

CAROLINE PAGÈS GALLERY // PRESS RELEASE



Isabel Ribeiro, *3 anos depois*, 2009, cast-iron (element from the installation)

Isabel Ribeiro / Israel Pimenta

Debaixo de Cinza

November 11 – December 19, 2009

Opening reception on Wednesday, November 11 at 10 pm

Walkabout with the artists at 10:30 pm

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

Debaixo de cinza (Under ash) is the title of the gallery's current exhibition, which includes the work of **Isabel Ribeiro** and **Israel Pimenta**, two artists who are represented in Porto. The exhibition includes a cast-iron sculpture and oil paintings, as well as charcoal drawings on paper and installation. The works are united by a common idea, which can be seen both in the materials used and the works' symbolic references. In the relationship between form and content, charcoal and ash, ash and preservation, the metaphorical intention is to show a residual present, which isn't however defined in a single moment. From the capture of interruptions, lacunae and information gaps, one expects the permeability of inquiries, observations and perspectives. The image isn't given, or free. On the contrary, it is handed over to a set of «frames» with a trail of impressions. "The particular sign of beauty here is thus a warlike unease, a unique mix of serenity and audacity; it's a beauty that comes from the need to be ready to die at any moment."¹

Isabel Ribeiro uses painting, sculpture and drawing to create tensions. By means of blurred, mutating, almost impressionistic images, or even by the creation of imaginary puzzles with social and literary points of reference which construct settings of subtle observation, the fragmentation of reality used for subjective ends influences the selection of ideas that do not disregard the presence of certain historical or experiential facts. The artist's work is constructed using removed, iconic figures which, in the artistic context, call for reflection about a common consciousness set before impediments to an anticipated finale. The imperfections and frustrations borne of privation are focused on, and the viewer is kept in a state of expectancy and progresses in the face of the foretold adversities.

Isabel Ribeiro (PT 1976) lives and works in Oporto. She graduated in Painting from the Oporto School of Fine Arts (FBAUP) in 2001. That same year, she had her first individual exhibition at the Valentim de Carvalho Gallery in Lisbon. Since then, her work has been shown in Portuguese Museums (Martins Sarmento, Guimarães, 2008), Foundations (Cupertino de Miranda, Vila Nova de Famalicão, 2000), Cultural Centres (Vila Flor, Guimarães, 2006; Pavilhão de Portugal, Coimbra, 2006; ZéDosBois, Lisbon, 2004), Galleries (António Henriques, Viseu, 2007), and many independent spaces (Avenida 211, Lisbon, 2009; Campanhã, Oporto, 2009; Plataforma Revolver, Lisbon, 2007; Pêssego prá Semana, Oporto, 2006; Apêndice, Oporto, 2006; In.Transit, Oporto, 2004; Salão Olímpico, Oporto, 2003, among others). Abroad, her work was selected for the travelling exhibition *New Talents in the European Art Scene, 2007-2009* as well as included in exhibitions at the Spike Island Art Centre in Bristol (2008), Kücsarnok Kunsthalle in Budapest (2008), and at the Santa Monica Art Centre in Barcelona (2005). Isabel Ribeiro is represented by the Reflexus Gallery in Oporto where she regularly exhibits. Her work is part of the public collections of the PLMJ Foundation in Lisbon, Ilídio Pinho Foundation in Oporto and the City Councils of Chaves and Pinhel.

Israel Pimenta has produced work using different media such as video, installations and drawings in which there is consistently a lack of predominant action. In its place, there is instead the feeling of anxiety set off by the objective removal of narrative which, in this way, projects our gaze at situations/moments with no definite conclusions. Rather, we are left with the possibilities of resolutions, and of the continuity that our own imaginations conjure. The viewer's expectancy is reflected in the deconstruction of the clichés inherent to linear thought. And the ambiguity of the image reveals a subversion of pre-established values in terms of reflection about the world, regarding the (inter)relations and the opposites emphasised within them.

Israel Pimenta (PT 1972) lives and works in Oporto. He graduated in Painting from the Oporto School of Fine Arts (FBAUP) in 1999. That year he started exhibiting his work in Portugal. In 2000 and 2001, he took part in a series of exhibitions called *Pontos de Contacto* which took place in Oporto as part of the European Capital of Culture celebrations. Since then, his work has been shown at the Casa das Artes in Vila Nova de Famalicão (2005) and at the Pavilhão de Portugal in Coimbra (2006) as well as in many independent spaces such as Avenida 211, Lisbon, 2009; Campanhã, Oporto, 2009; Salão Olímpico, Oporto, 2004 or Artemosferas, Oporto, 2002. Internationally, his work was selected for the travelling exhibition *New Talents in the European Art Scene, 2007-2009* and included in Video Festivals like the FIAV in Nîmes, France (2007) and Kaldarte in Caldas dos Reis, Spain (2005). Israel Pimenta is represented by the Reflexus Gallery in Oporto where he exhibits regularly. His work is part of the public collection of the PLMJ Foundation in Lisbon.

¹ Baudelaire, Charles de, *O pintor da vida moderna*, Lisboa, Vega, 2002, p. 38

Rita Santos, October 2009
Caroline Pagès Gallery

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 galler@carolinepages.com