

Notes on the Cover Painting



Coimbra. Author: Mário Silva. Technique: Oil on canvas. Date: 2001.

The work *Coimbra* belongs to a group of numerous geo-urban landscaping compositions, endlessly painted by Mário Silva. The present work aims, through its intimate heterogeneous extreme creativity, to assume the different views of his city from Santa Clara's high hills.

Mário Silva

Mário Silva was born in 1929 (Coimbra – Bencanta), Portugal. He lives and works in his home studio in Santa Luzia de Lavos, Figueira da Foz. Great contemporary Portuguese artist, linked to the generation of the sixties, he devotes his life to a cultural, humanistic and libertarian action, contesting the establishment. Co-founder of the Circle of Fine Arts of the Academic Association and interventor, together with Reis Santos, in the II International Art Symposium, in which René Huyghe also participated, he started his activity, exhibiting his works, for the first time, in 1951.

His professional career reached great public success, achieving national and international critical interest. His aesthetic work is mainly devoted to painting, but it extends to the fields of graphic arts (monotype, engraving, serigraphy, illustration, poster), ceramics, sculpture and monumental public art.

He holds many national and international awards, like the Copa per il miglior Artista d'Avanguardia (Milan – Italy, 74), the Great Award Galliano (Milan, 75), the International Peace Award (International Institute of Rome Humanistic Studies – Foundation for the Poets, Writers, Painters and Journalists, Italy, 83), the first awards Arte d'Avanguardia (Milan, Italy, 74), Valbruna Prize-Sculpture (Gabicce-Mare-Italy, 71) and, among others, the Silver Cups (Comuna di Como – Italy, 1972 and 82) and the Gold Medal (Giro delle Arte di Lombardia – Italy 75).

Several of his works can be found in different Museums of Modern and Contemporary Art (abroad: Rio de Janeiro, S. Paulo, Boston, Anchorage, Amsterdam, Montecatini, Stockholm; Portugal: Coimbra, Lisbon, Amarante, Castelo Branco, Figueira da Foz, Vila Franca de Xira, Viseu, Ovar), Art Galleries, Public Galleries and Private Collections scattered all over the world.

Among other academic awards, he is an effective member of the Art and Science Academy “500 di Roma”, Honorary Academic – Rome Academic Secretary – Italy (1980), member of the Fine Arts Royal Academy (Hague – Holland, 63) and of the Basel International Academy (Burkhardt, Switzerland, 1980). He holds the Cultural Merit Medal of the City of Coimbra and he was awarded the Cultural Merit Medal of the Portuguese State, given by the Culture Ministry, in 2007. In December 2009, Mário Silva, by invitation of the Contemporary Art International Biennial of Florence, is included in the list of invited Artists and is awarded the Career Prize “Lorenzo I/Magnífico (Magnificent)”.

He knows many artists, literati and scientists, from different schools and movements all over the world and he promotes the interdisciplinary dissemination of art, in a permanent dialogue with the younger generations. He is a passionate fighter for Peace, a supporter of the Humanitarianism and of the Portuguese-Gallic traditions.