

LUÍS LÁZARO MATOS
– Seabed Monsters
and the Cosmic Rays –

MADRAGOA

Rua do Machadinho, 45 1200-705 Lisboa - PORTUGAL
galeriamadragoa.pt - info@galeriamadragoa.pt

Luís Lázaro Matos

Seabed Monsters and the Cosmic Rays

May 28th - July 30th 2021

*Blue protects white from innocence
Blue drags black with it
Blue is darkness made visible
Derek Jarman, Blue (1992)*

Diving into this underwater atmosphere, the body is asked to perform a specific and at the same time ambiguous choreography, halfway between swimming and flying. In *Seabed Monsters and the Cosmic Rays*, Luís Lázaro Matos' third solo exhibition at Madragoa, one must suspect gravity and be guided by fluctuations. A multimedia installation that emerges as a hybrid ecosystem of lights and foam, sands and planets, ships and sea creatures, confusing the depths of the oceans with the emptiness of the cosmos. In this imaginative exercise, Luís Lázaro Matos invents a world in which empathy between stars and aquatic beings prevails, a pact for the end of gravity. In the background, *Bermuda Triangle* echoes in a hypnotic and melancholic tone. Like crashed airplanes, we find ourselves drawn into this dream where manta rays conspire with the stars and the moon rises through the seaweed. Useless fugitives from the violence of the lights – "I wish those lights could make this pain go away / I wish those lights could make them come back again" – more than just a pretext for the background, we found an alternative to the mere terrestrial existence.

The music video from Lázaro Matos' latest album, *Waves and Whirlpools*, works as a binding element. Repeatedly circular, manta rays, bubbles, lights, faces, seaweed and jellyfish are taken slowly, dancing on the screen and attracting immersion. Without knowing for sure whether a whirlpool or black hole, the audiovisual experience invites you to an astral journey through a lysergic ocean of extraterrestrial beings and sea monsters. The Bermuda triangle is a founding myth, a symbolic clot, a wormhole between the mysteries of the universe and the ocean, the geographical position that speaks of the landscapes'

power to make things disappear.

Lights of unknown origin, strange latitudinal movements, and unidentified circular elements form an alliance with the hoops of light suspended around the gallery. Like a promiscuous bridge between unknown worlds, the Ring Lights, which could be stars that survived the refraction of water, air bubbles or UFOs, suggest a hybrid luminescence that gives a neon status to the sea, as if all that peaceful and silent landscape had been taken by an electric shock. The LED light, more than illuminating a face for any Tik Tok video, is here as a mysterious ring that quickly transforms into an unidentified object, scanning the vast star horizon of the cosmos.

The mural, a recurring element in the artist's practice, occupies the entire gallery and seems to impose specific conditions of temperature and pressure. Under this surface, large canvases are like spaces that create other spaces, threatening the stability of walls that seem to follow secret sea currents. On the one hand, the electrifying lightness of the elements transports us toward a naive elation, nourished by this dreamlike universe that is not known if it came out of a cartoon, Instagram filter or dream. On the other hand, the density of the seabed is very tangible in these self-portraits that appear in the waves, showing the profile of the artist who paints while diving. Mixing humor and drama, the seriousness underlying the desire to imagine other relational modes and heterogeneous communities between humans and non-humans is disturbed.

Along with the movement of the waters, we are seduced by the languid undulation of the manta rays that surround us, emotional figures that guide the experience to levitation. The series of ceramic pieces entitled *Everything Is Going To Be Alright* create a collective suspended body that functions as a lost link between the cosmos and the ocean, a moving, spatial being, slowly wandering through the void. Close to the ground, they are a living extension of the ground, guided by the undecipherable march of *Bermuda Triangle* – "Above the water, soaking life in mystery." As beings of doubtful origin, they guide us on this astral journey through the oceanic soils. They perform a slow movement as if prescribed for a diagnosis of anxiety. They are an invitation to lay down and become a bed. Like a magic carpet or a spaceship with an uncertain course, they launch themselves into an underwater cruising, flirting with the depth and the surface.

It is said that we know less about the seabed than we know about the universe, an unknown that we call depth. Luís Lázaro Matos reminds us of the limitedness of dry surfaces when faced with aquatic ones, of terrestrial surfaces faced with interstellar ones. He also reminds us of the importance of distrust and the ability to be surprised. As Maurice Blanchot once said, it is necessary to recognize this power: “showing us that things are perhaps not what they are, that it falls to us to see them otherwise and, by this opening, render them first imaginarily other, then really and entirely other.”

