

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 <i>What Photography has in Common with an Empty Vase</i> , MNAC, Lisbon
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2020

What Photography has in Common with an Empty Vase, Macau Museum of Art
What Photography has in Common with an Empty Vase, Catharine Clark Gallery
What Photography has in Common with an Empty Vase, 3 Shadows Art Centre, Beijing

2019

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, London

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
De outros espaços (works from the MAAT collection), Galeria Municipal do Porto, Portugal
Photaumnales Beauvais & Hauts-de-France, France
Fiction and Fabrication, MAAT, Lisbon
Format Festival, QUAD 2018
Constellations: A choreography, Museu Coleção Berardo, Lisbon.
Civilisation: The Way we live now, Ullens Contemporary Art Centre, Beijing
Civilisation: The Way we live now, National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne
Civilisation: The Way we live now, Auckland Art Gallery, New Zealand
Winter Garden Project, a project by Odette England, Houston Centre of

Photography

Civilisation: The Way we live now, Museum of Civilization, Marseille

Beyond Boundaries, Aperture Foundation, New York

Winter Garden Project, Houston Centre for Photography, USA

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 o 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 (CAA), 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, Espozsizione di fotografia contemporanea, Atelier dell'Arco Amorofo, 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
Masterworks of Industrial Photography, Electa, Italy

- 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)
 Museu Calouste 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)
 Fondation 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, USA)

JP Morgan (UK)