

Fundação Arpad Szenes - Vieira da Silva

Temporary Exhibition

ALBERTO GIACOMETTI
Col. Maeght Foundation

Period: From November 6, 1998 to January 31, 1999

Address: Fundação Arpad Szenes – Vieira da Silva
Praça das Amoreiras, 56/58 – 1250 Lisboa
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Opening hours: Monday to Saturday: 12h00 - 20h00
Sunday: 10h00 - 18h00
Closed on tuesdays and public holidays

Integrated in the cycle *Amigos de Arpad e Vieira* (Arpad and Vieira's Friends), the Arpad Szenes - Vieira da Silva Foundation presents an important set of works by Alberto Giacometti (1901-1966) from the Maeght Foundation collection, Saint-Paul.

Arpad Szenes and Vieira da Silva met Giacometti in the early thirties through the gallery owner Jeanne Bucher who gathered round her a group of artists who were united by close links of friendship.

19 sculptures (dating from between 1945 and 1960) and 20 drawings (dating from between 1946 and 1962) were selected by Jean-Louis Prat (Director of the Maeght Foundation). These works are emblematic of the artist's most famous production, focusing essentially on the representation of the human figure.

After a number of plastic experiences which initially brought Giacometti close to neo-impressionism, cubism (1925-1928) and especially surrealism (1930-1935), his incessant search was centred on the representation of the human figure. It was in 1945 that his sculptures began to take on an elongated, elusive and tremulous aspect which characterised his subsequent work. The sculptures presented include some of his most famous works, such as *Femme de Venise* and *Homme qui marche*. All the pieces from the Maeght Foundation were made in bronze by the famous Susse de Arcueil Foundry.

Drawing for Giacometti, just like painting, is an autonomous production of his work. Even if some of his drawings reveal special concerns, they cannot be considered as mere studies for sculptures. For the artist, this more immediate, freer technique resulted in a more serene attempt to capture the essence of the ephemeral.