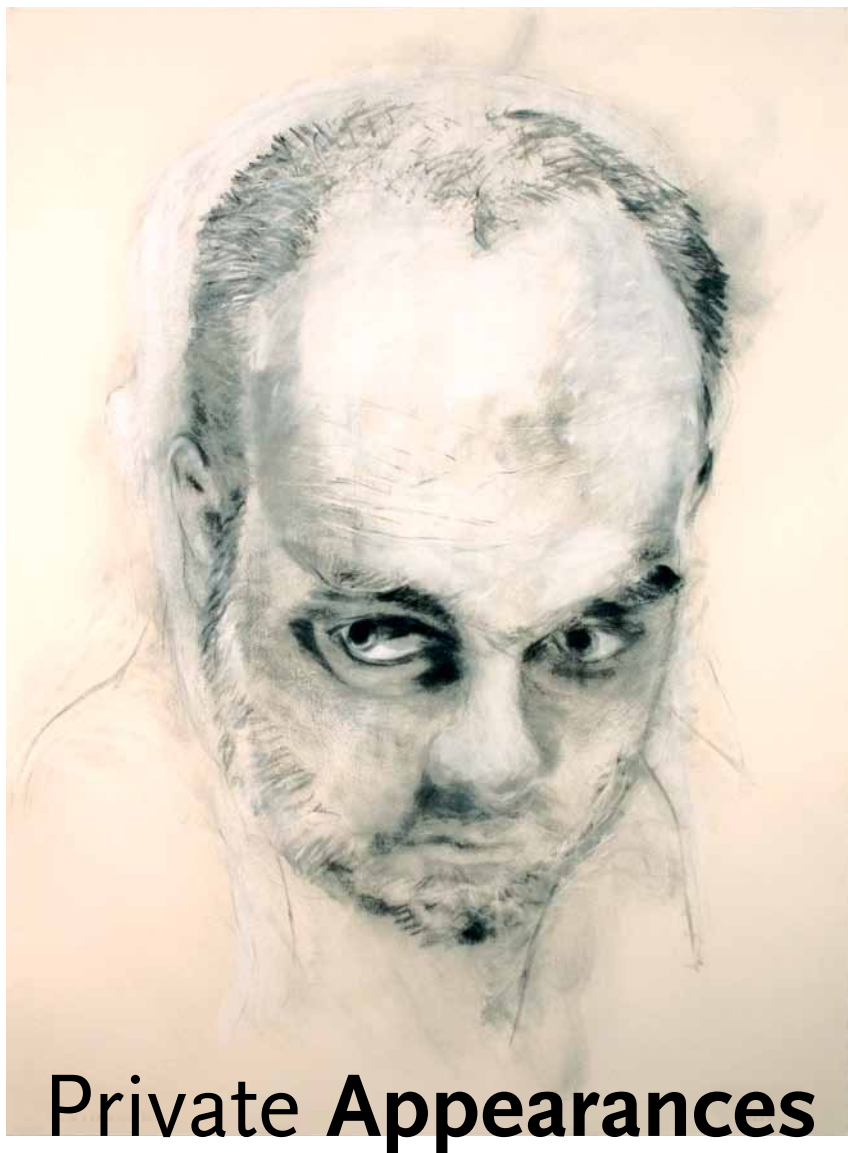


Self-Portraits by Contemporary Artists

Works from the Collections of [Safira & Luís] Serpa and Fundação Arpad Szenes - Vieira da Silva **18 July | 10 November 2013**



Private Appearances

Private Appearances, Self-Portraits by Contemporary Artists is the name given to the new exhibition set to open at Fundação Arpad Szenes - Vieira da Silva on 18 July. Curated by Luís Serpa, it consists of self-portraits by both Portuguese and foreign contemporary artists, belonging to the collection of Safira and Luís Serpa, which have been placed in direct dialogue with works by Arpad Szenes and Vieira da Silva, taken from the collection of the Foundation with the name of these two artists, in Lisbon.

The exhibition is organised around five main themes (the mirror; death; the studio; transfiguration; and the artist's gaze). It raises questions such as the importance of the mirror for the construction of the self-portrait, where the artist's reflection is the recognition of his "self"; the immortality of the "self" and the everlasting nature of the "work", which runs counter to the artist's process of ageing and decadence; the space where the artist confronts both his own self and the new technologies; the artist as a paradoxical

being who challenges his own extinction; and the artist's viewpoint in relation to the question of observation, interposing "real reality" with "imagined reality".

The works from the Serpa collection all date from the second half of the 20th century and the 21st century, and generally speaking their artists are still productive, maintaining an open relationship with their work. The works by Vieira da Silva and Arpad Szenes, however, derive from another reality: dating from the first half of the 20th century, they belong to the early stages of the careers of these two artists, both of whom are now dead. They are works that are full of promise and potential, forming part of an artistic path that has already reached its end. They thus acquire a coherence and a reading that, when analysed at a distance and in parallel with the artists' whole output, guarantees them a space in the historiography of art, regardless of whether they are considered masterpieces or simply secondary works.

The dialogue between the works from the two collections, one more historical (the collection of Fundação Arpad Szenes - Vieira da Silva) and the other more up-to-date (the Serpa collection) offers us a dual gaze and a dual approach to the theme of contemporary self-representation: that of modernity and the avant-garde, which reveals in the self-portrait the same paths of research and problematisation that they explore in painting, as is the case with Szenes and Vieira da Silva; that of transgression and provocation, which uses the self-portrait as an independent research path and medium per se, as is clearly the case with Nan Goldin, João Vilhena and Michèle Sylvander, among others.

The chance to look at others as if you were looking at yourself, the chance to get inside their skin, to be a wolf or a lamb – offered to you at the Museu Arpad Szenes-Vieira da Silva in July.

FUNDAÇÃO *Arpad Szenes - Vieira da Silva*

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Opening times: Wednesdays to Sundays from 10.00 to 18.00. Closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and bank holidays.

Admission: 4,00 €. Free on Sundays (10.00-14.00), for children aged under 14 and members of A.P.O.M./I.C.O.M./I.C.O.M.O.S/A.I.C.A. and the Press.

50% Discount for students, retired persons, teachers and holders of the Lisboa Card.

Guided visits from Wednesdays to Sundays, between 10.00 and 17.00 – to be booked in advance.

Educational workshops for children at weekends – to be booked in advance.

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