



FESTA
PARTICULAR

ANA JOTTA & JORGE NESBITT: FESTA PARTICULAR

Opening: 28.06.2024, 19h. Exhibition: 28.06 > 07.09.2024

(summer break from August 3 to 31)

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Over the course of the past five decades, the Portuguese artist Ana Jotta (1946, Lisbon, Portugal) has developed a deeply personal artistic vocabulary that rejects and even antagonizes all forms of classification and identification. Thus, her work is heterogenic in terms of medium, technique, and materials. For Jotta, everything fits into daily life, without hierarchy. She is interested in “les petits morceaux”, the small pieces that are cut out of the vastness of the everyday, making no distinction between whether those pieces relate to “work”, “play”, “art”, “decoration”, or anything else in between.

About *Festa Particular*

The 15 works presented at *Festa particular* are the result of a special collaboration between Ana Jotta and Portuguese artist Jorge Nesbitt.

As an omnivorous appropriationist who recycles and transforms the most disparate things, Jotta engaged Nesbitt to create a quite idiosyncratic repertoire of small format glazed ceramic objects. Through a simple economy of means, with great sense of intelligence and insight, the result of this fruitful, playful artistic collaboration is presented now at ProjecteSD. The title of the exhibition (which means “private party” in Portuguese) is borrowed from a sentence on one the ceramic objects, and is, in turn, quite indicative of the spirit of this working collaboration between the two artists.

Most of the objects are laid on tables while others, the flatter plates, are displayed on the walls. Some include short sentences or words, and most of them are made in a common structure, a sort of round base resembling in shape and size a cake, ornated with smaller pieces of ceramics on top (some found, others made or transformed) that do not necessarily have any specific meaning, but that suggest a kind of nonsensical landscape of fantasy. A colourful vocabulary of clumsy forms that may seem to be taken from children’s universe, that mix humour with strangeness, and is inserted in a sort of domestic environment to celebrate art, the freedom, joy and unpretentiousness in the making of it. You are most welcome to this *Festa particular*.

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The first collaborative works by Jotta & Nesbitt were presented in the exhibition “A primeira e a última cor” at the art school Ar.Co Centro de Arte e Comunicação Visual in Lisbon (October 2023). A different set of the same suite of objects is currently on view at Neither space in London, presented by Greengrassi gallery.



Ana Jotta & Jorge Nesbitt, *Untitled*, 2023



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BIOGRAPHIES

Ana Jotta (1946, Lisbon, Portugal) lives and works in Lisbon.

After studying at the Lisbon School of Fine Arts and the École d'Arts Visuels de l'Abbaye de la Cambre, in Brussels. In the following decade she worked in theater and film, as an actress and set designer. It was not until the 1980s that she began to dedicate herself exclusively to the visual arts, quickly standing out in the Portuguese art scene.

Ana Jotta has received international awards such as Grande Prémio Amadeo de Souza-Cardoso, Amarante, Portugal (2023); Rosa Schapire Art Prize, Freunde der Hamburger Kunsthalle, Hamburg, Germany (2017); Prémio AICA (2015) or Grande Prémio EDP, Portugal (2013).

Her work has been the subject of major retrospectives at the Serralves Museum, Porto, Portugal (*Rua Ana Jotta*, 2005); Culturgest Lisbon, Portugal (*A conclusão da precedente*, 2014); and Centre d'art contemporain d'Ivry - le Crédac, France (*Ti Re Li Re*, 2016). Some solo exhibitions also include *Cassandra* at Culturgest Porto, Portugal (2016); *DAS - IST – DAS?*, Temporary Gallery, Colonia, Alemania (2018); *Inventória*, Casa São Roque - Centro de Arte, Porto, Portugal (2019); *Ana Jotta: A Comme Encre*, Immanence, Espace d'Art Contemporain, Paris, France (2022); *Une chambre en ville*, Festival d'Automne à Paris, Cité International des Arts, Paris, France (2022); *Never The Less*, CCA Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, San Francisco, USA (2023) and *Composição*, Kunsthalle Zürich (2024) currently on view.

Her works are part of the following collections: Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain; Col·lecció Banc de Sabadell, Barcelona, Spain; Caixa Geral de Depósitos, Lisbon, Portugal; Centro de Arte Moderna – Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon, Portugal; Fundação Luso-Americana para o Desenvolvimento, Lisbon, Portugal; Fundação de Serralves, Porto, Portugal; Fundación ARCO, Madrid, Spain; FRAC Corse, Corse, France and FRAC Île-de- France, France, among others.

Jorge Nesbitt (1972, Lisbon, Portugal) lives and works in Lisbon.

Jorge Nesbitt finished in 1995 the Basic Course of Drawing and Painting of Ar.Co – Centro de Arte e Comunicação Visual, Lisboa. In 1998 he completed in the same institution, the Advanced Course of Plastic Arts.

The originality and very personal nature of Jorge Nesbitt's work arise from this complex combination of artistic and literary affinities, coupled with remarkable technical versatility. There is a special closeness to the work of Gertrude Stein, associated to multiple references, from 17th century Dutch painting to Picasso's modernism. His works fit into their time, with the right dose of humor and poetry, necessary for the condition of a contemporary artist. Or, as Manuel Castro Caldas suggests: «reconfiguring the future with images or words - and no longer in images or words - that is, perhaps, what it is about».

Jorge Nesbitt has regularly exhibited his work since 1999. Since then he has participated in several individual and group exhibitions - the Ariane de Rothschild Prize, Palácio das Galveias, Lisbon, 2005; Primavera Selections, Emerging Artists at the Drawing Center, New York City, 1998; The Grammercy International Contemporary Art Fair, New York 1997.

His work is in collections such as the Carmona e Costa Foundation Collection, the Ar.Co Lisbon Collection, the Pedro Cabrita Reis Collection, the Joana Vasconcelos Foundation Collection, among others.

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