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Caroline Pagès Gallery, Campo de Ourique

Home is where the art is

“I didn’t want it to be just another white cube,” says French gallerist Caroline Pagès (*pictured*) of her gallery, which opened on the first floor of a 1925 apartment building in 2007. With seven small rooms, complete with wooden floors and stucco ceilings, it still has a residential feel. She sees the layout as a challenge: “The exhibition has to unfold piece by piece.” The gallery represents Portuguese, North African and French artists, with a room for residencies.

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Galeria III, Campo Grande

Family affair

Opened in 1964 by Manuel de Brito, who started out selling books to students at the nearby university, Galeria III is now run by his son Rui. “Of course it’s a business but it’s also a passion,” says the latter, whose mother (*both pictured*) helps with curating.

Galeria III is much more than a gallery. As well as two spaces for exhibiting works by both Portuguese and international artists – past shows have included those by António Dacosta and Sonia Delaunay – there’s a jam-packed archive of artists’ catalogues and letters. There’s also a small bookshop, a framing workshop and a warehouse-like space piled high with the family’s private collection. Plus there’s the Centro de Arte Manuel de Brito in the west of the city, the family’s contemporary-art museum.

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Cristina Guerra Contemporary Art, Estrela e Lapa

Follow the leader

Cristina Guerra (*pictured*), who founded her eponymous gallery in 2001, is one of the few women to make a successful career in a still male-dominated field. Her mission? To promote Portuguese artists both at home and abroad and, in turn, to bring the best international artists to Lisbon.

The gallery represents more than 25 emerging and established artists, from Portuguese painter and multimedia artist Julião Sarmento to US conceptual artist Lawrence Weiner. Across its split-level space it hosts about six solo shows a year, as well as occasional group shows overseen by guest curators. It also flies the Portuguese flag at the world’s leading contemporary-art fairs, including Art Basel and Art Forum Berlin.

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cristinaguerra.com

Old guard

Galeria Pedro Cera in Campo de Ourique has been a key player on the city’s commercial-gallery scene since 1998. It represents both local and international artists in its white-walled gallery, which was expanded in 2008 to include two exhibition spaces.

pedrocera.com