

Edgar Martins

At a glance

Edgar Martins was born in Évora (1977) (Portugal) but grew up in Macau (China), where he published his first novel entitled “Mãe deixa-me fazer o pino”. In 1996 he moved to the UK, where he completed a BA in Photography and Social Sciences at the University of the Arts, as well as an MA in Photography and Fine Art at the Royal College of Art (London). His work is represented internationally in several high-profile collections, such as those of the V&A (London), the National Media Museum (Bradford, UK), RIBA (London), the Dallas Museum of Art (USA); Museu Calouste Gulbenkian/Modern Art Centre (Lisbon), MAAT/Fundação EDP (Lisbon), Fondation Carmignac (Paris), MAST (Italy), amongst others. His first book—Black Holes & Other Inconsistencies—was awarded the Thames & Hudson and RCA Society Book Art Prize. A selection of images from this book was also awarded The Jerwood Photography Award in 2003. Between 2002 and 2018 Martins published 15 separate monographs, which were also received with critical acclaim. These works were exhibited internationally at institutions such as PS1 MoMA (New York), MOPA (San Diego, USA), MACRO (Rome), Laumeier Sculpture Park (St. Louis, USA), Centro Cultural de Belém (Lisbon), Centro de Arte Moderna de Bragança (Bragança, Portugal), Centro Internacional de Arte José de Guimarães (Guimarães, Portugal), Museu do Oriente (Lisbon), Centro de Arte Moderna (Lisbon), MAAT (Lisbon), CIAJG (Guimarães, Portugal), Centro Cultural Hélio Oiticica (Rio de Janeiro), The New Art Gallery Walsall (Walsall, UK), PM Gallery & House (London), The Gallery of Photography (Dublin), Ffotogallery (Penarth, Wales), The Wolverhampton Art Gallery & Museum (UK), Open Eye Gallery (Liverpool), among many others. In 2010 the Centre Culturel Calouste Gulbenkian (Paris) hosted Edgar Martins’ first retrospective exhibition. Edgar Martins was the recipient of the inaugural New York Photography Award (Fine Art category, May 2008), the BES Photo Prize (Portugal, 2009), the SONY World Photography Award (Landscape category, 2009, Still-Life Category, 2018, Architecture Category, 2018), 1st prize in the Fine Art— Abstract category of the 2010 International Photography Awards, the Lens Culture Fine Art Awards in 2018 and nominated for the Prix Pictet 2009. Edgar Martins was selected to represent Macau (China) at the 54th Venice Biennale. He works and lives in the UK.

1977	Born Évora, Portugal
1996	Philosophy & Humanities, Liceu de Macau
1997	BA (Hons) Photography, University of the Arts, London
2000	MA Photography and Fine Arts, Royal College of Art, London
2021	PHD Documentary Centre for Photographic Research, USW

Selected Solo Exhibitions

2021	<i>What Photography has in Common with an Empty Vase</i> , Centre Photographie Genève
2020	<i>What Photography has in Common with an Empty Vase</i> , Macau Museum of Art

What Photography has in Common with an Empty Vase, MNAC, Lisbon
What Photography has in Common with an Empty Vase, Catharine Clark Gallery

2019

Destinerrance, 3 Shadows Art Centre, Beijing
What Photography has in Common with an Empty Vase, Galeria Filomena Soares, Lisbon

2018

The Poetic Impossibility to Manage the Infinite, The Leicester Museum of Art (New Walk Museum)
Siloquies and Soliloquies on Death, Life and Other Interludes, Pilar Serra, Madrid
Destinerrance, Purdy Hicks Gallery, Beijing

2017

Siloquies and Soliloquies on Death, Life and Other Interludes, St. John's College Galleries, Oxford Photography Festival, UK
Destinerrance: the Place of the Dead is the Place of Photography, Centro de Arte José de Guimarães, Guimarães (Portugal)

2016

Siloquies and Soliloquies on Death, Life and Other Interludes, Cristina Guerra Contemporary Art Lisbon
Siloquies and Soliloquies on Death, Life and Other Interludes, MAAT, Lisbon
Siloquies and Soliloquies on Death, Life and Other Interludes, Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool

