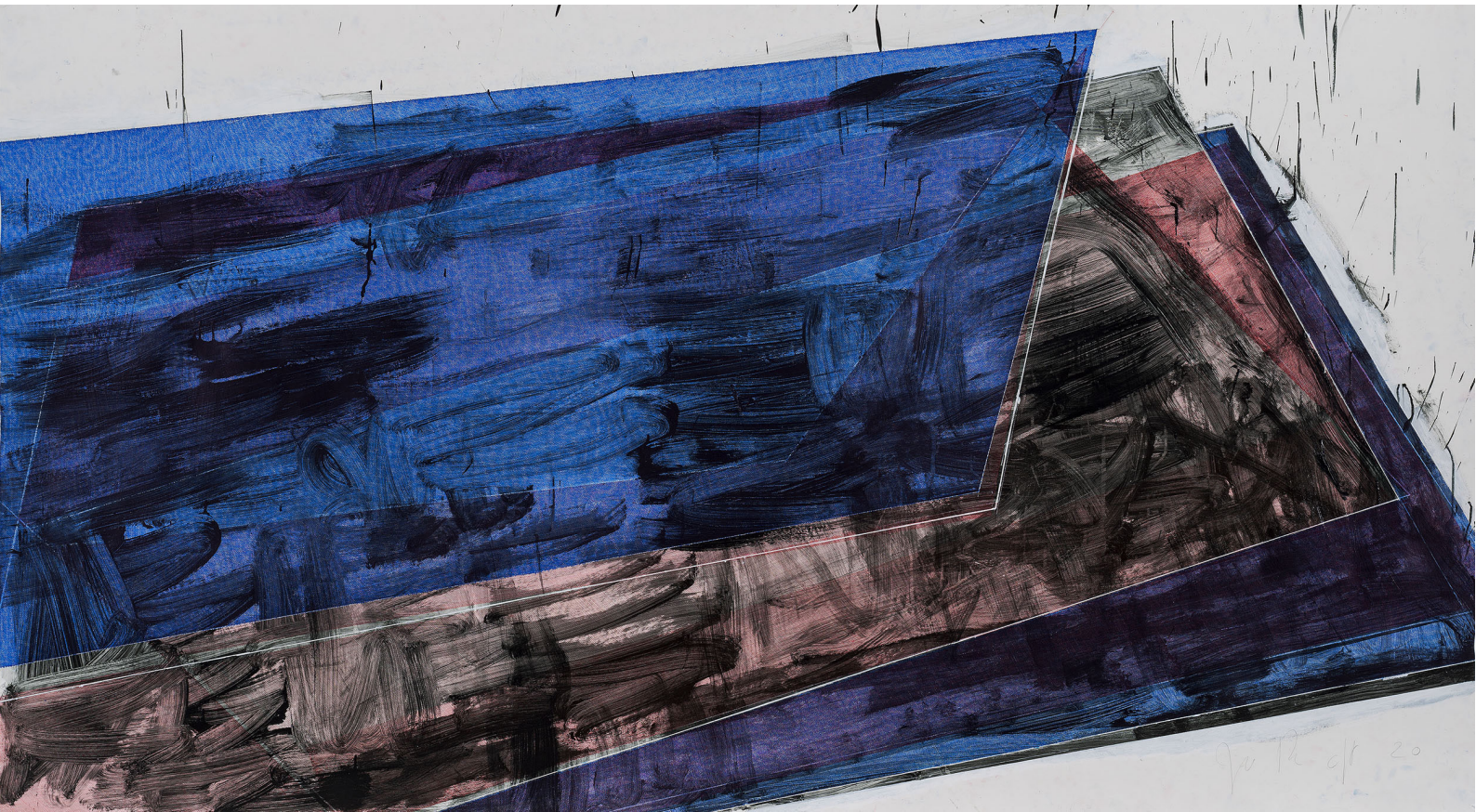


**tense release stretch**  
**JOSÉ PEDRO CROFT**

22.04.21 > 28.05.21



José Pedro Croft, *Untitled*, 2020, Gouache, acrylic paint, Indian ink and varnish on paper, 163 x 283 cm

## tense release stretch

### JOSÉ PEDRO CROFT

José Pedro Croft is a sculptor of space, a draughtsman fascinated by colors, by variations of the engraving process and by the performative gesture.

