

# CABINET OF ANATOMY



## VEIRA, ARPAD AND THE ANATOMICAL DRAWINGS FROM THE MUSEUM OF MEDICINE

The exhibition *Cabinet of Anatomy* was organised by both the Arpad Szenes – Vieira da Silva Foundation and the Museum of Medicine of the Faculty of Medicine of Lisbon University, with the support of Lisbon University and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, as part of the Centenaries of both Lisbon University and its Faculty of Medicine.

Manuel Valente Alves is the commissioner of the exhibition *Cabinet of Anatomy* which consists of anatomical drawings made by Vieira da Silva and by Arpad Szenes, as well as anatomical drawings from the Museum of Medicine, which have been recently classified as a result of the research project “Image in science and art” promoted by the Lisbon University Centre for Philosophy of Science.

The exhibition is divided into four sections: 1. Anatomy of desire – anatomical drawings by Arpad Szenes; 2. Fragmented body – anatomical drawings by Vieira da Silva; 3. Head and full body – anatomical drawings from the Museum of Medicine; 4. Trunk and members - anatomical drawings from the Museum of Medicine.

Created by Henrique de Vilhena, professor of artistic anatomy at Lisbon Fine Arts School and founder of the Institute of Anatomy of the Faculty of Medicine of Lisbon University, the collection of anatomical sketches from the Museum of Medicine consists of school sketches drawn by students between 1905 and 1938, the time when he was responsible for the Chair at the Fine Arts School.

Among Henrique de Vilhena’s students were Guilherme de Santa-Rita, Calvet de Magalhães, Dórdio Gomes, Frederico Ayres, Carlos Bonvalot, Helena de Bourbon e Menezes, Jorge Valadas, Norberto Correia, Estrela Faria, José Tagarro, almost all represented in the present exhibition. Although life drawing classes were held at the

School, it was in the Institute of Anatomy of the Faculty of Medicine that the dissected body was studied, as it had better conditions for this purpose.

Maria Helena Vieira da Silva chose to be one of Henrique de Vilhena’s students. Vieira da Silva was fascinated by anatomy and decided to attend one of his courses at the Faculty of Medicine, probably between 1926 and 1927, according to the dates written on the sketches drawn there.

Besides the drawings from the Museum of Medicine and those by Vieira da Silva, *Cabinet of Anatomy* is exhibiting two groups of male and female nude model drawings and sketches made by Arpad Szenes: one, with decidedly school traits, was probably made at the Free Academy of Budapest, where Arpad studied under Rippl-Rónnai in the 1910s; another was made between 1928 and 1932, probably in Paris after the artist had met Vieira da Silva. The intelligence, freshness, liberty and discretion, mainly of the latest drawings, begin to take on a very personal poetic vision, which would be a mark of all his work.

The exhibition also includes a series of preparatory drawings by Arpad Szenes for one of his most famous works “Le Couple”, a slow, laborious and amorous anatomical fragmentation of painting.

The exhibition *Cabinet of Anatomy*, by intertwining the objective with the subjective, the inside with the outside, the simple with the complex, associates the art of the image with which science has visually organised the “fabric of the human body” (title of the famous book on anatomy with which in the 16th century, the great anatomist Andreas Vesalius, by combining science and art, inaugurated the visual culture of medicine) with the image of art which indelibly marked the culture of image and art of the 20th century.

6TH OF MAY TO 25TH OF SEPTEMBER 2011

Organisation:



Maecenas of Fundação Arpad Szenes – Vieira da Silva:

Main sponsor



Support:



Sponsorship of the catalogue:



**Fundação Arpad Szenes - Vieira da Silva**  
Praça das Amoreiras, 56  
1250-020 Lisboa - Portugal  
Tel. +351 213 880 044/53  
Fax +351 213 880 039  
fasvs@fasvs.pt  
www.fasvs.pt

**Opening hours**  
Monday to Sunday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Closed on Tuesday and public holidays.

**Entrance: € 3**  
Free on Sunday (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.), children until the age of 14, A.P.O.M./I.C.O.M./I.C.O.M.O.S./A.I.C.A./ Press.  
Charge reduction: 50% for students, retired, teachers, Lisboa Card.

**Guided visits**  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday, between 10 and 12 a.m., previous reservation.

**Pedagogical activities**  
For children on weekends with previous reservation.