2015

The Wayward Line, Château Gruyères, part of the Alt+1000 Festival, Switzerland
The Poetic Impossibility to Manage the Infinite, The Wolverhampton Art Gallery (Wolverhampton, UK)
The Rehearsal of Space & The Poetic Impossibility to Manage the Infinite, Centro Cultural Paço Imperial (Rio de Janeiro)

2014

The Rehearsal of Space & The Poetic Impossibility to Manage the Infinite, Sala da Cidade, Museu Municipal de Coimbra (an initiative by the Faculty of Sciences and Technology of Coimbra and The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation) (Coimbra)

The Rehearsal of Space & The Poetic Impossibility to Manage the Infinite, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian / Modern Art Centre (Lisbon)
The Rehearsal of Space & The Poetic Impossibility to Manage the Infinite, The Wapping Project Bankside (London)
The Rehearsal of Space & The Poetic Impossibility to Manage the Infinite, Galerie Melanie Rio (Nantes)

2013

The Time Machine (touring show), Galeria Fundação EDP (Porto, Portugal)
This is not a House (touring show), Gallery of Photography, Dublin (Ireland)
The Time Machine (touring show), Ffotogallery, Penarth (Wales)
The Time Machine, Photofusion (London)
The Time Machine (touring show), Pátio da Inquisição / Fundação Eugénio Almeida, Évora (Portugal)
Ruins, the logic of facts and the logic of fictions, Laura Marsiaj Arte Contemporânea (Rio de Janeiro)

2012

The Time Machine, Centre de Arte Contemporânea Graça Morais, Bragança (Portugal)
This is not a House (touring show), The Wapping Project Bankside, London (UK)
This is not a House (touring show), The Wapping Project, London (UK)
This is not a House, MouraMarsiaj Arte Contemporânea (S. Paulo)
The Time Machine, Melanie Rio Gallery

2011

The Time Machine, Yamamoto Gendai, Tokyo
The Time Machine, Museu da Electricidade, Lisbon
The Time Machine, The Wapping Project Bankside, London
A Metaphysical Survey of British Dwellings, Galerie Melanie Rio
This is not a House (touring show), The New Art Gallery Walsall, Walsall (UK)
This is not a House (touring show), Camera16, Milan

2010

This is not a House, The Photographers' Gallery (PSG), London
A Metaphysical Survey of British Dwellings, HS Gallery, London
Reluctant Monoliths, The Photographer's Gallery, London
The Wayward Line, Centre Culturel Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Paris

2009

Topologies, Orient Foundation Museum, Lisbon
Reluctant Monoliths, Galerie Melanie Rio, Nantes, France

When Light Casts no Shadow, Galeria Graça Brandão, Lisbon
The Accidental Theorist, Paul Kopeikin Gallery, Los Angeles
When Light Casts no Shadow, Porta 33 , Madeira
When Light Casts no Shadow, Galerie Caprice Horn, Berlin

2008

When Light Casts no Shadow, Galerie Melanie Rio, Nantes, France
Topologies, La Caja Negra, Madrid
Topologies, Laura Marsiaj, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Topologies, Paul Kopeikin Gallery, Los Angeles

2007

Aproximações, Galeria Graça Brandão, Lisbon
The Diminishing Present, BCA Gallery, Bedford, England
The Diminishing Present, Visual Arts Centre, Coimbra, Portugal

2006

The Diminishing Present, Betty Cuninghame Gallery, New York
The Diminishing Present, La Caja Negra, Madrid
The Rehearsal of Space, The Photographer's Gallery (PSG), London
The Accidental Theorist, Galeria Graça Brandão, Oporto, Portugal

2005

The Diminishing Present, Photofusion, London

2004

The Rehearsal of Space, Macau Art Museum, Macau, China
Black Holes and Other Inconsistencies, Cadeia da Relação
(Portuguese Centre of Photography), Oporto, Portugal

