

Casa A. Molder Gallery

Sara & André

Philately

Sara & André (1980 and 1979) are the artists featured in the sixth exhibition of Part 2 of the **Casa A. Molder Gallery** project. **Filatelia [Philately]** is the title of the exhibition they conceived and created specifically of this space.

The two artists started their work in **Philately** as spectators. They thoughtfully visited every exhibition of the **Casa A. Molder Gallery** project, thus developing a very close relationship with this place out of time. The architecturally busy space is both present in and essential to this project, being directly featured in it as a scale model. **Sara & André** habitually make scale models of their future exhibitions; these are not architectural models, but near-sculptural objects made with simple, sustainable materials, which help them comprehend the spatial arrangement of the pieces they are going to display. The miniature versions of artworks which the two artists place within their scale models are, to them, attractive small objects they find it difficult to part with.

The scale model **Sara & André** created for this exhibition comprises not just the space of the **Casa A. Molder Gallery**, but also the shop front and many areas that are closed to the public. These former visitors have become the exhibition's architects or "designers". Now, however, the scale model is no longer an experiment in possibilities, but the exhibit itself. Not only that: the artists have in turn gone from architects to curators and collectors.

The "pieces" displayed in this scale model/artwork are stamps that were selected and purchased in the **A. Molder Philately** shop, the location in which the exhibitions are held. Over time, during their many visits to the shop, **Sara & André**, like proper stamp collectors, fine-tuned their selection of stamps, focused on reproductions of artworks, largely paintings, but also some sculptures. The stamps they selected and purchased in the shop come from a variety of countries, such as the Congo, Portugal, the Soviet Union, France and Poland, to name a few, and feature works by a wide range of artists, including Ghirlandaio, Paula Rego, Picasso, Jawlenski and others to be discovered here.

These stamps (displayed in philatelic mounts, suggestive of picture frames) are placed within the scale model as the artworks of a prospective exhibition, in light of the connections the artists found in these works by their peers.

But **Philately** is not intended for some future; **Philately** is the piece they have created for the **Casa A. Molder Gallery**, a piece that links an obsolete past – the past of stamps as a wondrous way to dream of foreign lands, of a presently almost non-existent value and of a means of exchanging information that strikes us as immensely distant – with the exhibition they bring to the present of this space. We are Gulliver peeking into Lilliput, we are children wondering who may live in that miniature space and we are wanderers, who love art so dearly that we find in this scale model a whole *imaginary museum*, the product of the imaginations of **Sara & André**.

Philately can be described as a 'total work of art'.

A. Molder Museum, 2023

Cardboard, glue, tape, philatelic protection strip and stamps, 10 x 70 x 85 cm

The exhibition is open to the public on weekdays, during the shop's afternoon schedule, i.e. from **3.30pm to 6h30pm**; visits on weekends and holidays can be made by previous appointment.

The Casa A. Molder Gallery is a project by artist **Adriana Molder**, intended as a showcase for contemporary art that makes use of the exhibition space of **Casa A. Molder**, a historic stamp shop at the heart of Lisbon, on the third floor of 101, 1.º de Dezembro Street, its address ever since it was founded by **August Molder** in 1943. The Casa A. Molder Gallery is a fully non-commercial project.

A special thanks to Catarina Marto, José Smith and Jorge & James.

The Casa A. Molder Gallery project is kindly supported by:

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The Gallery is installed in the A. Molder stamp shop, on the third floor of **101, 1.º de Dezembro Street**. For appointments, please contact info@galeriadacasaamolder.com.

Access to the Gallery is through the shop.

www.galeriadacasaamolder.com

<https://www.facebook.com/galeriadacasaamolder>

<https://instagram.com/galeriadacasaamolder>

Sara & André were born in 1980 and 1979, in Lisbon, where they live and work.

They studied, respectively, Stage Design at the School of Theatre and Cinema (Lisbon, 1999-2005), and Visual Arts at the School of Art and Design (Caldas da Rainha, 1999-2005). Together they studied Painting at the National Society of Fine Arts (Lisbon, 2008-2011).

They have been regularly exhibiting their work in solo and group shows, in museums, galleries and independent spaces in different locations, among which the recent: *Atelier, Lisbonne* at Casa Atelier Vieira da Silva (Lisbon, 2023); the anthological *Look at me* at CAV / Centro de Artes Visuais (Coimbra, 2022); *O Colecionador de Belas Artes* at Quadrum / Galerias Municipais (Lisbon, 2022) and the collective mural *48 artistas, 48 anos de liberdade* at MAAT (Lisbon, 2022).

In 2014 they presented *Exercício de Estilo* at Museu Nacional de Arte Contemporânea – Museu do Chiado (Lisbon). In 2017 they curated the exhibition cycle *Curated Curators* at Zaratan (Lisbon), from which they later edited the book *Uma Breve História da Curadoria* (Documenta, Lisbon, 2019). In 2021 they conceived the special edition of Contemporânea magazine *Inquérito a 263 Artistas* (Lisbon).

Sara & André were part of the "Ministry of Culture's Acquisition Board for Contemporary Art" (2019-2020), with whom they co-curated the exhibitions *Memórias Infinitas*, in MIAA (Abrantes, 2021) and *Dark Safari* at Museu do Côa (Vila Nova de Foz Côa, 2023). They have also developed curatorial projects such as *House of Tigre* at Maus Hábitos (Porto, 2022), *Rio*, in MIAA (Abrantes, 2021), *O Verdadeiro Lado da Manta*, at Centro Cultural Vila Flor (Guimarães, 2022) e Centro de Artes das Caldas da Rainha (2023) and *Descuradas*, Group exhibition at Centro de Arte Oliva (São João da Madeira, 2023). Their work is represented in several public and private collections and is regularly featured in

