

EXHIBITION: *Mare Nostrum Júlio Quaresma*

IVAM Institut Valencià d'Art Modern
Sala de la Muralla
6 October 2005 – 15 January 2006

CURATORS: Consuelo Císcar & Margarida Ruas

ORGANISED BY: IVAM Institut Valencià d'Art Modern & Museu da Água in Lisbon

SPONSORED BY: 

The IVAM and the Museu da Água in Lisbon present the exhibition *Mare Nostrum Júlio Quaresma*, the first exhibition of the Portuguese artist to be held in a museum in Spain.

The exhibition, which comprises 24 canvases and a video recording, is exhibited at the Sala de la Muralla at the IVAM, a space marked in its context by the presence of the ruins of the wall of Valencia, it is a historical reference and is projected in the memory of our obliviousness as a structuring element of a common experience, the *Mare Nostrum*. The gallery is the Mediterranean Sea, understood as a multicultural and intercultural space and whose dialogues or even the absence of them reflect the world.

A melting pot of communications, however, often transformed by the force of the submission of the people to the power constructed in the manipulating machine of religion and understood then as a barrier, as a space of conflict and incomprehension. The cultural force of the blue light evokes the presence of the sea, in terms of passage/relationship, but also as a barrier, and the sentences projected on the wall, for their very dynamics, assume the movement of the waves and express the essence of the communication that is produced there.

Thus man emerges seen as the medium for a message where only stripped of trends (in a perspective akin to that of Rousseau's *noble savage*) can he influence and "transform the chess board into a game with no checkmates".

A black cube refers us to the Kaaba, while the floor-splashed water projects the presence and the capacity of expansion of the sea as a space for dialogue and silence, love and conflict. In *Amar(ras)*, the video projected is a metaphor of the typology of that dialogue between seduction, love and hatred constructed by means of the ropes with which we are forever tying ourselves up. A man and a woman construct this communicative space focused on our constant isolation and anguish, hopes and frustrations, until the beginning of the non dialogue, the autism in which we are submerged.

The catalogue of the exhibition, which reproduces the works shown, includes texts by the curators of the exhibition, Consuelo Císcar, director of the IVAM, and Margarida Ruas, director of the Museu da Água in Lisbon, and Raquel Gutiérrez, artistic director of the IVAM, Agustín Remesal and Lile Rexer, journalists, and Fernando Castro, art critic.

Júlio Quaresma was born in Lunda, Angola, in 1958. At 15 years of age, he held his first solo exhibition at Huambo Museum, and immediately afterwards moved to the Tropic of Capricorn, where, after completing a course in painting at ARCO, he took a course in architecture at the Architecture Faculty of the Superior School of Fine Arts in Lisbon and a course in scenography and plastic production for show business at the Superior School of Theatre. The dissertation for his degree bore the title "New Technologies of Architecture and Environmental Quality". He carried out research in the area of multimedia, where he used painting, installations/performances, body art, sculpture and video recordings. In 1991 he created the Visionista group, which brought out a manifesto called "El Visionismo". The first Visionista exhibition of Plastic Arts was presented at the Convento del Bento in Lisbon and at galleries in New York. He is co-author of a series of six works of public art located in various spaces in Lisbon and several architectural projects.