Selected Group Exhibitions

2019

Osmos Cosmos, Centre Photographie Genève
Photaumnales Beauvais & Hauts-de-France, France
Fiction and Fabrication, MAAT, Lisbon
Format Festival, QUAD 2018
Constellations: A choreography, Museu Colecção Berardo, Lisbon.
Civilisation: The Way we live now, Ullens Cotemporary Art Centre,
Beijing
Civilisation: The Way we live now, National Gallery of Victoria,
Melbourne
Civilisation: The Way we live now, Museum of Civilization, Marseille
Lens Culture Art Awards, Aperture Foundation, New York

2018

Civilisation: The Way we live now, National Museum of Modern and
Contemporary Art, Seoul

AOP50: Images that Defined the Age, Canary Wharf Art Events, London
Works from the collection of António Cachola, MNAC, Lisbon
Sony World Photography Awards, Sommerset House, London
10 Anos – obras da coleção, Centro de Arte Contemporânea Graça Morais, Bragança
We Tell Ourselves Stories... In Order to Live, Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco
I'm Still Here, South Bank Centre, London
2nd Beijing Media Art Biennale, CAFA ART Museum, Beijing
PENDULUM: Moving Images, Moving People. Images from the MAST Foundation's Collection. MAST, Bologna

2017

Siloquies and Soliloquies on Death, Life and Other Interlides, The Photographer's Gallery (digital presentation as part of the Magnum and Lens Culture Awards)
The Power of Images: An Iconic Selection of Photographs on Industry and Work from the MAST Collection, MAST (Italy)
Habitat, FORMAT 2017, UK
10 years SONY World Photography Awards, Sommerset House (London)
The Power of Images: An Iconic Selection of Photographs on Industry and Work from the Collection, MAST Foundation, Bologna (Italy)
From La Biennale di Venezia to MACRO, curated by Paolo De Grandis, MACRO – Museum of Contemporary Art, Rome (Italy)
Este Lugar lembra-te algum sítio?, curated by Miguel Sousa Ribeiro, Círculo de Artes Plásticas de Coimbra, Portugal,
Este Lugar lembra-te algum sítio?, curated by Miguel Sousa Ribeiro, Centro de Artes e Cultura de Ponte de Sor, Portugal,

2016

Este Lugar lembra-te algum sítio?, curated by Miguel Sousa Ribeiro, Centro para os Assuntos da Arte e Arquitectura (CAAA), Guimarães
Dubai Photo 2016
Linhas de Diálogo, Works from the collections of Fundación Coca-Cola and Novo Banco, Espaço Novo Banco

2015

Alt+1000 Festival, Switzerland
Everywhere is the same sky – A perspective on landscape from the collection of Norlinda and José Lima, Centro de Cultura Contemporânea de Castelo Branco, Portugal

2014

Da Cartografia do Poder aos Itinerários do Saber, Museu Afro-Brasileiro, S. Paulo
Grid Festival, Art'Otel, Amsterdam
Landscape, Galerie Melanie Rio, Nantes

2013

Landmark: Fields of Photography, Sommerset House, London
Heuristic Shinonome, Shinonome Photo Festival 2013, Tolot, Japan

2012

Intersections, Weizmann Institute, Rehovot (Israel)
Square Up, Esposizione di fotografia contemporanea, Atelier dell'Arco
Amoroso, Ancona, Piazza del Plebiscito, Ancona, Italy (curated by:
Daniele De Luigi and promoted by Associazione white.fish.tank)
FOTOGRAFIA – Festival Internazionale di Roma, MACRO – Museum
of Contemporary Art, Rome (Italy)

*A man is walking down the street. At a certain moment, he tries to recall
something, but the recollection escapes him. Automatically, he slows
down*, Cristina Guerra Contemporary Art, Lisbon

Edition IV Group Show, The Wapping Project Bankside, London

Paisagem Humana # 15, BES Arte & Finança, Lisbon

Arte Portuguesa do Séc. XX 1850-2010, MNAC, Museu do Chiado,
Lisbon

Dead Cities, Galerie Melanie Rio, Nantes

Da Cartografia do Poder aos Itinerários do Saber, Museu de Arte
Moderna de Brasília

Da Cartografia do Poder aos Itinerários do Saber, S. Paulo Museu
Afro-Brasil

The Near and the Elsewhere, PM Gallery & House (London), also
featuring Frances Alÿs, Sarah Beddington, Edward Burtynsky, James
Casebere, Tacita Dean, Thomas Demand, Andreas Gursky, Peter Piller
and Rachel Whiteread.

