

Please would
someone let
the cat out

Edgar Martins

Siloquies and Soliloquies on Death,
Life and Other Interludes

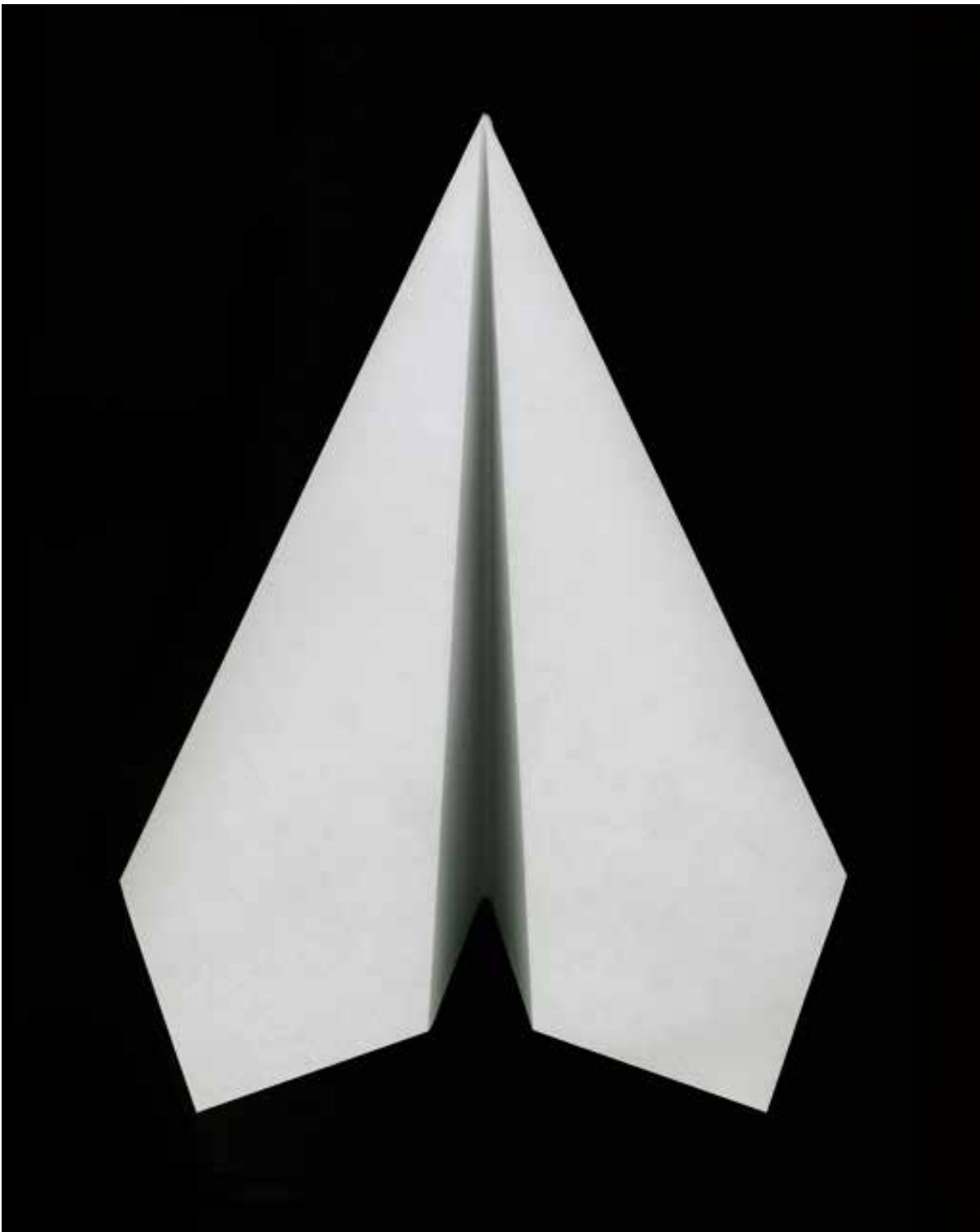
Coupled with life is death. Yet, for all our contemplation and celebration of life, we still struggle to speak effectively about its counterpart. In his new series, produced in collaboration with the Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences in Portugal, **Edgar Martins** (1977, Portugal) takes a symbolic approach to the subject, focusing in particular on violent death and suicide.

Photography, Martins points out, now plays a significant role when it comes to our representation of death, sometimes even serving as a mediator to the relationship we have with it. However, he says, “the media’s inability to deal with this issue beyond the glorification of the gory and the bizarre leads to serious omissions with profound consequences.” Turning his attention rather to the quiet, final objects left behind, Martins proposes a photographic argument for a more considered view on our final experience of life – the act of death.

edgarmartins.com

- ▼ Bowler hat located in the same store room as skull (on Page 135) at the Southern Delegation of Lisbon of The Institute of Legal Medicine. Further details are currently unknown.
- ▼▼ The bayou of Edgar's hometown of Borba, in Portugal, which has been the scene of several suicides over the years.
- ▶ Untitled.



