

Press Release

OS ESPACIALISTAS

Opening: **Lisbon, 25th September 09:30pm**

Until: **25th October 2008**

Tuesday – Saturday: 11:00 – 19:30

Paulo Amaro opens “Os Espacialistas na Mina” (“The Spatialists at the Mine”)

On the forthcoming 25 September, Paulo Amaro – Contemporary Art, in Lisbon, opens the photo/installation show “Os Espacialistas na Mina”, being the result of the involvement of an active group of space performers (within architecture and urban design), whose main task is the artistic creation of shape processes from already existing space situations.

“**Os Espacialistas**” is an artistic/architectural project born of four elements that use photograph and video as devices of drawing, thinking, perceive and analyse both the natural and the constructed space. Their most recent exhibition “*Os Espacialistas na Mina*” is the outcome of their stay in the Mine of S. Domingos, located in Mértola, an extension of the project/concept strategy started with “*Os Espacialistas na Quinta*” (The *Spatialists* at the Farm), as they passed through Quinta do Marquês, in Oeiras.

The strategy to produce, collate, assemble and show both creations within the same space, announces new conceptual connections and a strategy of assembling various contents by impact, calling on other senses. Art and Architecture become obvious instruments of perception, capable of making the plasticity of a certain interventional location, in connection with another, appear both natural and constructed through the constant creation of new processes of shaping, exercising, intensification, awareness, vitality and energetic fiction of the tangible substances found there.

The farm and the mine run into each other, ontologically opposed while spatial structures in terms of programmatic contents, expected conceptual geometric precision (structural, urban and landscape architecture) and the state of ruin/rehabilitation. They act together by paired opposition/collision. They explode. Together they build a new vital and programmatic meaning for their inner spaces, deviating from the original

connotation. They have in common the fact of being on the verge of changing direction and entering the first and last stage of space construction: the Memory.

The conceptual innovation of "**Os Espacialistas na Mina**" is the clear intention to make the original poetic news appear from a ruined space, revealing it in a permanent and up to date condition, very different from the original one.

The reclassification of poetic memory, through the deceased mimetic of whom attends the space, is the purpose/main **ESPACIALISTA** concept, whose intention is to rehabilitate the new original poetic space of the mine, through the erasure of the current poetic novelty state of ruin, starting with the greatest erasing symbol of the space: the slag-heap, which fits naturally in the surrounding geographic landscape.

OS ESPACIALISTAS arise within contemporary art producing a series of conceptual exercises with the clear intention to let the artistic space skillfulness appear, to unveil the latent artistic reproductive system in the human body, to creatively rehabilitate space, body and life through leisure and cultural appropriation/reformulation of institutional space situations of body control and interdiction such as: home, school / gym, the factory, the military head quarters, the prison, the convent and the clinic – to submit imaginary architectural/artistic projects of programmed change for the worked locations.

Each location, subject to their exercise or intervention, is the presentation of a series of physical space movements of conceptual and artistic nature in the form of a set/installation of "photographic sketches." It is the result of the analysis, arrangement, handling, programmed change and the listing of both natural and constructed space particularities; tangible and conceptual elements found there and the contents of *Kit Espacialista Por/táctil* (Spatialist 'touchable'=portable kit) which is carried by **OS ESPACIALISTAS**.

Discover the "new world" of **ESPACIALISTAS** opened from September 25 until October 25, in Paulo Amaro – Contemporary Art.

