



JOSÉ PEDRO CORTES

PATRÍCIA

Press release

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15.09.2022 – 15.10.2022

Galeria Francisco Fino

Patrícia is an installation of four 16-minute videos specifically created by José Pedro Cortes for the context of Galeria Francisco Fino.

Patrícia Mamona is an Olympic triple-jumper. Her training sessions usually take place twice a day and include weights and explosion exercises at the gym, as well as jumping and running.

Guided by trainer José Uva, the sessions unfold at the Jamor High Performance Sport Centre, a venue for many athletes from other disciplines. However, only a few are at Patrícia's level. Most of the training consists of short, precise exercises aimed at fine tuning muscle precision, bodily balance and jumping technique — position of the feet, posture, approach, etc. — to generate fitness-peaks during the competition periods. Many of the exercises (especially those with weights and machines) are marked by tremendous intensity and violence, but also by a feeling of fragility due to the necessary precision, the need to stop the training as soon as a muscle is off, and above all to the constant, abstract focus on some jumps, in some distant future afternoon in Tokyo.

In October 2018, two years away from the Tokyo Olympics (which were then postponed to 2021), I suggested we could work together towards something in the future, something between photography and video. She agreed, so I started visiting the Jamor Centre regularly. Our arrangement was simple: I could film or photograph whatever I wanted without any restrictions as long as she did not have to interrupt any of the sessions. Her congeniality, discretion and professionalism made me feel almost invisible, as I either anticipated some of her exercises, or was overtaken by others.

It was a long and complicit process that lasted until September 2021, a month after her Silver Medal at the Tokyo Olympics.

Patrícia is a portrait of the time of a body at work.

About its power, precision and beauty.

A portrait of a woman and an athlete.

Calendar

OPENING

15.09.2022

10 PM

EXHIBITION

15.09.2022 – 15.10.2022

Tue. – Fri. 12 PM – 7 PM

Sat. 2 PM – 7 PM

Biography

José Pedro Cortes (Porto, Portugal, 1976) studied at Kent Institute of Art and Design (Master of Arts in Photography) in the UK. In 2005, after 3 years living in London, he moved back to Lisbon and was part of Gulbenkian Creativity and Artistic Creation Program in Photography. On that same year, Cortes had his first solo exhibitions at Centro Português de Fotografia and Silo Gallery, both in Porto, Portugal. In that year, Cortes was also selected for the Photo London - Emerging Artists Presentations and, in 2006, took part in the Getty Images curated exhibition New Photographers 2007.

Since then Cortes had several institutional solo exhibitions, namely 'One's Own Arena' at Museu da Eletricidade/MAAT, (Lisbon, 2015), 'Costa' at CGAC – Centro Galego de Arte Contemporânea (Santiago de Compostela, 2015) and in 2018 'A Necessary Realism', a major exhibition at MNAC, the National Museum of Contemporary Art, spanning 15 years of work.

Other exhibitions included Museu da Imagem (Braga, 2006), Módulo – Centro Difusor de Arte (Lisbon, 2008, 2010), White Space Gallery (London, 2006), CAV - Centro de Artes Visuais (Coimbra, 2013), Robert Morat Galerie (Berlin, 2015 and 2022) or Galeria Francisco Fino (Lisboa, 2018 and 2021) and Escola das Artes, UCP (Porto, 2021).

Cortes was also one of the photographers for EPEA - European Photo Exhibition Award 01, with work shown in four European venues in 2012 and 2013 (Deichtorhallen Hamburg, Germany, Centre Gulbenkian Paris, France, Fondazione Monte di Luca, Italy, and Oslo Peace Center, Norway); was also chosen for the project European Eyes on Japan 2014 (with book and exhibition); and O Processo SAAL: Arquitectura e Participação, 1974-1976, with work shown at Museu de Serralves, and at the Canadian Centre for Architecture, Toronto. In 2014 Cortes participated in the event Live Editing Show at LE BAL, Paris, where visitors could produce a book in collaboration with the artist. In 2014, he was shortlisted for the BESPhoto award with exhibitions at Museu Berardo, Lisbon, and Instituto Tomie Ohtake, in São Paulo, Brazil. In 2016, he was one of the commissioned artists for the BF16 - Bial de Fotografia de Vila Franca de Xira with his installation 'Reinforced Concrete'.

In 2018, the prestigious 1000 Words Magazine, selected José Pedro Cortes as one of the 10 photographers who have built significant bodies of work and emerged as increasingly influential practitioners, from 2008 to 2018.

From the beginning of his career, Cortes sees the book form as an important medium in presenting his work. He has published 'Silence' (2005), 'Things Here and Things Still to Come' (2011; included in 'Photobook: A History Vol. III'), 'Costa' (2013), 'One's Own Arena' (2015) and 'A Necessary Realism', published in 2018, an overview of his work, with essays by Shoair Mavlian, Julião Sarmento, David Santos and Nuno Crespo. All his books were published by Pierre von Kleist editions, a publishing house that he co-founded and directs from Lisbon, with more than 45 books published.

Apart from his artistic work, Cortes regularly collaborates with magazines like 'Numéro Homme', 'Apartmento' or 'Fraulein Magazine'.

Images

All photos sent are by José Pedro Cortes.

Further information

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