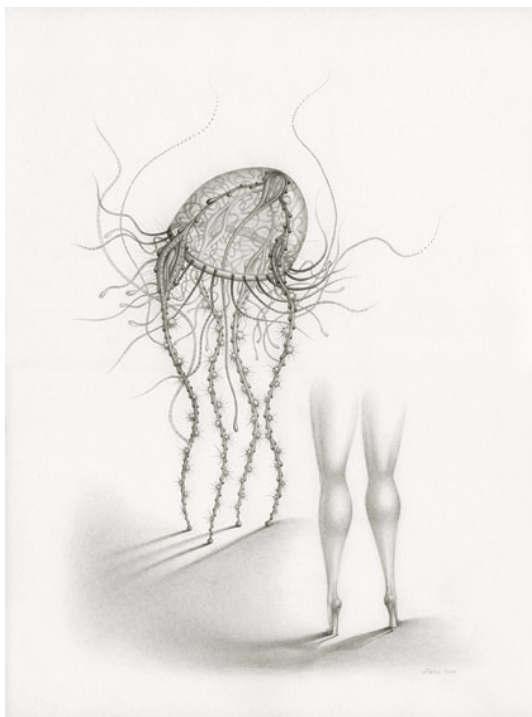


## CAROLINE PAGÈS GALLERY // PRESS RELEASE



Sofia Leitão, detail of a sculpture (acrylic on zinc), 2009



Mirka Lugosi, Untitled #64, 2007, graphite on paper, 40 x 30 cm

### Sofia Leitão / Mirka Lugosi

*Dear Time's Waste*

May 21 – July 31, 2009

**Opening reception on Thursday, May 21 at 10 pm. The artists will be present.  
Guided tour by the artists on Saturday, May 23 at 5 pm.**

#### Caroline Pagès Gallery

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Opening hours: Monday through Saturday from 3 to 8 pm and by appointment.

*Dear Time's Waste* is the title of **Sofia Leitão's** second individual exhibition in the gallery. Through research related to time and history (both material and circumstantial), she has created sculptures that are like symbols which have been lit up and placed like pieces of stage scenery. A feeling of yearning and nostalgia for other experiences takes centre stage. The objects, previously smothered by decay, are brought to life in sculpture form and affirm themselves in a sublime trespassing of time in which the insistence on the durability of things is accentuated by the effect the objects produce on their surroundings: the light which emanates from them due to their physical nature is made of reflexes and is artificial, the result of detailed work which, in itself, becomes a calculated gesture about the relevance of temporal permanence, in which metamorphosis is a necessary agent for the updating of the existing bodies.

Sofia Leitão's work has previously shown a preoccupation with recovering contexts and settings lost in the past. It has sought to renew certain symbolic and iconographic features, and this is formally and

visually translated into artistic work which is largely inspired by a scenographic vision (combining aspects of cinema, theatre and photography). In her sculpture and painting, the artist captures light in a sumptuous and ornamental way. She does the same with forms projected in space, whose dimension is based on suggesting seductive imagery that allows you to return to an ephemeral but longed for essence.

Sofia Leitão (PT 1977) graduated in Sculpture from the Fine Arts Faculty of the University of Oporto (FBAUP) in 2005 and in Drawing from the Superior School of Fine Arts in Oporto (ESAP) in 2000. In 2003 she did her first individual exhibition *Contra Péssimos Hábitos* at Maus Hábitos in Oporto. In 2005 her first solo show at the MCO Gallery in Oporto as well as 3 collective exhibitions: Anteciparte in Lisbon, XIII Cerveira Biennial in Vila Nova de Cerveira and *100 Desenhos* at Maus Hábitos. In 2006 she took part in the exhibitions *Young Giant Painters* at the MCO Gallery and *Surrounding Matta-Clark* (curated by Paulo Reis) at the Carlos Carvalho Gallery in Lisbon. In 2007, *Beauté du Siècle* was her first individual exhibition at the Caroline Pagès Gallery in Lisbon. Her work was shown recently for the first time in Austria in *Pavilhão de Portugal* at Hangart-7 in Salzburg. The artist is represented by the galleries Caroline Pagès in Lisbon and MCO in Oporto where she shows regularly.

Her work is represented in the collections of the PLMJ Foundation in Lisbon and Ilídio Pinho Foundation in Oporto as well as in many private collections in Portugal, Spain and Austria.

The exhibition also includes a set of eight graphite and coloured pencil drawings by the French artist **Mirka Lugosi**. The artist achieves the peak of her expression through these meticulous drawings, which are characterized by delicacy and detail. She explores a surreal and intensely symbolic world of hybridism in which forms and beings complete each other in spite of the possible and apparent incongruity between them. A fantastical universe, changing between the erotic and the feminine, is produced. It is as if all the participants were naturally meshed in a fluid movement which, rather than bringing out a sense of not belonging, provokes feelings of desire.

Mirka Lugosi (FR 1958) has been showing her work for almost two decades. However, it is shown in Portugal for the first time. The artist is represented by the Parisian gallery Air de Paris and exhibits regularly in other galleries and art centres in France. In the United States, she has taken part in exhibitions in several galleries such as Columns (New York 2007), Bellwether (New York 2006) and Tod Kaplan (Los Angeles 1997). Five monographs have been published on her work which is represented in many private collections in Europe and the United-States.

Rita Santos, April 2009  
Caroline Pagès Gallery

**For information and visuals please contact Caroline Pagès or Rui Palmeiro at [+351] 21 387 33 76 or [+351] 91 679 56 97, or at [galleria@carolinepages.com](mailto:galleria@carolinepages.com)**