Lior Zisman Zalis

Luís Lázaro Matos was born in 1987 in Lisbon, Portugal and lives and works in Lisbon. He obtained the degree in Painting from Faculty of Fine Arts of Lisbon University in 2010, and the BA in Art Practice at Goldsmiths College, London, in 2011. Recent solo exhibitions include: Summer Waterfalls & Autumn Leaves, Beursschouwburg, Brussels (2019), Zoo, Casa da Cerca, Almada (2019), WHITE SHARK CAFE, Bastide Projects, Marseille (2018), Super Gibraltar, Kunsthalle Lissabon, Lisbon (2015). In 2019, Lázaro Matos was awarded the On Demand Prize at Miart 2019 for his project The Fictional Passengers.



Luís Lázaro Matos
Seabed Monsters and the Cosmic Rays
2021
installation view



Luís Lázaro Matos
Seabed Monsters and the Cosmic Rays
2021
installation view



Luís Lázaro Matos
Seabed Monsters and the Cosmic Rays
2021
installation view



Luís Lázaro Matos
Everything Is Going To Be Alright (detail)
2021
ceramic, LED lights
installation dimensions variable



Luís Lázaro Matos
Everything Is Going To Be Alright (detail)
2021
ceramic, LED lights
installation dimensions variable



Luís Lázaro Matos
Seabed Monsters and the Cosmic Rays #1
2021
178 x 148 cm
acrylic on canvas



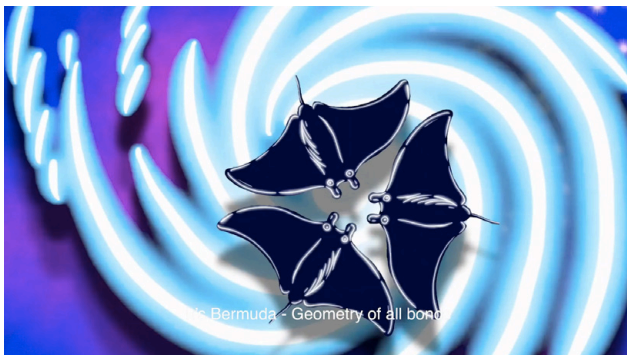
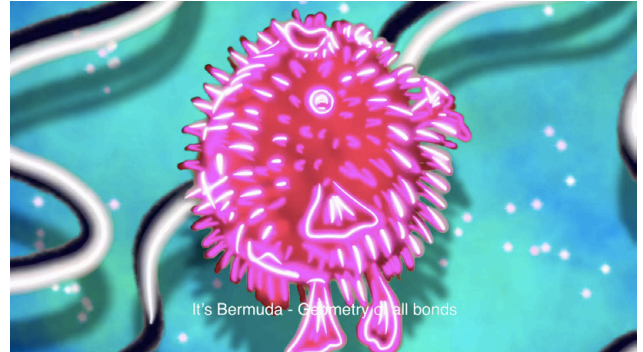
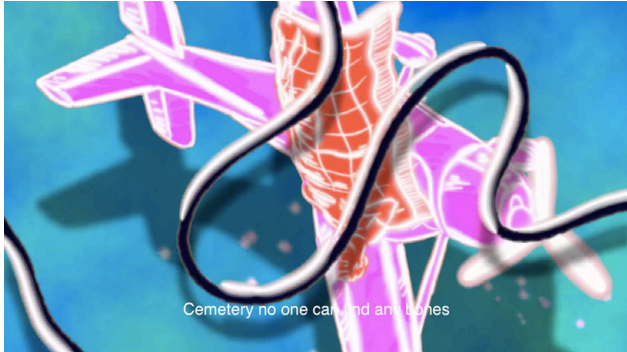
Luís Lázaro Matos
Seabed Monsters and the Cosmic Rays #3
2021
178 x 150 cm
acrylic on canvas



Luís Lázaro Matos
Seabed Monsters and the Cosmic Rays
2021
installation view



Luís Lázaro Matos
Everything Is Going To Be Alright (detail)
2021
ceramic, LED lights
installation dimensions variable



Luís Lázaro Matos
Bermuda Triangle
2021
digital animation
4' 57"

link to the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXJiTE77r1M>
edition of 3 + 1 AP



Luís Lázaro Matos
Seabed Monsters and the Cosmic Rays
2021
installation view



Luís Lázaro Matos
Everything Is Going To Be Alright (detail)
2021
ceramic, LED lights
installation dimensions variable



Luís Lázaro Matos
Seabed Monsters and the Cosmic Rays #2
2021
178 x 148 cm
acrylic on canvas



Luís Lázaro Matos
Seabed Monsters and the Cosmic Rays
2021
installation view

LUÍS LAZÁRO MATOS

Évora, 1987
Lives and works in Lisbon,
Portugal

EDUCATION

2011
BA Art Practice, Goldsmiths
College, University of
London, UK

2006-2010
Painting, Faculdade
de Belas Artes da
Universidade de Lisboa, PT

SCHOLARSHIPS / RESIDENCIES

2016 - 2018
Fulbright - Fundação
Carmona e Costa
Scholarship for an MFA
in the United States of
America