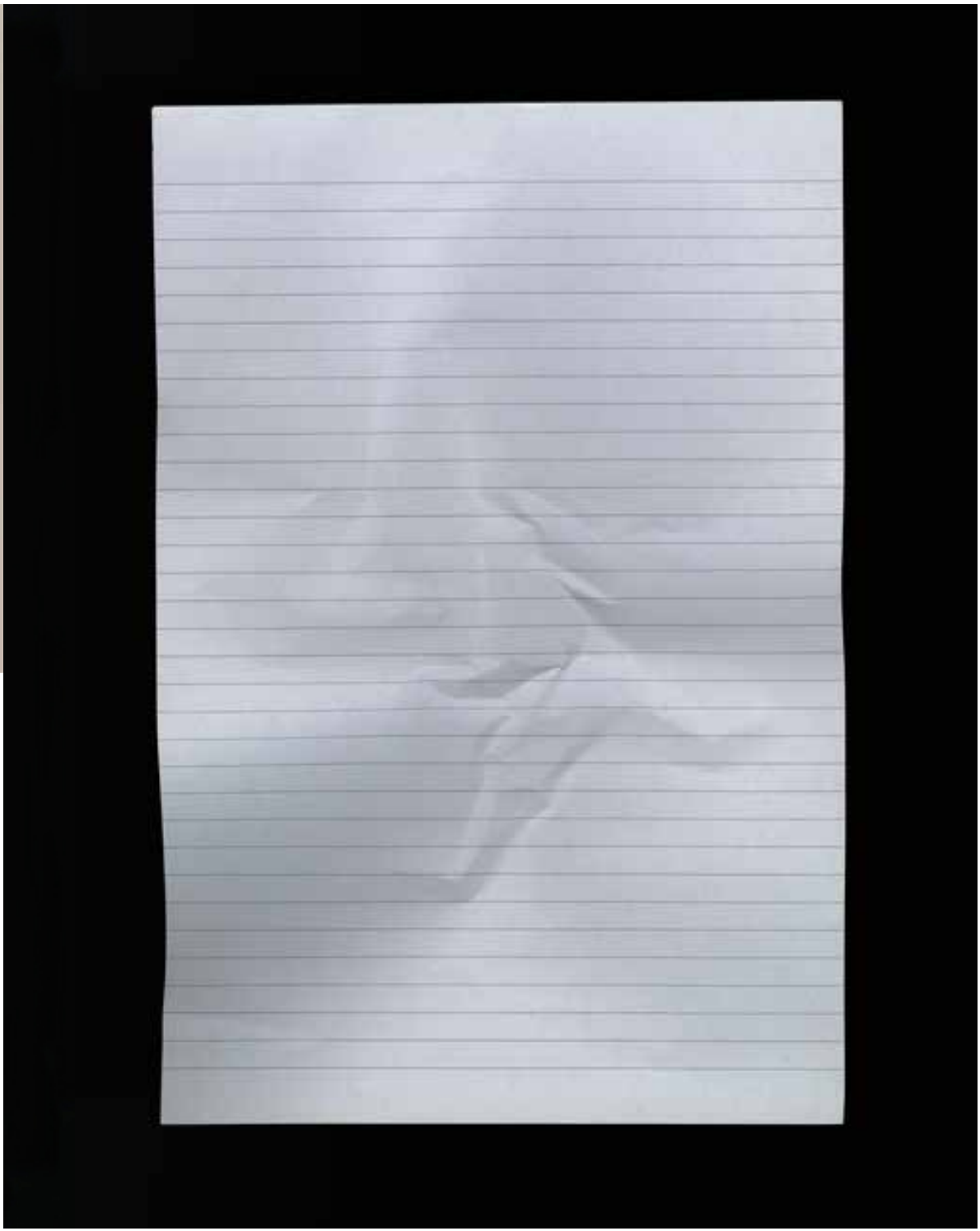


◀ Paper plane inspired on a suicide note written by an inmate in the early 1900s, which was thrown from a prison cell window.
▲▲ Untitled.
▲ Man Leaves a 1904 Page Suicide Note and Then Shoots Himself as Part of a Philosophical Exploration.



- ◀ Back of a plaster death mask of an individual that died of suicide by strangulation, created by the National Institute of Legal Medicine in the early 1900s.
- ▼ "Cadaver of an unknown individual appears in an advanced state of decomposition. He was later identified by his shoes."
(in O Século, 04.09.1935)
- ▼▼ Untitled.





- ▲▲ When a honeybee stings a person, they leave a scent mark on their victim that smells a lot like bananas. When one beekeeper had bananas for breakfast and then tried to stock his beehive, the insects poured out and stung him to death. Why an experienced beekeeper would do this was a matter for much conjecture. (Based on a case investigated by the Institute of Legal Medicine as well as a popular tale from the Alentejo region of Portugal)
- ▲ Aggression with a pocket-knife on a male, 25, single, Lisbon.
- ▶ Spousal murder-suicide involving a firearm (6.35mm pistol) in Portugal, 2013.

- ▼ Bright with scattered clouds. Maximum temperature 14° C. Minimum temperature 10° C. Precipitation 0.00mm. Average Relative Humidity 95.
- ▼▼ Untitled.
- ▶ Instant comma. 30-35 years old. Divorced. Prostitute.

