

Carla Filipe, *Harbour of Antuérpia: cruzamentos historicos*, 2014

10 drawings/collages, various dimensions, framed in acrylic

°1973, lives and works in Porto

The work of Carla Filipe exists out of drawings, video and installations. Found objects play an important role, both as elements of the installations, but also as objects that are at the basis of her drawings. The surrealist *frottage* technique (with a pencil a rubbing is made over a textured surface) is one of the methods Carla Filipe is using often to develop her drawings. Her work blends elements from high and low culture. In *Mãos vazias: a mão não é só um órgão de trabalho* (Empty hands: the hand is not only a work tool, but also the product thereof, 2011), she gathered work instruments that had been discarded and assembled them in an installation in the exhibition space. In *Instalação Rorschach* (2011-2013), she rummaged around the bookshop Moreira da Costa for old books that had literally been attacked by worms. Her works often contain historical references placed in a contemporary context. The objects she discovers through her research are exhibited in a completely different setting and thereby take on new meaning.

For the exhibition *AIR Traces: Austruweel*, Carla Filipe has focused on the historical relationship between Portugal and Antwerp. In the period between 1492 and 1497, Portuguese Jews (Sephardim) fled to Antwerp, either banned by the government or in order to escape their forced conversion to Catholicism. These Sephardim had an influence on the cultural and economic development of the city of Antwerp. Later in the sixteenth century, Portugal created an important trading post in Antwerp and as a result turned the city into one of the most important trading hubs in the world. This history contrasts strongly with the current situation in Portugal, where the opposite seems to be happening. Carla Filipe draws on her own experiences, discoveries and explorations as a Portuguese in Antwerp to better understand the history of her country. Drawing on a series of notebooks from the 1960s which she found at flea markets in the city, Filipe has created an installation composed of ten drawings/collages. They can be seen as a contemporary witness of the same journey that triggered economic expansion so many centuries ago.

Carla Filipe studied fine arts and sculpture at the Faculdade de Belas-Artes of the University of Porto. Between 2003 and 2007 she helped organize activities at two artist-run projects in

Porto: Salão Olímpico and Projecto Apêndice. In 2009 she won a scholarship from the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian for a residency at ACME Studios, London. Her solo exhibitions include: *Da cauda à cabeça*, Museu Coleção Berardo, Lisbon, 2014; *As primas da Bulgária (part one)*, Kunstverein, Milan, 2012; *Arquivo Surdo-Mudo / Deaf and Dumb Archive*, Tranzit Display, Prague, 2011; *O povo reunido, jamais será – Representações gráficas*, Museu do Neo-Realismo, Vila Franca de Xira, 2010; *É um espaço estranho e maravilhoso, o ar é seco, quente e insípido – Precarious, Escape, Fascination*, Kunsthalle Lissabon, Lisbon, 2010. Her group exhibitions include: *12 Contemporâneos – Estados Presentes*, Museu de Serralves, Porto, 2014; *Mom, Am I Barbarian?*, 13th Istanbul Biennial, 2013; *Les Prairies*, Les Ateliers Biennale d'Art Contemporain de Rennes, 2012; *The 5th Jafre Biennial*, Jafre, 2011; *Manifesta 8*, Murcia and Cartagena, 2010.

www.carla-filipe.blogspot.pt

Venue: the customs house on Kattendijkdok – Oostkaai 21A

Map: 4

AIR Tailor Made 17/09, 8pm