

Fundação Arpad Szenes - Vieira da Silva

Temporary Exhibition

**KÔ et KÔ
and other stories**

Inauguration: 18 January at 6.30. p.m.

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Open : from 19 January to 14 April 2001
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Opening hours: Monday to Saturday: 12 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed on Tuesdays and Bank Holidays

Vieira da Silva was the author of a series of illustrations for children, to many a surprising part of her work as an artist. The aim of this exhibition is to show this practically unknown side of her work, by bringing together a number of different series of illustrations.

In 1931 Vieira da Silva gave the book *Les malheurs de Sophie (Sophie's Misfortunes)* by the Countess de Ségur to Violante Canto da Maya (then 8 years old), replacing the illustrations made by A. Pécoud by images created by herself, cut out and glued on the original edition, a habit she had as a child. She enjoyed painting over in water colours the sketches that illustrated books. In an imaginatively childlike way, Vieira da Silva tests and redirects her work as a painter in these illustrations.

Kô et Kô, les deux esquimaux, is the title of a children's story that Vieira da Silva invented in 1933. As she felt unable to write it, the painter handed over this part of the work to her friend Pierre Guéguen and she did the illustrations for the book with a number of gouaches. The gallery owner Jeanne Bucher had 300 copies printed (text lithographed by Pierre Guéguen and 14 pages of illustrations stencilled by Beaufumé's). For the launching of the book, Jeanne Bucher organized Vieira da Silva's first individual exhibition in Paris and presented the original *Kô et Kô* gouaches and a number of preparatory studies. Some of these works were also exhibited in Lisbon by António Pedro at the Galeria UP in 1935. The book on display belongs to the Galerie Jeanne Bucher and the gouaches to a private collection.

She once again worked with Pierre Guéguen in 1936 on the project *Madame la Grammaire et le théâtre du discours*, a small booklet where the author played about with the French language in his texts and which Vieira da Silva illustrated with a number of rather interesting drawings. These drawings and gouaches, chosen from

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among a great number from the Arpad Szenes-Vieira da Silva Foundation, are studies for those that were published in the newspaper *Paris-Soir*.

In 1946, ten years after the childlike drawings of *Madame la Grammaire*, and after the war and the pain of exile in Brazil, Vieira da Silva was involved in the project *Caderno da Juventude, coleção de textos culturais e recreativos*, illustrating texts selected and brought together by Vanina. This Brazilian publication contains many stories using French-Portuguese parallel texts which Vieira illustrated in the margins, in the spaces between texts and also filling in full pages (book lent by the Casa de Rui Barbosa Foundation, Rio de Janeiro). The originals shown from the Arpad Szenes-Vieira da Silva Foundation illustrate *Zadig* by Voltaire, *L'oiseau bleu* by Maurice Maeterlink and the story of the mediaeval tale *Aucassin et Nicolette*, in comic strip form.

The exhibition also includes illustrations on a theme - the circus (1934) and a number of ideas for covers for *Chansons enfantines d'Isidore Fried* (1933).