

João Gabriel

My Favourite Things

CURATOR Sara Antónia Matos and Pedro Faro

06.04 – 01.07.18

Galeria Boavista, Lisbon

The Municipal Galleries present the first individual exhibition by João Gabriel, *'My Favourite Things'*, curated by Sara Antónia Matos and Pedro Faro and exhibited at Galeria Boavista, initiating a cycle this year, in this space, of various individual exhibitions by emerging artists in the context of contemporary art – Alice dos Reis (July – October), Maria Trabulo (October – December), Mariana Caló and Francisco Queimadela (January – March 2019).

The exhibition *'My Favourite Things'* by João Gabriel displays a selection of paintings on canvas and paper, produced by the artist over the last three years and almost all previously unseen, presenting a study of painting which emerges on various fronts. His work concerns various aspects and situations drawn from homosexual pornographic films, particularly from the 1970s and 1980s, vesting them with the visual and pictorial qualities of the landscape, domestic, architectural, mundane or bohemian, lyrical and obscure, anatomical and human, intimate settings shaping this controversial, forbidden world which gives rise to contemporary images. A welcome pretext for a renewed critique of daily life? For a renewed critique of the image? Each of João Gabriel's paintings thus constitutes an event, a privileged moment, most often fortuitous or circumstantial – a sort of fast eroticism? - which prompts a reflection on painting itself, his era, and daily life through the realm of painting and tactility. And it does this from a unique perspective: by questioning the attributes of the images contained in homosexual pornography in defining a broader visual culture. Since the History of Art is itself a narrative made of desire and eroticism, how is it that this artist's images convey and introduce new dimensions and possibilities of feeling and seeing today? In what way do they alter our relationship with the body?

In a recent text about the artist published in the Público newspaper, in a supplement dedicated to promising artists in Portugal, Nuno Crespo states that João Gabriel "finds bodies in porn films which desire one another and which succumb to attempts to fulfil their desires – yet he also finds elements of narrativity and visual composition in the films which are important for the way in which he approaches painting". He emphasises, in addition, that João Gabriel's work "makes a huge contribution to gay culture and, in this respect, whether [we] like it or not, his paintings serve as important elements for the renewal of museums and exhibition galleries, in the political process of integration and recognition of real communities and their positions of difference which contradict the prevailing normativity."

<https://www.publico.pt/2018/03/02/culturaipsilon/noticia/joao-gabrieluma-questao-de-desejo-1804456>

in *Público*, *Ípsilon*, 2nd March 2018, by Nuno Crespo

The name of a well-known song, one of João Gabriel's favourites, in the version performed by John Coltrane, '*My favorite things*' is a title which indeed indicates the artist's main obsessions, in which the richness of the symbolic content combines with the precarity of the original material, deriving from the confluence between erudite culture and aspects of so-called mass culture.

João Gabriel studied painting at the Escola Superior de Artes e Design das Caldas da Rainha, and exhibited his work at the exhibition 'Paul & Bobby', as part of the Sexto Grandioso Fim de Semana no Bregas, in Lisbon, as well as participating in the most recent edition of the EDP New Artists Award and producing the poster for the film *The Ornithologist* (2016) by João Pedro Rodrigues, among other projects.

About João Gabriel:

João Gabriel Pereira, 1992, Leiria

João Gabriel lives and works in Caldas da Rainha. He studied Visual Arts at the ESAD Caldas da Rainha, and graduated in 2016. During the same year, he exhibited his work at the exhibition 'Paul & Bobby', as part of the Sexto Grandioso Fim de Semana no Bregas, in Lisbon. He was nominated for the EDP New Artists Award (2017) and has participated in several collective exhibitions, including 'Gender in Art. Body, sexuality, identity, resistance', curated by Aida Rechená and Teresa Furtado, at MNAC, Lisbon (2017); 'Pau Duro, Coração Mole' curated by Thomas Mendonça, FOCO, Lisbon (2017); 'Que farei eu com esta espada?', curated by António Caramelo, Zaratan, Lisbon (2017); 'Quatro Elementos. (Fogo)', curated by Pedro Faro, Galeria Municipal do Porto; 'Panorama', curated by Adelaide Ginga, Le Consulat, Lisbon (2016); 'Cave + Do rio das pérolas ao rio ave', Galeria Solar, Vila do Conde (2016); 'A meio de qualquer coisa', curated by Nuno Ramalho, at Galeria Graça Brandão, Lisbon (2016); 'O lugar de alguém é fundamentalmente o olhar', curated by José Maia, at Espaço MIRA A4, Porto (2015); 'Múltiplas Perspectivas e Não Menos Contradições e Sonhos', Maia Biennial (2015); 'O que um Livro Pode '15', Atelier Real, Lisbon (2015); '21 Artistas', Teatro da Politécnica, Lisbon (2014), among others.

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Courtesy | all the works

The artist and Galeria Lehmann + Silva

Galeria Boavista

Rua da Boavista, 50

1200-066 Lisboa

Tuesday to Sunday, 10am-1pm/2pm-6pm

Last admission: 30 min before closing

Free admission

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NEXT EXHIBITION

Alice dos Reis (July – October)