

# *Fire & Spirits*

PEDRO A.H PAIXÃO

OPENING 26.10.23  
27.10.23 > 23.12.23



Pedro A.H Paixão, *Alfredo*, 2023, Vermillion colored pencil on museum mounting board, 35,5 x 28 cm

# IRÈNE LAUB

The solo exhibition «Fire and Spirits» by artist Pedro A.H Paixao presents the beginning of his new series of vermilion monochromatic works.

His powerful drawings embody the paradox that seems to inhabit this series: that of the cohabitation of light and darkness. Indeed, the artist's drawings depict scenes and characters illuminated by the fire of mystery, whose origins seem to spring from both history and fable. What is history becomes fable. The fable itself becomes hypnotizing, and seems to hold certain keys to history. In this way, the protagonists of Paixao's works invite those who observe them to let themselves be caught by the fire, to feed on the light from which truth might emerge.

- Sorana Munsya, 2023



Pedro A.H. Paixão, *Playing With Fire*, 2023, Vermillion colored pencil on paper, 76 x 56 cm (detail)



Pedro A.H. Paixão, exhibition view of «Floating world / Works 1996 - 2018» at Centro Internacional das Artes José de Guimarães, Guimarães (PT), 2018

Born in 1971 in Lobito (Angola)  
Lives and works in Tuscany (IT)

Pedro A.H. Paixão works in a variety of media - sound, video, installation - but the core of his practice is based on several cycles of graphic works, beginning with a series of scarlet drawings produced between 2007 and 2017. From 2019, the Portuguese artist developed new monochrome series: graphite drawings and pencil drawings in turquoise blue, purple and vermilion. These works, dedicated to the (neo)colonial period in Central Africa, address complex histories of struggle, emancipation and the possibility of reparations. Political history is presented in a suspended atmosphere that evokes dreams, animist magic and initiatory journeys. Creating an incantatory space, Pedro A.H. Paixão's drawings offer a visual as well as an emotional experience that allows us to think and feel differently about their subject: not as a trial of history and morality, but with a distance that helps us to overcome taboos, prejudice and misunderstanding.

Pedro A.H. Paixão was born in Lobito, Angola, where he lived until the outbreak of civil war in 1975. He studied Fine Arts at Ar.Co in Lisbon and at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He holds a Doctorate in Philosophy from the Faculty of Letters of the University of Porto. He was awarded grants from the Luso-American Foundation, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the Foundation for Science and Technology in Lisbon and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation in Venice. He won the international Navigator Art on Paper prize in 2018, and the first major comprehensive exhibition of his work was held at CIAJG, in Guimarães (PT) that same year.

### SHOWS (SELECTED)

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- 2022 *Le pas suspendu*, Irène Laub Gallery, Brussels (BE)  
*EUROPA, Oxalá*, Museu Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon (PT) / Africa Museum, Tervuren (BE)
- 2021 *O Outro como epifania do belo*, Igreja de São Roque, Largo Trindade Coelho, Lisbon (PT)  
*EUROPA, Oxalá*, Mucem, Marseille (FR)
- 2020 *Aurora | Desenhos e outros materiais*, Galeria 111, Lisbon (PT)
- 2019 *Paulus*, CAV - Centro de Artes Visuais, Coimbra (PT)  
*Sonhos e Raciocínios - 500 anos depois de Leonardo da Vinci*, FBAUP (PT)  
*Achrome*, Irène Laub Gallery, Brussels (BE)
- 2018 *Floating world, works 1996 -2018*, cur. Nuno Faria, Centro Internacional das Artes José de Guimarães, Guimarães (PT)  
*Navigator Art on Paper Prize*, Chiado 8, Lisbon (PT)  
*Tabou*, cur. Sofia Lemos, Irène Laub Gallery, Brussels (BE)
- 2017 *Fogo posto|Arson*, Carmona e Costa Foundation, Lisbon (PT)  
*Now it is Light*, cur. Sofia Lemos, Galeria da Boavista - EGEAC, Lisbon (PT)
- 2016 *Sic transit gloria mundi*, Money Museum - Banco de Portugal, Lisbon (PT)  
*GENTE - De Amadeo de Souza-Cardoso a Pedro A.H. Paixão, Cem Anos de Representação Humana*, Centro de Arte Manuel de Brito, Algés (PT)
- 2015 *Oracular Spectacular: Drawing and Animism*, Centro Internacional de Artes, Guimarães (PT)
- 2014 *Rituals with Masks: a face to face*, Centro Internacional de Artes, Guimarães (PT)
- 2013 *Lessons of Darkness*, Centro Internacional de Artes, Guimarães (PT)
- 2012 *Beyond History*, Centro Internacional de Artes José de Guimarães, Guimarães (PT)
- 2011 *The human dimension of the sky, with Paulo Brighenti*, 102-100 Galeria de Arte, Castelo Branco (PT)
- 2009 *A Festa, with Rui Moreira*, Carmona e Costa Foundation, Lisbon (PT)
- 2007 *50 Years of Portuguese Art*, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (FCG), Lisbon (PT)
- 2006 *Bouzean*, Faro Capital da Cultura, Fabrica da Cerveja, Faro (PT)
- 2004 *Slow Motion: Pedro Paixão*, Escola Superior de Arte e Design Caldas da Rainha (PT)
- 2003 *\*Ar-*, Centro Cultural de Belém (CCB), Lisbon (PT)  
*The Art of Memory*, Centro Cultural de Belém, Lisbon (PT)



Pedro A.H. Paixão, *The Hurricane*, 2017, Graphite on paper, 29,7 x 21 cm

### PRIZES

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- 2018 Navigator Art on Paper (PT)
- 1999 John Quincy Adams Award, School of the Art Institute, Chicago (US)

### COLLECTIONS

Benetton Foundation (IT)  
CAC Málaga Collection (ES)  
Collection Figueiredo Ribeiro (PT)  
Foundation Carmona e Costa (PT)  
Collection Manuel de Brito (PT)  
Collection PLMJ (PT)

IRÈNE LAUB GALLERY  
29 Rue Van Eyck, 1050 Bruxelles

Tuesday to Saturday from 11am to 6pm  
or by appointment

[www.irenelaubgallery.com](http://www.irenelaubgallery.com)  
[info@irenelaubgallery.com](mailto:info@irenelaubgallery.com)  
+32 2 647 55 16

Director : Irène Laub  
+32 473 91 85 06  
[irene@irenelaubgallery.com](mailto:irene@irenelaubgallery.com)

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