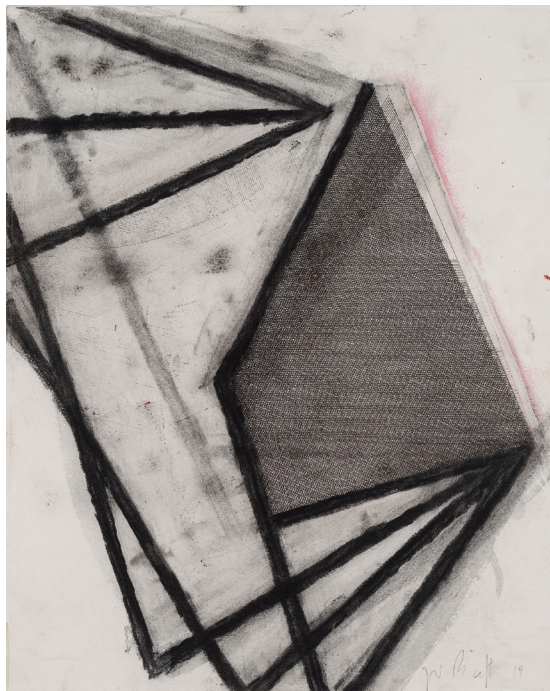
He opens spaces and plays with a three-dimensional perception almost without volume, visible both in his sculptures and in the flat surfaces of his works on paper. He weaves intertwined threads together, he duplicates grids, he shifts surfaces and superimposes them like panels. He creates tensions, suspends them, stretches them. Angles surge and dynamic boundaries arise. His compositions vibrate and unfold into space.

All of his works release a specific energy that results in a form of writing. The rhythm of his chiseled scores mixes with traces of fluid movements – those of inks and transparent colored varnishes, or even gouache, applied with a wide brush or a finer paintbrush. These translucent overlaid materials unify or densify the structure of the work. The artist's gesture is the source of another type of jubilation, which becomes even freer and more present in his latest works.

Moreover, these multiple layers working on different scales have the effect of opening up contrasting spaces, particularly in his large formats. Gaps and blank areas are just as present in his drawings as in his sculptures.

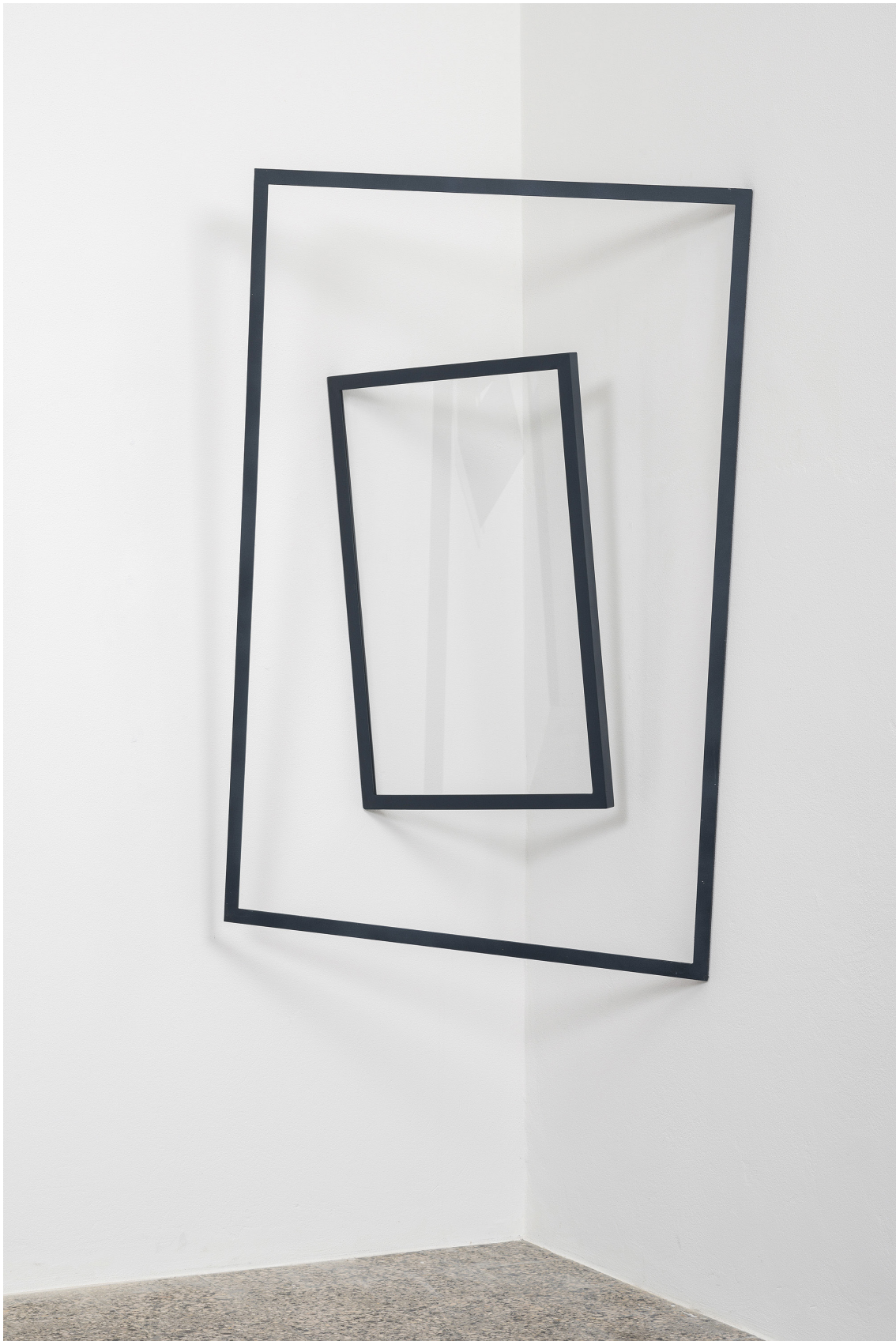
José Pedro Croft is particularly interested in the movements and displacements of the body, even the slightest ones. His work has a choreographic structure, in the spirit of Robert Morris and Simone Forti's performances on folds variations, of Robert Rauschenberg's and Merce Cunningham's plays on appearance and disappearance. Repeatedly in the studio, Croft also creates tensions, releases them, stretches them again, like sequences of meditative breathing.

