

PRESS RELEASE



Atlas, 2007, Oil on canvas, 115 x 150 cm

Maria Condado

Promised Land

November 23, 2007 – January 5, 2008

Opening reception on Friday, November 23 at 10 pm

Guided tour by the artist on Saturday, November 24 at 5 pm

Caroline Pagès Gallery

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Opening Hours: Monday-Wednesday 12 am-5 pm, Thursday-Friday 12 am-8 pm, Saturday 3-8 pm and by appointment. The gallery will be open by appointment only from December 24, 2007 until January 5, 2008. It will re-open on January 7, 2008.

Maria Condado is an artist whose work is unmistakable in the exhibition entitled *Promised Land*. Exhibited throughout the gallery, the nine oil-on-canvases are part of a clear interest in the relationship between nature and construction. Avoiding the confusing overall image that contemporary reality produces with all its actors, there is the concern to isolate elements (excluding a concrete human presence) and concentrate a new perception about its singularity. The constructions or structures are signs of civilisation wrapped in a notion of time that is not only evolutionary but also something that appeals to a transversal perspective; to the eventuality of nature prepared to move forward, expectant of its own possibilities of renewal are added the obsolete image of the functional structures of a bygone age. Each canvas focuses on a certain group where the ambivalence of temporal and geographical facts positions the spectator before the irony and the inevitability of finding them.

This reflection has become more accentuated in the artist's work since 2005. The exploration of landscapes, where the abandoning of structures limited by nature constitutes the core of this study, based on a twin perspective: the canvas almost always reveals the choice of a scenario that is neither wholly urban nor wholly rural, it hovers on the edge of both and, simultaneously, exists only in that lack of recognition. On the one hand, the unreal nature of the places questions its existence, but on the other, in the field of our perception, something persists in the memory of a common notion of the unreal. Via the creation of doubt and the unpredictability of events a battle of forces is created, where the human and the natural – the first being shown by its own decadence and the second by its own progress – finally find the opportunity to coexist at a time that, nevertheless, is also one of proclaimed mutability.

In terms of the formal process, Maria Condado makes the dripping paint a significant element of her pictorial work, which also gives, alongside the titles of the pieces, certain clues for the observation and understanding of the conceptual dynamic.

Maria Condado (Lisbon, 1981) graduated in painting from Lisbon School of Fine Arts (FBAUL) in 2004. *Promised Land* is her first solo exhibition at a Lisbon gallery. In 2006, she had her first solo exhibition at Lugar Comum, in Oeiras. Among other collective exhibitions (Alcantara Festival, 2006; *Iniciativa X - Artecontempo*, 2005), she was shortlisted for the Anteciparte Prize in 2006 (Lisbon) and for the Ariane de Rothschild Painting Prize in 2005 (Lisbon). She is currently exhibiting some of her work at the MCO Arte Contemporânea in Porto and at the *Jeune Création Européenne*, a travelling Contemporary Art Biennial in France, Lithuania, Austria, Italy, Spain and Portugal (Amarante in 2009). Her work is included in the PLMJ Foundation collection in Lisbon and in private collections in Portugal.

Rita Santos, October 2007
Caroline Pagès Gallery

For information and visuals please contact Caroline Pagès or Rita Santos at [+351] 21 387 33 76 or [+351] 91 679 56 97 or at galler@carolinepages.com

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