

Francisco Tropa

The Lung and the Heart

15 October 2022 – 29 January 2023



A major artist on the Portuguese scene, Francisco Tropa (1968, Lisbon), has been invited to the Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris to present an exhibition as part of the France Portugal 2022 Season organised by the French Institute.

Francisco Tropa's practice is essentially oriented towards sculpture, often in association with the photographic or cinematic image. References to antiquity, science and technology, and art history are interwoven, resulting in a multifaceted investigation aimed at dissecting the act of creation. *The Lung and the Heart* exhibition seeks to give form to the creative principles that define life and the workings of the world and of living beings.

A certain strangeness emerges from the work of Francisco Tropa and his constant search for a balance between conceptual thinking and traditional skills. Opening with *Scipio's Dream* and an ancient vision of the Cosmos, the exhibition closes with another dream: that of the narrator of *Gradiva* (1903), Wilhelm Jensen's famous short story set in the city of Pompeii during the tragic eruption of Mount Vesuvius. The setting is a metaphysical, dreamlike landscape calling on us to travel through different worlds and identify their motive forces. The muted, crepuscular light and the rhythm of interacting mechanisms conjure up a sensory experience. Set at the centre of the exhibition, the installation *the Lung and the Heart* is based on a principle of repetition and a consideration of the extraordinary functionality of the human body. Located on the same floor as the permanent collection, the exhibition conducts an ongoing dialogue with the great masters of modernity, who made their fascination with the machine one of the founding principles of their practice.

Devised as a condensed monograph, *the Lung and the Heart* is structured around movement and time frames – recurrent concerns in the artist's work – and puts into perspective the notion of cycles, the mechanics of terrestrial and celestial bodies, and the idea of the whole. The exhibition is accompanied by an artist's book designed as an integral part of the project and including a guide for visitors.

PRESS RELEASE

Museum director

Fabrice Hergott

Curator

Jessica Castex

assisted by Margot Koutsomitis

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Francisco Tropa
Le Poumon et le cœur/the Lung and the Heart,
2018
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Visitor information

Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris
11 Avenue du Président Wilson
75116 Paris
Tél. 01 53 67 40 00
www.mam.paris.fr

Open Tuesday–Sunday
10 am – 6 pm

Late closing 9:30 pm

Admission

Full rate : 6 €
Concessions : 4 €

Press Office

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Manifestation organisée dans le cadre de la Saison France-Portugal 2022

The Lung and the Heart is a chapter in the France-Portugal 2022 Season. It has the support of the French Institute and is co-financed by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's French Delegation, as part of the GULBENKIAN EXHIBITIONS programme for supporting Portuguese art in French art institutions.

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