'Camp Out: Finding Home in an Unstable World', Laumeier Sculpture
Park, St. Louis (USA)

Concurso Purification Garcia 2012, Círculo de Belas Artes, Madrid

Concurso Purification Garcia 2012, Sala de Exposições da Biblioteca
Central de Cantabria, Santander (Spain)

Concurso Purification Garcia 2012, DA2 Salamanca (Spain)

Concurso Purification Garcia 2012, Museu de Pontevedra (Spain)

Concurso Purification Garcia 2012, Centro Cultural Deputación
Ourense (Spain)

2011

International Photography Festival, Bursa (Turkey)

Infinite Balance, Museum of Photographic Arts (MOPA) San Diego

Migration & Nomadic Living, Backlight Festival, Tampere Kunsthalle

*The 54th Venice Biennale International Art Exhibition, Memory &
Mobility, Macau, China Pavilion*

*Something That I'll Never Really See, Contemporary Phot. From the
V&A*, Salar Jung Museum (Hyderabad, India)

Da Cartografia do Poder aos Itinerários do Saber, Museu da Ciência
da Universidade de Coimbra (a FCTUC & Museu Nacional -
Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro co-production. This exhibition
will also be presented at Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro.)

The Burrow, SIAKOS.HANAPPE House of Art, Athens

2010

Détournement, Galerie Melanie Rio, Nantes
Abstraction, Château d'Eau, Toulouse
Aperture Presents, Boutique Montblanc, Paris
Impresiones Y Comentarios: Fotografia Contemporânea Portuguesa, Sala Parpaló, Valência
Impresiones Y Comentarios: Fotografia Contemporânea Portuguesa, Fundació Foto Colectania, Barcelona
Da Outra Margem do Atlântico: alguns exemplos de videoarte e fotografia portuguesa, Centro de arte Hélio Oiticica
Something That I'll Never Really See, Contemporary Phot. From the V&A, BHAU Daji Lad Museum (Mumbai)
A Culpa não é minha (obras da coleção António Cachola), Centro Cultural de Belém, Lisbon
15 min exhibition, Paraty em Foco, Paraty (Brazil)
15 min exhibition, Ateliê da Imagem Espaço Cultural, Rio de Janeiro
Da Outra Margem do Atlântico –alguns exemplos de videoarte e fotografia portuguesa, Centro de Arte Hélio Oiticica, Rio de Janeiro
Des lendemaisn qui chantent, Galerie Melanie Rio, Nantes
What Lies Beneath, Swedish Embassy, Washington, Foto DC Week
Prix Pictet Show, Thessaloniki Museum of Photography, Thessaloniki
Prix Pictet Show, The Empty Quarter, Dubai
Prix Pictet Show, Eindhoven University of Technology, Eindhoven
Jogo de Espelhos, Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Elvas, Elvas

2009

Lá Fora, Portuguese Artists, Museu da Electricidade, Lisbon
BES Award Berardo Museum (Belém Cultural Centre), Lisbon
Format Festival, Derby
International Photography Festival, Lodz, Poland
Opções e Futuros, PLMJ Collection, Museu da Cidade, Lisbon
Estuaire, Nantes Art Biennial 2009
NYPHA, Invitational Pavilion, Tobacco Warehouse, New York
Scope Basel, The New Empire, Contemporary Chinese Photography, Miami
Paisagem, Centro de Artes Visuais, Coimbra
Entre o Céu e o Mar, organized by Centro de Artes Visuais for Centro Cultural de Lagos in the context of "Art Algarve 2009"
Prix Pictet Award, Passage de Retz, Paris

