

Lisbon

CRITICS' PICKS

artguide



New York

- "On Photography: A Tribute to Susan Sontag"
- "Invisible Might: Works From 1965–1971"
- "Grey Flags"
- "Artists Against the State: Perestroika Revisited"

Boston

- Laura McPhee

Chicago

- Mary Weatherford
- Ulf Puder

Los Angeles

- James Turrell
- Tom McGrath
- "The Wonder and Horror of the Human Head"
- "Consider This"
- Sean Scully
- Roe Ethridge
- Walead Beshty

San Francisco

- "Peripheries of Narrative"

Catarina Leitão

GALERIA PEDRO CERA

Rua Leite de Vasconcelos, 5A

May 20–June 24

The human domestication of nature inspires Catarina Leitão's artistic practice. The artificial "natural" world that characterizes both the public and private spaces of contemporary cities—illustrated by urban gardens and domestic plants—informs her recent works. Approaching this topic via military imagery common to the advertising of leisure-industry goods (found, for instance, in camping manuals), her works present a group of characters physically typified by the objects of mass production that they manipulate set against barren landscapes.

In this show, titled "Os personagens, os objectos e as paisagens" ("The Characters, the Objects and the Landscapes"), Leitão presents a set of watercolors and ink-on-paper drawings that further explore this subject matter, employing postapocalyptic scenarios, warlike figures, and hunting decoys in the shape of deer and ducks. One new facet in this work involves interactions between the characters and the landscapes; for instance, the figures appear barefoot, and botanical elements previously relegated to the background become vital and animated. In *As paisagens e os personagens (05)* (The Landscapes and the Characters [05]), 2006, four masked men and women in a line seem to dance with each other and with strange tubular structures that they hold and pass around. Engaging the figures' bodies, more forsaken than ever, the scenes manifest a threatening quality as the artist draws attention to human vulnerability in the face of nature.

—Miguel Amado

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As paisagens e os personagens (05), (The Landscapes and the Characters [05]), 2006.