

Au fil du temps

a photo-biography of Maria Helena Vieira da Silva

14th November 2008 - 29th March 2009

On the 13th of November the Arpad Szenes – Vieira da Silva Foundation will inaugurate an exhibition entitled **Au fil du temps** covering the photo-biography of Vieira da Silva, part of the commemoration of the hundred years of the birth of Maria Helena Vieira da Silva (1908-2008).

The Foundation, that has always cherished this photo-biography project, has brought together for the show a collection of unpublished documentation that permits us to cover the life and the development of the work of Maria Helena Vieira da Silva. The result is a work of deep research that has involved pictures and documents from the Documentation Centre of Foundation, from the Arpad Szenes-Vieira da Silva Committee in Paris and from the archives of the Mário Soares Foundation, as well as from private documents of life long friends, which can be seen by the public from November until March 2009. There was only one selection criterion: to get to know, from the unpublished or rare documentation, about the woman and the artist. The woman, the friend, the person, the neighbour, the illustrator is revealed through the photographed, drawn, written or spoken images, through a mixture of clichés of professional photographers and of simple artists and snapshots from friends or family. Besides this iconographic testimony that has brought together photographs and work by her belonging to the collection of the Foundation, we have sought to enrich the work with the testimony of Vieira da Silva herself, reproducing extracts of citations from meetings and books, each element punctuating and portraying the journey of Vieira da Silva from infancy until the end of her life. The photo-biography includes actual evidence collected from people who knew her and lived with her focusing on her work, personality, affinities and affections. They are very different visions that enrich and clarify given moments, places and life experiences that put things into context. Running the risk of leaving some people out (given that testimonials are continually arriving) we would nevertheless like to quote the names of people from such diverse areas (from art, politics, reviews, journalism, writing and music) but who had some connection with Vieira da Silva: Zao Wou-ki, Manuel Cargaleiro, Pedro Avelar, Justino Alves, Lourdes Castro, João Cutileiro, Fernando Lemos, Rui Mário Gonçalves, José-Augusto França, Isabel da Nóbrega, Luís Cília, Luís dos Santos Ferro, Arlete de Brito, Jean-François Jaeger, Maria de Jesus Barroso Soares, Maria Cavaco Silva, Mário Soares, among others, that tell us the story of their meeting with the painter.

The photo-biography and catalogue will be published in three languages, which will help take Vieira da Silva to a larger number of readers both in Portugal and abroad, are of the responsibility of Marina Bairrão Ruivo, Sandra Santos and Ana Ruivo. A nucleus of critical documentation and interviews, fortunately recovered in time, has been added to the original testimonials, images and texts, given their pertinence and worth.

The exhibition and respective catalogue have been given the exclusive support of Millennium bcp.

Maria Helena Vieira da Silva 1908-2008 | 100 anos
FUNDAÇÃO *Arpad Szenes - Vieira da Silva*

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Sunday 10 am to 6 pm.
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