

#kunsthallelissabon

luís lázaro matos super gibraltar 16.10. – 19.12.2015

Kunsthalle Lissabon presents *Super Gibraltar*, Lisbon-based Luís Lázaro Matos's first solo show in Portugal.

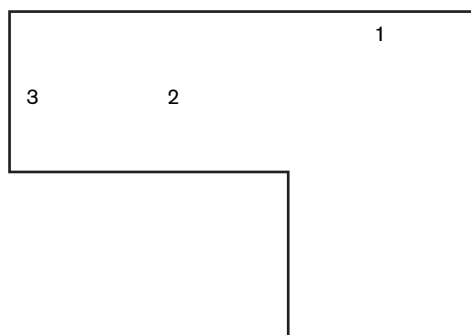
Luís Lázaro Matos's interest in Gibraltar comes through a text by Portuguese author Ferreira de Castro published in *A volta do Mundo* [Around the World] magazine in 1942. In this text, the author eloquently explains the existence of a belief in Gibraltar claiming that while the Barbary macaque (known as Gibraltar monkey in Portuguese) inhabits the Rock, the territory will remain under British rule.

The Barbary macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*) is an Old World monkey that currently inhabits some areas of the Atlas Mountains in northern Africa and the Rock of Gibraltar in the south of the Iberian Peninsula. It is the only population of wild monkeys in Europe.

The superstition narrated by Ferreira de Castro, linking ecology and geo-politics in a seemingly inexplicable way, led Lázaro Matos to an idea that he had already been exploring before, that of reproductive futurism, ie the idea that the future (or the maintenance of the present) is derived essentially from a biological process, that of reproduction. In the case of Gibraltar, and its superstition, the political status of the territory is thus dependent on an animal which, although being a primate and so close to humans, is fundamentally irrational.

Luís Lázaro Matos (Évora, 1987) lives and works in Lisboa.

Lázaro Matos studied Painting at Faculdade de Belas-Artes, Universidade de Lisboa and Art Practice at Goldsmiths College, University of London. A selection of the shows featuring his works includes *One! Two! Three! Position!*, Hinterconti, Hamburg, Germany (2013), *Houses on Punta Massulo (Houses for Exile)*, Neoterismo! Tomazou, Nicosia, Cyprus (2013), "Ein Raum und der hatte keine Richtung", Echoraum, Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn, Germany (2012) as well as the presentation of *Models for Solitude, Old School*, Lisbon (2014). Lázaro Matos was nominated for the 2013 edition of EDP Foundation's Young Artists Award.



1
Super Gibraltar I, 2015
DV Pal, colour, sound, 10'54''

2
Super Gibraltar II, 2015
indian ink and coloured indian ink on paper, staples,
steel tube, steel wire
variable dimensions

3
Super Gibraltar III, 2015
graphite, marker and tracing paper on paper
140 x 290 cm

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