- Gregory Lang



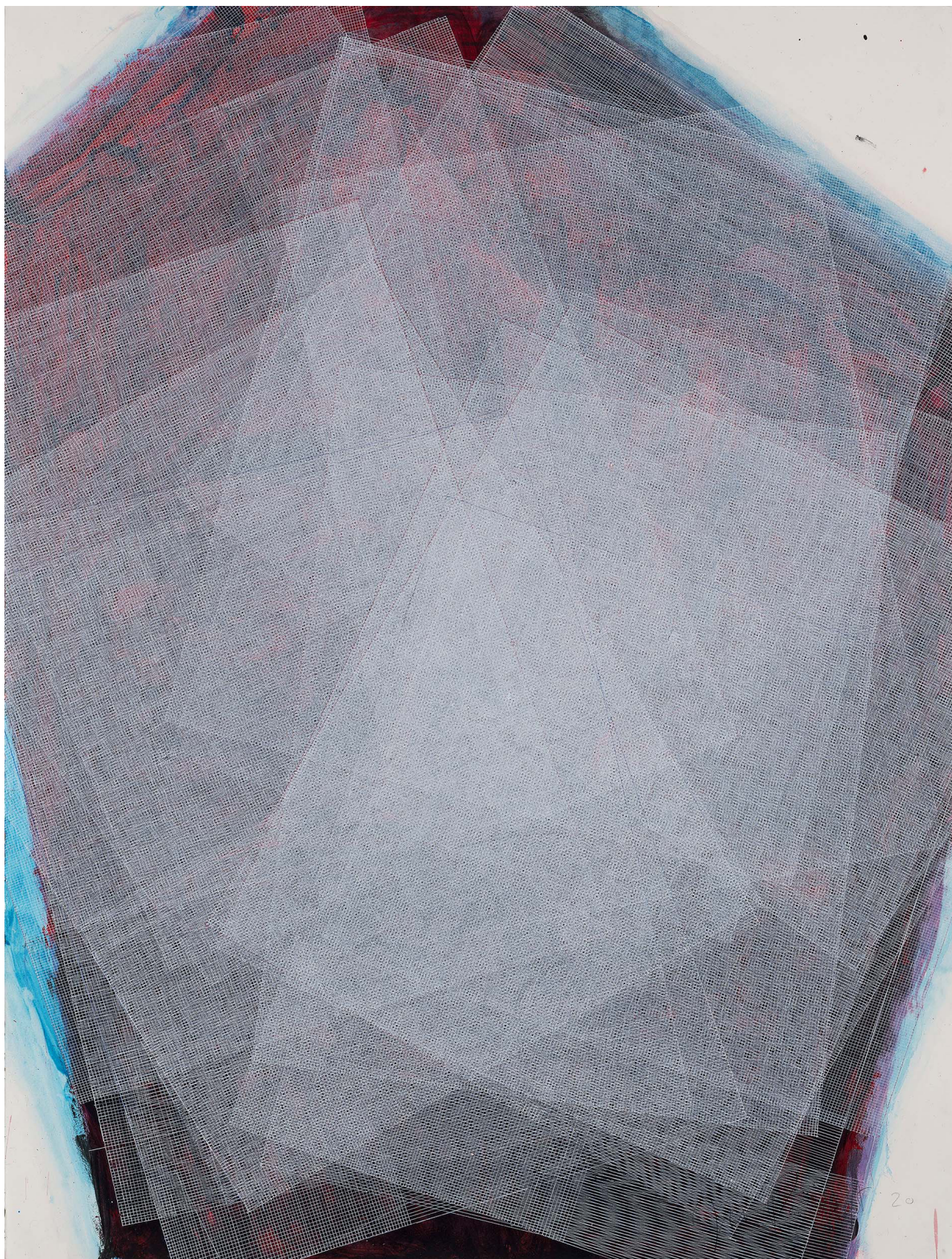
José Pedro Croft, *Untitled*, 2019, Gouache, acrylic paint, Indian ink and varnish on paper, 57 x 47 cm