2008

Lianzhou International Photo Festival, Lianzhou, China
Terry O'Neil Award, Fulham Palace, London
ING Real Photography Award, Las Palmas Museum, Rotterdam
Opções e Futuros, PLMJ Foundation, Lisbon
Linha do Horizonte, Centro Cultural da Caixa Económica Federal, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Contemporary Portuguese Photography, Museu da Presidência da República, Viana do Castelo, Portugal
That Was Then... This is Now, P.S. 1, MoMA, New York
Immoral Facts & Fables, Galerie Caprice Horn, Berlin

2007

On the Wall: Aperture Magazine '05-'06, Aperture Gallery, New York
Migratory Phenomena: Photography and Video + Film Cycle, Economic and Social European Committee, Brussels, Belgium

2006

Alentejo Elementar, Galeria Municipal de São Sebastião, Portalegre;
(this show toured other Portuguese Museums)

Constelações Afectivas, Galeria Graça Brandão, Lisbon, Portugal

Selections from the Permanent Photography Collection, Victoria and Albert Museum, London

2005

Represented, The Photographer's Gallery (Print Sales Gallery), London

Newly Commissioned Work Coimbra Visual Arts Centre, Portugal

Extensão do Ohar, Coimbra Visual Arts Centre, Portugal

2004

The Jerwood Photography Awards Winners Exhibition 2003, Jerwood Space London (this show toured other UK galleries)

Publications

2020

What Photography has in Common with an Empty Vase, MAM, Macau, China

2019

What Photography has in Common with an Empty Vase, The Moth House, Bedford

2018

Civilization (curated by William Ewing), Thames & Hudson, London

PENDULUM: Moving Images, Moving People. Images from the MAST Foundation;s Collection. MAST, Bologna

Photography and the Contemporary Cultural Condition -

Commemorating the Present, Peter D. Osborne, Routledge/Taylor and Francis, UK, ISBN: 9780415736251

The Word is Art, Michael Petry, Thames & Hudson, UK, ISBN: 9780500239667

2017

Destinerrance: The Place of the Dead is the Place of Photography, CIAJG, Portugal

Masterworks of Industrial Photography, Exhibitions 2017 . Mast Foundation, Electa (Milan)

2016

Siloquies and Soliloquies on Death, Life & Other Interludes, The Moth House, Bedford

2015

0:00.00, The Moth House, Bedford

Crude Metaphors: A Dark Sky, Hot Shoe, London

2014

Art and Ecology Now (edited by Andrew Brown), Thames & Hudson, London
Landmark: the Fields of Photography (curated by William Ewing), Thames & Hudson, London
Perspectives on Place: Theory and Practice in Landscape Photography (edited by Jesse Alexander, Bloomsbury, London)
The Rehearsal of Space & The Poetic Impossibility to Manage the Infinite, La Fabrica / The Moth House

2013

Collector's Edition (edited by Stuart Trolley), Thames & Hudson, London

2012

The Time Machine (Ltd. Edition), The Moth House/EDP Foundation
This is not a Hose (Ltd. Edition), Dewi Lewis
Vu Par David Lynch, Paris Photo/Steidl
Audible Silnece, in *Exploring the Senses: Beyond the Frame*, The trout Gallery, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania,

2011

The Time Machine, The Moth House/EDP Foundation
This is not a Hose, Dewi Lewis
On the surface: public space and architectural images in debate (curated by Pedro Leão & Pedro Bandeira) FAUP/EUAM, Porto
The 54th International Venice Biennale Exhibition, Macau Museum of Art, Macau/Macao (China/Chine)
The 54th International Venice Biennale Exhibition, La Biennale, Venice/Venise
Nomadic Living and Migration, Backlight Festival of Photography 2011, Tampere (Finland)

