

CAROLINE PAGÈS GALLERY // PRESS RELEASE



Maria Condado, *A Selva*, 2009, Oil on canvas, 135 x 170 cm

Maria Condado

Jardim Botânico

September 16 – October 31, 2009

Opening reception on Wednesday, September 16 at 10 pm

Guided tour by the artist on Saturday, September 19 at 5 pm

Caroline Pagès Gallery

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

Maria Condado's second solo exhibition at the gallery is a collection of recent paintings that introduces us to other aspects of her work. Apart from the question of the physical size of the canvasses, which are visibly bigger, the deliberate enlargement of representational forms gains new dimensions, creating the challenge of scale that becomes a point of voluntary questioning in these works. Both in a metaphorical and concrete sense, *Jardim Botânico* is a place where diversity meets the desired space to build and be revealed, to become statements about paintings. These are portrayals of landscapes that reflect a personal and intimate search for the creative process, as well as expressing the discovery of the eminent

need for a break from a certain technical rigidity of perspective, thus transporting us to more two-dimensional images which facilitate other illusions.

Maria Condado's work has followed an approach based on artistic experimentation and research where the construction of scenarios (landscape and portraits) is governed by the symbiosis between nature and the artificial. It is in these terms that the atmospheres explored evolve towards the system of conjugation and coexistence between the absence of elements or their profusion. Thus, the proposal of a "pictorial limbo" is created between the importance of line/form and colour, without disregarding the organisation of content that a certain abstraction could eventually encourage.

The artist presents a combination between two pictorial phases which are differentiated from the previously exhibited paintings: on the one hand, there are landscapes with the appearance of characters identified as portraits; on the other, landscapes where the prominent aridity and ruin of times past were developed in the densest representation of nature, and whose ornamental and detailed character now lend it a state of rejuvenation and of an encounter (or re-encounter) with the present.

Maria Condado (Lisbon 1981) graduated in painting from the Lisbon School of Fine Arts in 2004. *Jardim Botânico* is her second individual exhibition at the Caroline Pagès Gallery. Among many other collective exhibitions (*Pavilhão de Portugal*, Hangar-7, Salzburg, Austria, 2009; *Vestígio*, Júlio de Matos Hospital, Lisbon, 2008; *Superfícies de Contacto*, São João da Madeira Art Centre, Portugal, 2008), she was shortlisted for the Anteciparte Prize in 2006 (Lisbon) and the Ariane de Rothschild Painting Prize in 2005 (Lisbon). Recently her work was exhibited at the Amadeo de Souza-Cardoso Museum in Amarante (Portugal) as part of the *Jeune Création Européenne*, a travelling Contemporary Art Biennial presented in France, Lithuania, Austria, Italy, Spain and Portugal. Her work has integrated the PLMJ Foundation Collection in Lisbon as well as many private collections in Portugal, France and Austria.

Rita Santos, July 2009
Caroline Pagès Gallery, Lisbon

For information and visuals, please contact Caroline Pagès or Rui Palmeiro at [+351] 21 387 33 76 or [+351] 91 679 56 97, or at galleria@carolinepages.com

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