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PRESS KIT

RUI MOREIRA
I AM A LOST GIANT IN A BURNT FOREST

08/11/2014 - 08/02/2015

Press release

RUI MOREIRA

I AM A LOST GIANT IN A BURNT FOREST

Exhibition from November 8, 2014 to February 8, 2015

Press visit Friday November 7, 2014

Curator Clément Minighetti

The pictures by the Portuguese artist Rui Moreira reflect a very personal universe. The drawings, in a large or very large format, often take several months to be realised with their meticulous and precise details, in an almost meditative state. Whether the content is figurative or abstract, they always express the inner experiences that the artist has had on his travels, through close contact with new and far away cultures and religions, and sometimes with a resonance connected to literature, music and cinema.

For Moreira, drawing is a holistic and physically intensive experience in which it is necessary for him to involve both body and soul. Furthermore, his travels are not just a source of inspiration. Their external circumstances also produce a specific, individual mood that finds an echo in his works. For example, the days of almost uninterrupted and lonely work in extreme temperatures, during a sojourn, at the barren edge of the desert in the south of Morocco has had just as much impact on him as his trip to India; which took him not only to Buddhist and Hindu holy sites, but also gave him the opportunity to engage with the art of Tibetan mandalas in a monastery in Dharamsala. Moreover, a stay in the mountainous landscapes of Portugal's north-east, which took him back to the places of his childhood, brought him into contact with the local carnival and the "Caretos", the mask-wearers whose activities derive from a three-thousand-year-old fertility cult. The experiences gleaned from his own participation in this cult directly influenced his drawings, according to Moreira, **"I see field work as an important aspect of my activities. The intensive inner experience gives the drawing a greater depth. I like to draw from the inside out."**

The works by Moreira can be divided up, without any sharp distinction, into figurative, landscape and abstract motifs. Like the eponymous poem by the Portuguese author Herberto Helder, *A Máquina de Emaranhar Paisagens*, which inspired the artist's series of geometric and abstract configurations, **his drawings are "machines of entangling landscapes"**.

Generally, the artist pays special attention to the titles of his work. They are chosen with special care and they add further layers of depth to the abundance of formal associations and thematic references. Additionally, the figures, evoking both the Tuaregs and the "Caretos", give the drawings a narrative, even mythical content. The titles, without being illustrative, refer either to literary sources (*I'm a Lost Giant in a Burnt Forest*, which is a quote from the novel *2666* by the Chilean author Robert Bolaño and refers as well to a particular moment of the artist's life...), or to cinema (the mentioned work has also been mainly inspired by Werner Herzog's film *Fitzcarraldo*, as well as e.g. David Lynch's series *Twin Peaks* had an impact on the drawing *The Man of the Log*). Current political topics are also represented, such as the 2007 Portuguese referendum on abortion, in his artwork *Our Lady of Abortion*.

The drawings and landscape motifs seem as if they were graphic recordings of physical experiences of the artist – all-overs on the borderline to abstraction. Moreira also associates his drawings with György Ligeti's choir piece *Morning*, with works from Karlheinz Stockhausen and with the song *O Segundo Sol* by the Brazilian singer Cássia Eller.

Of great complexity both formally and thematically, the drawings by Rui Moreira provide viewers with a wealth of visual and intellectual stimuli to explore their "inner pictures".

Rui Moreira was born in 1971 in Porto, Portugal. He lives and works in Lisbon.

WORKS PRESENTED IN THE EXHIBITION

I'm a Lost Giant in a Burnt Forest, 2010

Gouache and gel pen on paper
250 x 318 cm

Man with the Log, 2009

Gouache, gel pen and colored pencils on paper
232,5 x 160 cm

Our Lady of Abortion I, 2007

Gel pen on paper
240 x 160 cm
Ilídio Pinho Foundation Collection, Porto

La Nuit (Les Télépathes), 2011

Gouache, gel pen and colored pencils on paper
191 x 184,5 cm
Private collection, France

Telepath I, 2013

Gouache and gel pen on paper
215 x 140 cm
Collection Galerie Jaeger Bucher, Paris

Telepath II, 2014

Gouache and archive pen on paper
120 x 160 cm
Privat collection, France

L'Air du Matin I (d'après Ligeti), 2012

Gouache, gel pen and pencil on paper
120 x 160 cm

L'Air du Matin II, 2012

Gouache and gel pen on paper
120 x 160 cm

Golden Rain II, 2007

Gouache on paper
120 x 320 cm

The Machine of Entangling Landscapes I, 2008

Gouache on paper
120 x 160 cm

The Machine of Entangling Landscapes VI, 2011

Gouache and gel pen on paper
160 x 238 cm

The Machine of Entangling Landscapes VII, 2011

Gouache on paper
160,4 x 240 cm
Collection Société Générale, Paris

Big Black I, 2013

Archive pen and Indian ink on paper
215 x 140 cm

The Holy Family I, 2014

Gouache and gel pen on paper
141 x 259 cm

The Holy Family II, 2014

Gouache and gel pen on paper
141 x 238 cm
Collection Galerie Jaeger Bucher, Paris