2016
Mécènes du Sud,
Montpellier, FR

2016
AIR Antwerpen, Antwerp,
NL

AWARDS

2019
On Demand Prize at MIART,
Milan, IT

2013
EDP Foundation New Artists

Prize 2013, Lisbon, PT
(nominee)

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2021
Seabed Monsters and the
Cosmic Rays, Madragoa,
Lisbon, PT

2020
WATERFALL HOUSE FOR A
SKATEBOARDER @ ARTIS-
SIMA XYZ, Madragoa,
Lisbon, PT

Waves and Whirlpools
Galeria Municipal do Por-
to, curated by Martha Kirs-
zenbaum, Porto, PT

2019
Summer Waterfalls
& Autumn Leaves,
Beursschouwburg,
Brussels, BE
Zoo, Casa da Cerca,
Almada, PT
Notes on Cosmic Pluralism,
1646, The Hague, NL

2018
WHITE SHARK CAFE,
Bastide Projects, Marseille,
FR
Tomber Dans Le Lac,
Madragoa, Lisbon, PT

2017
SMILE YOU ARE IN SPAIN
STUDIO PART I, Madragoa,
Lisbon, PT

2015
Super Gibraltar, Kunsthalle
Lissabon, Lisbon, PT

2014
Models for Solitude, OLD
SCHOOL, curated by
Susana Pomba, Lisbon, PT

2013
Houses On Punta Massulo,
Neoteorismo! Toumazou,
Nicosia, CY
One, Two, Three! Position!,
Hinterconti, Hamburg, DE

2010
Into the Blue/Out of the
Blue, Goldsmiths College,
London, UK

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2020
Mesclado, The Cera Project,
Espaço Espelho d'Água,
Lisbon, PT

2019
A Terceira Margem, Bienal
Ano Zero, Coimbra, PT
There'll Never Be a Door.
You're Inside - Works
from the Coleção Teixeira
de Freitas, Sala de Arte
Santander, Fundación
Santander, Madrid, SP
Cave Myths (Endless
Spelunking), Quetzal Art
Centre, Vila de Frades, PT
CONDO São Paulo,

LUÍS LAZÁRO MATOS

Madrogoa hosted by
Luciana Brito Galeria, São
Paulo, BR

2018

Haus Wittgenstein: Art
Architecture & Philosophy,
MAAT, Curated by Nuno
Crespo, Lisbon, PT
Personal Cliches,
Ncontemporary, Milan, IT
Untitled (How Does It
Feel), Walk & Talk Azores,
Curated by João Mourão e
Luís Silva, São Miguel, PT

2017

Artist's Film International,
MAAT, Lisbon, PT;
Whitechapel Gallery,
London, UK;
10000 anos depois entre
Vénus e Marte, Galeria
Municipal do Porto, Curated
by João Laia, Porto, PT
Debaixo do Seu Nariz, Gare
Marítima da Rocha Conde
d'Óbidos, Curated by Luiza
Teixeira de Freitas and João
Fernandes, Lisbon, PT
Jade Bi, Madrogoa, Curated
by Sara de Chiara, Lisbon,
PT

2015

Tão Alto Quanto os Olhos
Alcançam, Forum Eugénio
de Almeida, Évora, PT

2013

Prémio EDP Novos
Artistas, Curated by João

Pinharanda, Filipa Oliveira,
and Sérgio Mah, Porto, PT

2012

Via Paraguay Ballet,
Villa Design Group,
Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, DE
When We Build Again,
London, UK
Villa I, This House is Triadic
Fascist and Made of
Industry Glass, London, UK

2011

OUT, Art from Goldsmiths,
London, UK

2010

Goldsmiths BA Art Practice
Degree Show, Demetriou
Penthouse – Elegance is
Refusal (collaboration),
London, UK

2009

Anonymat, Camberwell,
London, UK
Habitáculo, Espaço
Avenida, Lisbon, PT
Tropicós, Galeria 59,
Lisbon, PT

2008

Logradouro, Espaço
Avenida, Lisbon, PT

BIBLIOGRAPHY

VIOLANTE, Flávia, DURO,
Rita, SALGUEIRO, Rita,
(ed.) Revista 4: Imagem
& Texto, n.2, Lisboa 2013

GRANDRY, Pieterjan, What
is the Future of Architecture,
Published by Crap is Good,
Berlin

2012

Masterclasses, (chapter
on Thomas Hirschorn) ed.
Goldsmiths College, London
2011

SALAVISA, Eduardo –
Cadernos de Viagem,
Desenhos do Quotidiano, 35
Autores Contemporaneos,
ed. Quimera, Lisboa

MADRAGOA

Rua do Machadinho, 45 1200-705 Lisboa - PORTUGAL
galeriamadragoa.pt - info@galeriamadragoa.pt