José Pedro Croft, *Untitled*, 2019, Painted iron and glass, 160 x 97 x 76 cm





José Pedro Croft, *Untitled*, 2020, Gouache, acrylic paint, Indian ink and varnish on paper, 171 x 133 cm





Exhibition view of *Saudade, China e Portugal – Arte Contemporânea* at Museu Coleção Berardo, Lisbon (PT), 2018

Born in 1957 in Porto (PT)  
Lives and works in Lisbon (PT)

José Pedro Croft is one of the major figures of the renewal of Portuguese sculpture. His career, both as a sculptor and as a draughtsman, has been characterised from its earliest stages by a painstaking constructive process that combines a rigorous formal universe with a dynamic play on perception. His work always intertwines the visual, plastic and poetic dimensions of the objects he creates.

José Pedro Croft's sculptures develop complex relations with their surroundings and with their own shapes and volumes by means of simple, almost minimalist structures. His creations combine the material nature of the object with its formal aspect and, in some cases, the latter is strengthened by the use of industrial paint, suggesting sculpture perceived as painting in relief. Furthermore, the artist uses mirrors and glass to play with effects of light, shadow and reflections in order to create new volumes and an altered sense of space, eventually giving rise to a dialectical tension between fullness and emptiness that may also be found in his works on paper. José Pedro Croft's architectural compositions, whether three-dimensional or flattened on paper, are always built on delicately balanced shapes and on the dichotomy of positive and negative space which, for the Portuguese artist, "reflects the transitory nature of the universe".

While, in José Pedro Croft's own words, the interest of his practice "lies in its nuances and in the little differences, not in any attempt to pigeonhole it within a specific line of work", he quickly became a leading figure of the contemporary Portuguese art scene. He was chosen to represent Portugal on the occasion of the 57th Venice Biennale, in 2017, and his work can be found in the collections of Centre Georges Pompidou (FR), Albertina Museum (AT), Serralves Foundation (PT), Calouste Gulbenkian Museum (PT), Luso-American Foundation (PT), Secretary of State for Culture (PT), Berardo Museum (PT), Caixa Geral de Depósitos (PT), Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía (ES), Fundació La Caixa (ES), Banco de España (ES), Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro (BR) and Pinacoteca of the Sao Paulo state (BR) and others.



