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29/03 → 18/09/2023

maat

DA CALMA FEZ-SE O VENTO

SANDRA ROCHA

series in exhibition

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There is a curtain of water that welcomes us or through which we bid farewell to the universe into which the exhibition *Da calma fez-se o vento* immerses us. The room allows a global vision, simulating a panoramic view within which we move forward or backward, observing successive chapters – neither hierarchical nor sequential – of a story in images that is given to us in fragments, in micronarratives, allowing us the freedom of a fluid path and of free interpretation.

Sandra Rocha draws from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* (Ist century AD), a book that is the synthesis of the Greco-Latin mythological tradition that feeds the literary and pictorial history of the West to this day. In it, the author collects and recreates the set of myths in which beings (human and human-shaped divine figures) metamorphose into elements of animal, vegetable or mineral nature. The artist freely and intuitively uses some of the contents of this book, adding readings that refer us to the realities of today's cultural, social and political world – namely by drawing inspiration from myths at whose centre are women or goddesses victim of the concupiscence and violence of men and gods.

The status of challenge and emancipation that Sandra Rocha establishes for her female figures is conceptual, but also formal and visual: diptychs and triptychs, photography, video-screens and sound, or an opening image that may also be a final image... Through these devices, the artist presents a circular discourse where shock, indignation and poetry converge in new intertwined mythographies capable of incorporating and transforming the original energy of the myths.

Most of her images feature elements from the non-human, animal, vegetable or mineral world (rocks and water), elements made metaphors for bodies – mortal or divine –, for violence or disguise, for escape or punishment. More than watching the human merging into the natural, we see the natural progressively getting the better of the human or being able to replace it. Sandra Rocha thus reaches a provisional totality: becomes rock and water, cloud and plant, doe and bird, tree and stream, as if she were metamorphosing herself, leading us into a universe where we can acquire the ability to transcend the boundaries of our identity.

João Pinharanda
curator

SANDRA ROCHA was born in Angra do Heroísmo, Azores, in 1974. After studying Biology at the University of the Azores (1994–1996) and Photography at Ar.Co – Centro de Arte & Comunicação Visual (1996–1998), she graduated in Art History at the UNL-FCSH (2008), and later attended the Gulbenkian Programme – Creativity and Artistic Creation (2008) and the Ateliers Varan documentary filmmaking workshop (2016). After working as a photojournalist for the daily newspaper *A Capital* (1999–2003), she worked as a freelancer in the European publishing market and co-founded the photographers' collective [kameraphoto] (2003–2011), where she designed numerous projects, books, and exhibitions. She moved to Paris in 2013 and there published *Anticyclone* (author's edition, 2013), *Le Silence des sirènes* (Loco, 2016), *Dérive des baigneuses* (Filigranes, 2017), and *La vie immédiate* (Loco, 2017). She was a grantee of Ateliers Médicis (2017) and of the Centre national des arts plastiques (Cnap), 2019. In more recent years she has exhibited at Arquipélago – Centro de Artes Contemporâneas (Ribeira Grande, Azores, 2018), the Centre Photographique d'Île-de-France (Paris, 2021), Ateliers Les Capucins (Brest, 2022), and Les Rencontres d'Arles (Arles, 2022).

DA CALMA FEZ-SE O VENTO
Sandra Rocha

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Audiovisual installation
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Transportes Sousa & Sousa

Graphic production
Logotexto

Translation
Caligrama

Proofreading
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Printing
Louresgráfica

On the occasion of the exhibition at maat, Éditions Loco published the book *Da calma fez-se o vento* by Sandra Rocha. Available at the museum shop and www.editionsloco.com.

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