The Holy Family III, 2014

Gouache on paper
120 x 160 cm

Black Star I, 2014

Gouache on paper
88 x 88 cm

Black Star II, 2014

Gouache on paper
88 x 88 cm

Black Star III, 2014

Gouache on paper
88 x 88 cm

Black Star IV, 2014

Gouache on paper
88 x 88 cm

Sans titre, 2008

Indian ink on paper
246 x 246 cm
Collection Galerie Jaeger Bucher, Paris

All works, unless otherwise stated:

Courtesy the artist and Galerie Jaeger Bucher, Paris



La Nuit (Les Télépathes), 2011
Privat collection, France
© Rui Moreira, photo: Laura Castro Caldas



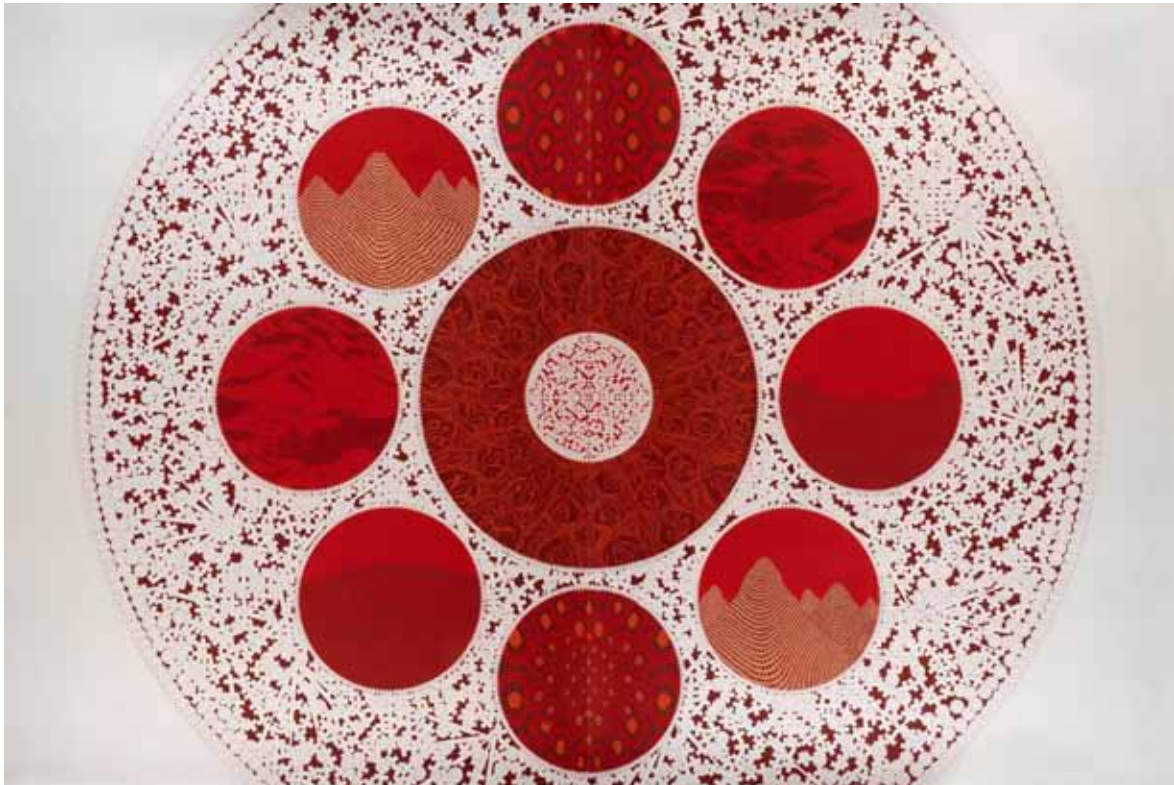
Telepath I, 2013
Galerie Jaeger Bucher Collection, Paris
© Rui Moreira, photo: Laura Castro Caldas



The Holy Family I, 2014
Courtesy the artist and Galerie Jaeger Bucher, Paris
© Rui Moreira, photo: Laura Castro Caldas



The Holy Family II, 2014
Galerie Jaeger Bucher Collection, Paris
© Rui Moreira, photo: Laura Castro Caldas



The Machine of Entangling Landscapes VII, 2011
Société Générale Collection, Paris
© Rui Moreira, photo: Laura Castro Caldas



I'm a Lost Giant in a Burnt Forest, 2010
Courtesy the artist and Galerie Jaeger Bucher, Paris
© Rui Moreira, photo: Miguel Angelo Guerreiro

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Address and information

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Wednesday - Friday: 11 am - 8 pm
Saturday - Monday: 11 am - 6 pm
Public holidays: 11 am - 6 pm
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Mudami card (valid 1 year for 2 persons)	50 €
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Wednesday, 6 pm - 8 pm	free
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Images

Available on request

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