

PRESS RELEASE // CAROLINE PAGÈS GALLERY



From the series *Occupation* #13, 2009, C-print, 70 x 80 cm, Ed. 3 + 1 AP

Luís Palma

Occupation

January 29 – March 13, 2010

Opening reception on Friday, January 29 at 10 pm

and launch of the monograph *Occupation*

Caroline Pagès Gallery

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

Occupation is the title of the first solo exhibition by **Luís Palma** at the Caroline Pagès Gallery. The framework of the exhibition is a collection of photographic images of the Ria Formosa Natural Park in the Algarve. Throughout the installation, the photographs and the projection of slides invite us to enter directly into a reality that is portrayed singularly (or not) and that, as a recorded memory, situate it in a specific socio-historical and political context. Luís Palma foregoes his artistic perspective in relation to this set of images in favour of a real memory; one beyond a mere document, focussed on the capture of content, which raises various questions about our approach to the perception of images, of constructed space and of «landscape».

The work of Luís Palma constructs a photographic record as an inventory of images concerned with the area of political conscience. In contrast, there remains the relationship between the need to reveal the “quality of the image”¹ and the mutability inherent in observed reality. The artist’s work questions our view of landscape (not as a genre) reclaiming for itself another clearer perspective, that reaffirms the distinctiveness of vivid images, identifiable as specific

places, which set out a whole temporal experience fundamental to the way they themselves are perceived. In this sense, it is the striking elements of places which define our subsequent knowledge of established (inter)relationships: "The contrast with the forms of a place seems to be the key."²

Luís Palma (Porto 1960) studied photography at the Escola Superior Artística in Oporto. For over two decades, his work has been shown regularly in the most relevant Portuguese institutions. He was invited by the Serralves Museum (Oporto) and the Ministry of Economy and Innovation to be part of the programme "Art Algarve'09" where he presented his projection *Occupation* accompanied by the monograph of the same name. The same year, he was nominated for the BES Photo Prize and his work was subsequently exhibited at the Museu Berardo in Lisbon. His monograph/author's edition *Territoriality* published in 2007 with the support of the Ilídio Pinho Foundation (Oporto) was shortlisted for the Best Photography Book of the Year during the 2008 PhotoEspaña Festival. It resulted in an exhibition at the Spanish National Library in Madrid. Palma has had solo shows at the Serralves Museum, the Portuguese Centre of Photography, the San Telmo Museum in San Sebastian (Basque Country) and Tomás March Gallery (Valencia, Spain). He took part in collective exhibitions at the Belém Cultural Centre (*O Presente: Uma Dimensão Infinita*, 2008), the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Culturgest (*Colecção de Arte Contemporânea da Fundação Coca-Cola*, Espanha, 2002), the Visual Arts Centre in Coimbra (2003) and the EDP Museum (*Instantes da Memória*, 2007). In Spain, he has shown at the Telefónica Foundation and the Círculo de Belas Artes in Madrid, the Sala Rekalde in Bilbao, the La Beneficiência Cultural Centre and the Tomás March Gallery in Valencia. Internationally, his work was shown in France, Belgium, Brasil and Germany (KünstlerHaus Bethanian in Berlin). His work is currently part of the exhibition *Serralves Museum Collection* at the Domaine de Kerguéhennec in Bignan, France. His work was published in many national and international publications, and has integrated the institutional collections of the Serralves, Calouste Gulbenkian, PLMJ and Ilídio Pinho Foundations; the Espírito Santo Bank, the Visual Arts Centre in Coimbra, Portugal Telecom, the Ministry of Culture, the Museu da Imagem in Braga, the Coca-Cola Foundation in Madrid and the Sala Rekalde in Bilbao.

1 – Lynch, Kevin, *A Imagem da Cidade*, Lisboa, Edições 70, 1960

2 – *Idem*, p. 91

Rita Santos, December 2009
Caroline Pagès Gallery, Lisbon

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