## SOLO SHOWS (SELECTED)

- 2020 *1 nova, 2 nem tanto*, Vera Cortês, Lisbon (PT)  
*Anozero – Bienal de Arte Contemporânea de Coimbra*, Convento de Santa Clara-a-Nova (PT)  
 Porta 14, Lisbon (PT)
- 2019 *Campo/contracampo*, cur. Rosa Yagüez and Círculo de Artes Plásticas de Coimbra, Fundación Cereales Antonino y Cinia, León (ES)  
*Uma Coisa /One Thing*, cur. Delfim Sardo, Galeria Municipal, Matosinhos (PT)  
 IANUAE, Proyecto Paralelo, Mexico (MX)
- 2018 *An impermanent body*, Raquel Arnaud Gallery, São Paulo (BR)  
*Espejo sobre espejo (Mirror upon mirror)*, La Caja Negra Gallery, Madrid (ES)
- 2017 *Medida Incerta*, Portuguese Representation at the 57th Venice Biennale, cur. João Pinharanda, Venice (IT)  
*José Pedro Croft, Coleção António Cachola*, cur. Del m Sardo, Espaço Chiado8, Lisbon (PT)  
*José Pedro Croft: from one side to the other. Sculptures, drawings and engravings from the Serralves Collection*, Museu Municipal de Faro, Faro (PT)
- 2015 *Em outro lugar*, mul.ti.plo Espaço de Arte, Rio de Janeiro (BR)  
*Fora de Sítio*, Paço Imperial, Rio de Janeiro (BR)  
*Instalação*, Capela do Morumbi, São Paulo (BR)
- 2014 *Objectos imediatos*, Fundação Carmona e Costa / Cordoaria Nacional, Lisbon (PT)  
*Manera negra*, La Caja Negra, Madrid (ES)
- 2013 *Ana Léon + José Pedro Croft*, Carpe Diem Arte e Pesquisa, Lisbon (PT)  
*Acotaciones al Vacío*, Proyecto Paralelo, Mexico City, (MX)  
*Tres puntos no alineados*, Palexco, La Coruña (ES)
- 2012 *Dois Desenhos*, Uma Escultura, Appleton Square, Lisbon (PT)
- 2011 *Marcações e territórios*, cur. Bruno Marchand, Chiado 8 – Arte Contemporânea, Lisbon (PT)
- 2010 *Untitled*, P28 Container project, Lisbon, (PT)  
*Public Sculpture for the Coruchéus Gardens*, Lisbon (PT)
- 2009 *Engraving exhibition*, Azores Arts Academy, Ponta Delgada, Azores, (PT)  
*São Paulo Pinacoteca*, Contemporary Art Museum of São Paulo, São Paulo (BR)
- 2008 *José Pedro Croft, Sculpture and Engraving*, cur. Ricardo Nicolau, Centre of Portugal Pavilion, Coimbra, (PT)  
*José Pedro Croft: Grabados 2006–2007*, La Caja Negra, Madrid (ES)

## JOSÉ PEDRO CROFT



José Pedro Croft, *Untitled*, 2020, Gouache, acrylic paint, Indian ink and varnish on paper, 47 x 57 cm

- 2007 *José Pedro Croft – Inner Landscape*, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon (PT)  
*São Paulo Pinacoteca*, Contemporary Art Museum of São Paulo (BR)
- 2006 *José Pedro Croft – Engraving*, CAM– Centro de Arte Moderna, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon (PT)  
 Museu de Arte Moderna Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro (BR)  
 Museu de Arte da Pampulha, Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais (BR)
- 2005 Museu de Arte Moderna Aloísio Magalhães – MAMAM, Recife, Pernambuco (BR)  
*José Pedro Croft / Engraving*, La Caja Negra, Madrid (ES)
- 2003 Centro Galego de Arte Contemporanea (CGAC), Santiago de Compostela (ES)
- 2002 *José Pedro Croft – Retrospectiva*, Centro Cultural de Belém, Lisbon (PT)  
*José Pedro Croft – Graphic Works*, La Caja Negra, Madrid (ES)  
*Untitled*, Outdoor Sculpture Park Frieze Art Fair, London (UK)
- 2000 *Drawing and Sculpture*, Palacete del Embarcadero, Santander (ES)
- 1999 *Desenho e Escultura*, Museu da Cidade, Lisbon (PT)  
*Desenho*, Instituto Português Camões, Paris (FR)



