

PORTRAITS
 OF WOMEN
 PHOTOGRAPHY

MAN RAY
 ARPAD SZENES - VIEIRA DA SILVA museum

JORGE MARTINS
 27TH JANUARY - 30TH APRIL 2011

JULIÃO SARMENTO

Man Ray, 1944, photography, 25,4 x 20 cm



The exhibition **portraits of women** is a collection of photographs by three artists: Man Ray, Jorge Martins and Julião Sarmiento.

The remarkable set of photographs *The Fifty Faces of Juliet* by Man Ray (1890-1976) from the Fondazione Marconi collection, Milan is on show. They are portraits of Juliet Browner (1911-1991), the artist's wife, photographed between 1941 and 1955. The project of the book *The Fifty Faces of Juliet* was conceived by Man Ray in the early 1950s in tribute to his wife, and consists of a selection of photographs taken in Los Angeles, where Man Ray applied several techniques and styles: trick photography, colour photography and different sizes.

Man Ray's photography is outstanding due to the discovery of new photographic processes and to his subversion of traditional techniques. Besides painting, Man Ray always kept up his activity as a photographer (mundane records, fashion photography, models, etc.). In 1940, fleeing from Nazi persecution, Man Ray left Paris, his city of choice, and embarked for the United States from Lisbon. It was in California that he met and married Juliet Browner, the fascinating and

exotic-looking model. Man Ray made an amazing series of portraits of Juliet in classical poses, nudes, Hollywood-type poses, but also of a reinvented and metamorphosed Juliet by sharpening the negatives, by games of light, overlapping or by applying colour.

Giorgio Marconi, a friend of Man Ray's and collector of his work, made this project possible by providing the longed-for edition of the book (1981 and 2009) thus fulfilling the artist's desire, handing over the photographs from the exhibition, acquired by the Fondazione Marconi. Man Ray frequented Arpad Szenes and Vieira da Silva's atelier at Boulevard Saint-Jacques during the 50s, in an encounter of artists witnessed by Fernando Lemos.

Two Portuguese artists emerge in dialogue with Man Ray, **Jorge Martins** and **Julião Sarmiento**. This dialogue brings to the public little known or totally unknown photographs by two important contemporary artists who, like Man Ray, have always photographed in parallel with other artistic practices. They are also *portraits of women* which surprise and elucidate creative indagations.

Jorge Martins never thought of showing the photographs, 20 intimate female

records taken between 1964 and 1973 in Paris, which he called *Eros cromático*. Some photographs were taken at Vieira da Silva's Paris atelier, rue de l'abbé Carton, which the painter lent to the artists who were close to her (like Jorge Martins, Lourdes Castro and René Bertholo) when she went to live in Yèvre-le-Châtel. The photographs coloured with wax crayon are the support for chromatic exercises and games of light, where grooves and curves are associated with plastic motives of Jorge Martins' painting. The selection shown belongs to the artist's collection and to two private collections.

Julião Sarmiento displays 62 photographs of 31 women, taken over a period of 42 years, a carefully chosen set by Sergio Mah from among numerous negatives. Mostly unpublished, the photographs, portraits of women, were taken from the late 60s to today. The selection includes intimate records, spontaneous and playful notes and images which suggest more aesthetic and conceptual intentions and are associated with the painter's better known artistic production. All the photographs belong to the António Cachola collection.

FUNDAÇÃO Arpad Szenes - Vieira da Silva

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