2010

The Wayward Line, Centre Culturel Caloust Gulbenkian

2009

When Light Casts no Shadow, Dewi Lewis
BES Photo Award, Berardo Museum
'Future Images', guide to top 100 contemporary artists – published by 24ore Motta Cultura and curated by Raul Cresci & Radu Stern
Sotheby's Guide to collecting Photography – published by Thames & Hudson and written by Jocelyn Phillips
Peter D. Osborne *'The Unreachable Landscape: Some Themes in Photography in England from 1990 to 2007'* in *Cahier Fotografie* nr. 2, 09, Belgium
Prix Pictet: Earth, teNeues
BES Photo Award 2008, Museu Berardo, Lisbonne / Lisbon
Flash Forward '09, Magenta Foundation

2008

Edgar Martins: Topologies, Aperture
Topologies, Centro de Artes Visuais
Fomat Festival 2008, QUAD
Flash Forward '08, *Magenta Foundation*, Toronto
Anamnese: The Book, Fundação Ilídio Pinho, Porto
Linha do Horizonte: o motivo da paisagem na arte portuguesa contemporânea, Caixa Económica Cultural do Rio de Janeiro

2006

The Diminishing Present, The Moth House
Approaches, ANA

2003

Black Holes & Other Inconsistencies, The Moth House

Selected Awards

2018

Winner Sony World Photography Awards, 2018 (Still Life Category)
2nd place Sony World Photography Awards, 2018 (Architecture Category)
Winner of top prizes, at Lens Culture Art Photography Awards

2017

Juror's choice Magnum/Lens Culture Awards, 2017
Honorable Mention, Hariban Award 2017
Siloquies and Soliloquies on Death Life and Other Interludes shortlisted for the Arles Photobook Award, 2017
Finalist, Voies Off Award, 2017
Siloquies and Soliloquies on Death Life and Other Interludes selected one of the best books of the year by Lens Culture
Siloquies and Soliloquies on Death Life and Other Interludes selected one of the best books of the year by 1000words magazine

2013

Finalist, New York Photography Awards, Fine Art Category, 2013

2012

Brighton Photo Biennale and Photobook Show 2012

2011

Selected for AI-AP
Finalist in Voies off 2011
Winning Entry Pro Photographer Awards 2010
2010 Artist Level Runners-Up: Photography Contest, Forward Thinking Museum

2010

Winner International photography Awards, Fine Art Abstract Category
Finalist LICC
Selected for AP+AI Annual, USA

2009

Second Prize for SONY World Photography Awards

Winner BES Photo Award
Finalist Prix Pictet Award

2008

Selected for ING Real Photography Award
AOP Awards, Winner, Contemporary Landscape & Cityscape
Semi-finalist in the Hasselblad Photography Masters
New York Photography Awards, Winner, Fine Art Category
Shortlisted for Arles and Photo Espanã Book Awards
Second Prize for Terry O Neil Award
Selected for the Format Festival 2009
Awarded National Media Museum Bursary

2007

Magenta Foundation Emerging Photographers Competition, Winner,
UK Category, Toronto, Canada
Awarded Arts Council Grants for Arts

2004

Infinity Awards, Finalist, Young Photographers Category

2003

RCA Society and Thames & Hudson Art Book Prize for 'Black Holes &
Other Inconsistencies'
The Jerwood Photography Awards, Winner

Selected Collections

Victoria and Albert Museum, London (UK)
National Media Museum, Bradford (UK)
Museum Caloust Gulbenkian, Lisbon (Portugal)
PLMJ Foundation, Lisbon (Portugal)
Ilídio Pinho Foundation, Porto (Portugal)
MACE (Contemporary Art Museum), Elvas (Portugal)
Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas (USA)
EDP Foundation/MAAT, Lisbon (Portugal)
Fundation Carminac, Paris (France)
RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects), London (UK)
CAV (Centro de Artes Visuais), Coimbra (Portugal)
Novobanco, Lisbon (Portugal)
Museu Casa das Mudas (Madeira, Portugal)
Fundação Leal Rios (Portugal)
MAST (Italy)
Centro de Arte Contemporânea Graça Morais (Bragança, Portugal)
The Progressive Collection (Ohio)