Drawings and text-based and collages, spatial interventions, performances and publishing are some of the media and approaches deployed by Carla Filipe (1973, Vila Nova da Barquinha, Portugal) to create a singular type of social portrait and self-portrait.

May 15 – August 28 2022
Opening: May 14 2022

Carla Filipe, hóspede [guest], 2021-22
Carla Filipe uses methodologies that are akin to anthropology as she observes, collects, interviews and documents traces of individual and collective narratives that belong both to the visual culture of the recent past and to the present. Travels, dislocations and in situ work (such as building and planting vegetable gardens) are also processual elements of research and contributors to artistic creation.

Inspired by autobiographical events and personal experience growing up in Portugal in a community of railway workers Carla Filipe’s highly subjective process of ‘field work’ serves as a lens through which to consider ways of life marginalized by history and the social and political systems that drive it. Filipe’s use of found objects, visual appropriation, the use of language as physical object, and her low-fi, punk-like aesthetic associated with street signage, graffiti and political advertising of a pre-digital age, constitute a rich subjective archive. Her work draws from critical memory to value narratives that have been forgotten or omitted by conventional discursivity; it follows a process that highlights the political, economic and social transformations that shape the present in its different geographies and contexts for direct intervention.

With the exhibition hóspede, Carla Filipe continues to pursue a creative process that engages the current social, political and historical context. Here, the artist returns to her work on the iconographies from posters linked to political, unionist or cooperative causes to reshape their graphism and design in 28 flags – one for each of the European Union’s member states until the year 2019. The flags represent the weight of economic factors in their relation to that entity, as well as historical references from each country, to illustrate how they come together under this common identity according to what Jacques Derrida called a ‘double memory’.

hóspede [guest] is a word whose etymology also points to someone who occupies a certain place or space by somehow paying for it. Within the debate about hospitality that has taken place in the universe of philosophy and contemporary artistic practices, Carla Filipe’s proposal compares each member state to an entity whose permanence is fragile (as recently demonstrated by Brexit) and whose relationship with the union is equivocal given the delicate balance between common goals and nationalistic interests that are subject to constant, circumstantial political mutations.

The deviant iconographies in Carla Filipe’s works do not offer solutions. Instead, they question the present with its tensions and contradictions. The departure from basic values associated with international solidarity, which can be observed in contemporary societies (including European society), is the background for this proposal, which covers the arc that goes from hostility to hospitality.

Unfortunately, the frailty of the idea of Europe has been exposed by current events. These are moments in which territorial and ideological conflicts shake the foundations of the so-called European construction and question the collective defence of values that have been taken for granted.”

Marta Moreira de Almeida

Carla Filipe was born in 1973, Vila Nova da Barquinha, Portugal. She now lives and works in Porto, Portugal.

Curated by

Marta Moreira de Almeida

Marta Moreira de Almeida is deputy director of the Serralves Museum of contemporary art in Porto (Portugal) since 2018.

Agenda

Saturday May 14 2022

• 6pm
Meeting with Carla Filipe and Marta Moreira de Almeida in the Grand hall of Villa Arson.

Saturday June 25 2022

• 4pm
Festival Lusosonic With Rita Maia & Vasco Viana, Pedro Rocha, Xavier Paes, Margarida Garcia & Jorge Queijo, Violeta Azevedo, João Carlos Pinto & Pedro Branco, Bernardo Devlin, !Calhau !, DJ Nigga Fox

Program

Every day (except Tuesday)

• 3pm
Rdv | Point of view on exhibitions. A mediator accompanies the public in exhibitions to discover the works of his choice. Free and open to all audiences, without prior reservation, these visits allow visitors to understand the stakes of each exhibition.

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Visits for groups

School activities & Young audience servicedespublics@villa-arson.fr

Social networks

#carlafilipe
#villaarsonnice
@villaarsonnice
@fundacao_serralves

Practical informations

Open every day except Tuesday from 2 to 6pm.
From July 12022, open every day except Tuesday from 2 to 7pm. Free admission.

The exhibition hóspede [guest], and Lusosonic festival to be held on June 25, were specially conceived for Villa Arson in collaboration with the Serralves Foundation - Museum of Contemporary Art, Porto, Portugal with the support of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation - Delegation in France which co-financed them within the framework of the GULBENKIAN EXHIBITIONS programme to support Portuguese art within French art institutions.

Both events are being held within the framework of the 2022 France - Portugal Season and the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union..

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