Saturday 3 - 8 pm and by appointment.

Based on a French expression applied literally to a particular time of the day when the fading light prevents the mind from clearly perceiving what the eye beholds – a dog or a wolf - , the theme of the exhibition revolves around the figurative ramifications of that literal meaning. The artists present works that are situated in that oscillation of the two stages in question, promoting the ambiguity between the tragic and the comic, while exploring current issues considered to be tense and serious but dealing with them in an ironic and humorous fashion. The reaction to the excesses of the modern world appears in this exhibition as a pretext for creation/creativity, providing the artists with an equally double-edged role, that of victims and, at the same time, communicator/informer.

**Rodolfo Bispo** has used his pictorial work as an essential vehicle for the perceptions of the surrounding reality; iconic and figurative, his works accumulate a number of uncomfortable everyday references and they proclaim, in themselves, the constant up-dating and accumulation of those same references. For its own survival (also before the artist himself), the finished work still incorporates new elements that course through the divergent and broad perspectives of observers, thus contributing to an infinite process of addition and renewal. Rodolfo Bispo (PT 1981) graduated in Painting from the Lisbon School of Fine Arts in 2005. Since then he has had two individual exhibitions at the Monumental Gallery in Lisbon and has taken part in numerous collective exhibitions in Portugal. Lately he took part in the collective exhibition *Alternativa Um* at the independent space Hospital Júlio de Matos in Lisbon. His work is included in the PLMJ Foundation collection in Lisbon.

What **Miguel Branco** proposes is a parallel vision of the world as we know it. In the field of painting as much as sculpture, the apparently detached beings and creatures are connected presences in that conceptual dimension that establishes the transition between universes. It is in the phantasmagoria and the hybrid that we find the metamorphosis of experiences and the focus of the subjective interpretation of time(s).

Miguel Branco (PT 1963) studied Painting at the Lisbon School of Fine Arts and Ar.Co between 1982 and 1988. Since 1984, he has taken part in numerous exhibitions in international institutions, Museums and galleries. Lately he took part in the travelling exhibition *O Gabinete de Curiosidades de Domenico Vandelli* (Botanical Museums in Coimbra, PT and Rio de Janeiro), *Bichos* (curated by João Mourão) at the Bordalo Pinheiro Museum in Lisbon, *Portugal Agora* at the Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean in Luxemburg, and *Jardim Aberto* (curated by Filipa Oliveira) in the gardens of the Belém Palace in Lisbon. He is represented by the Paule Anglim Gallery in São Francisco, CA. His work is included in the Portuguese institutional collections of the Serralves Foundation, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, CGD, FLAD, Carmona e Costa Foundation, Ar.Co and that of the Funchal Contemporary Art Museum in Madeira. Abroad his work is part of the public collection of the Musée d'Art Moderne Grand-Duc Jean in Luxemburg.

The work of **Manuel Ocampo** has stressed reorganised moral, religious and political questions using contemporary iconography stirred by the symbolic process. We see in the painting, both on canvas and paper, the area of expression that supports its imagetic universe regarding present and past events, of themes like life and death, incorporating them into the hypothetical simulation of a future. Narrative in nature, his work captures and projects the gravity of the images and signs but, at the same time, they reveal satire-tinged internal dialogues.

Manuel Ocampo (PH 1965) studied in the Philippines and the USA. He has been showing his work in numerous international institutions, Museums and galleries since the late eighties. In 1992 his work was included in the Documenta IX. Currently, his work is part of *Não te Posso ver nem Pintado* at the Museu Coleção Berardo in Lisbon. Lately it was shown at La Maison Rouge in Paris (with that of Damien Deroubaix) as well as at the FRAC Ile-de-France/Le Plateau in Paris, FRAC Languedoc-Roussillon in Montpellier and at the Nosbaum & Reding Gallery in Luxemburg. In 2004 he took part in the first Contemporary Art Biennial of Sevilla (curator Harald Szeemann). Among other important public collections, his work is included in that of the Whitney MoAA in New York, MNCARS in Madrid, MEIAC in Badajoz, IVAM in Valencia, FNAC in Paris, and MAM Grand-Duc Jean in Luxemburg.

**Jean-Xavier Renaud** works on painting and drawing with the objective aggressiveness of current issues. He uses water colour, ballpoint pens, pencils, and crayon revealing the urgency of means for the urgency of creative and interventionist action. The dynamic of words and figures illustrates the intentional exaggeration of certain phenomena, where the link with double meanings is used with an abrasive irony, which, in fact, also coincides with the rudeness and humour that he often uses.

Jean-Xavier Renaud (FR 1977) graduated in 2001 from the Ecole Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs in Strasbourg. He currently holds an individual exhibition at the Kunst Museum in Bonn (Dorothea von Stetten Kunstpreis selection 2008). In 2005 he held his first individual institutional exhibition at the Modern and Contemporary Art Museum in Strasbourg. His recent individual exhibitions took place at the Daepfen Gallery in Basel, the Elaine Levy Gallery in Brussels and the Françoise Besson Gallery in Lyon. His work is included in the collections of the

Modern and Contemporary Museum in Strasburg, Simon de Pury in New York, Barbier-Müller in Geneva as well as other private collections in France, Switzerland, Italy, Germany and Belgium.

Rita Santos, December 2008  
Caroline Pagès Gallery

**For information and visuals please contact Caroline Pagès or Rita Santos at [+351] 21 387 33 76 or [+351] 91 679 56 97 or at [gallery@carolinepages.com](mailto:gallery@carolinepages.com)**