## GROUP SHOWS (SELECTED)

- 2021 *More than Space*, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Helga de Alvear, Cáceres (ES)
- 2020 *Público/Privado – Doce Calma ou Violência Doméstica?*, cur. Miguel Sousa Ribeiro, Centro de Artes de Sines (PT)  
*Mesa dos sonhos: Duas coleções de arte contemporânea*, cur. John Silvério, Forum Arte Braga (PT)
- 2019 *Deep deep down, far far in (and out)*, cur. Sérgio Fazenda Rodrigues, Fundação Leal Rios, Lisbon (PT)  
*Corpo, abstração e linguagem na arte portuguesa*, Forum Arte Braga (PT)  
*La pintura – un reto permanente*, Fundación Bancaria Caixa d'Estalvis i Pensions de Barcelona "la Caixa", Barcelona, (ES)
- 2018 *Slice and Dice*, cur. Gregory Lang, Irène Laub Gallery, Brussels (BE)  
*Line, Form and Colour – Works from the Berardo Collection*, Museu Coleção Berardo, Lisbon (PT)  
*Variations portugaises*, Abbaye St André Centre d'Art Contemporain, Meymac (FR)  
*ESCALA 1:1*, Tabacalera, Madrid, (ES)
- 2017 *Still Cabanon, on the context of Anozero'17*, Museu Municipal de Coimbra Edifício Chiado, Coimbra (PT)  
*The Sibyl's Gaze – Corporality and Transfiguration*, curated by João Silvério, Museu do Oriente, Lisbon (PT)  
*Portugal em Flagrante – Operação 1, 2 e 3*, Museu Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon (PT)
- 2016 *"... não apenas lugares de felicidade"*, Museu Nacional dos Coches, Lisbon (PT)  
*Releer la colección*, CGAC, Santiago de Compostela (ES)  
*As Casas na Coleção*, CAM – Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon (PT)  
*Linhas do Tempo*, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon (PT)  
*Ensaio Visuais*, CGAC, Santiago de Compostela (ES)  
*Fora de Ordem/Obras da Coleção Helga de Alvear*, Pinacoteca do Estado de São Paulo (BR)
- 2015 *...Y el tiempo se hizo*, Centro de Artes Visuales Fundación Helga de Alvear, Cáceres (ES)
- 2014 *Tão Alto quanto os olhos alcançam*, Fundação Eugénio de Almeida, Évora (PT)  
*Histórias: Obras da Coleção de Serralves*, Serralves Museum, Porto (PT)

- 2013 *Sentido em deriva: Obras da coleção da Caixa Geral de Depósitos*, Culturgest, Lisbon (PT)  
*Sobre Papel*, Centro de Artes Visuales Fundación Helga de Alvear, Cáceres (ES)  
*LandArt 2013*, Quinta do Pisão, Cascais (PT)
- 2012 *Traços, Pontos e Linhas\_ desenhos da coleção António Cachola*, MACE, Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Elvas (PT)  
*Arte Portuguesa do Século XX / 1960–2000*, MNAC – Museu do Chiado, Lisbon (PT)  
*Transitions. Honrar o Passado Seguir em Frente*, Casa-Museu Abel Salazar, S. Mamede de Infesta (PT)

## COLLECTIONS

Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (FR)  
European Central Bank, Frankfurt (DE)  
Sammlung Albertina, Viena (AT)  
Jorge Perez Collection, Miami (US)  
Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro (BR)  
Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid (ES)  
Banco Sabadell, Barcelona (ES)  
Centro Galego de Arte Contemporânea, Santiago de Compostela (ES)  
Museo de Cantabria (ES)  
Museo de Zamora, Zamora (ES)  
Colección Fundación Helga de Alvear, Cáceres (ES)  
Colección Bienal de Escultura "Ciudad de Pamplona", Pamplona (ES)  
Fundación Caixa Galicia, La Coruña (ES)  
Fundación Banco sabadell, Barcelona (ES)  
Fundación La Caixa, Barcelona (ES)  
Fundação de Serralves, Oporto (PT)  
Leal Rios Foundation, Lisbon (PT)  
Caixa Geral de Depósitos, Lisbon (PT)  
CAM–Centro de Arte Moderna, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon (PT)  
Coleção Figueiredo Ribeiro (PT)  
Fundação Luso-Americana para o Desenvolvimento, Lisbon (PT)  
Museu Arte Contemporânea de Elvas – Coleção António Cachola (PT)  
Museo Extremeño e Iberoamericano de Arte Contemporáneo, Badajoz (PT)  
Ministério da Cultura (PT)  
Sintra Museu de Arte Moderna (PT)  
Museu Coleção Berardo, Lisbon (PT)





José Pedro Croft, *Untitled*, 2020, Gouache, acrylic paint, Indian ink and varnish on paper, 171 x 133 cm



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