

Joao Batista (1963) reside em Aveiro, onde viveu quase toda a sua vida e onde exerce a sua atividade profissional como Professor da Universidade de Aveiro. Desenvolve um percurso artístico que parte da fotografia, como forma de expressão pessoal das suas próprias interrogações. Procura discutir a relatividade do conhecimento associado às diferentes perspetivas com que cada objeto, cada evento, cada conceito, pode ser observado, percecionado e comunicado. Esta ideia está subjacente em séries como *Lost*, *The Other Side* ou *Who Are You?*, e também em composições de imagens observáveis na série *La Grande Ligne* ou em obras como *The Gate* e *The Corner*.

Tem divulgado as suas obras através de exposições, festivais e concursos, de algumas publicações em obras coletivas e em diversas exposições, destacando-se algumas exposições individuais:

- 2015: exposição "Limits", Museu Júlio Dinis, Ovar
- 2014; exposição "La Grande Ligne", Museu de Aveiro (Santa Joana), Aveiro
- 2014: exposição "The Corner", Museu Municipal Abade Pedrosa, Santo Tirso
- 2013: exposição "Lost", Biblioteca Domingos Cravo, ISCA – Universidade de Aveiro
- 2009: exposição "Interação com a Arte", Museu Municipal de Oliveira de Frades

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Projecto / Project

Scratch the Surface

Artista / Artist

Joao Batista

Um~~a~~s palavrinhas sobre / A few words about

Guimarães, 3-4 outubro 2015

CAAA - Centro para os Assuntos da
Arte e da Arquitectura

Scratch the Surface - Synopsis

Multiverses: what changes during a visit to another universe?
How many universes can one visit along a lifetime?

New knowledge arises from the discovery and exploration of new worlds, new perspectives, and new actions. The courage is revealed when searching, when testing, when scratching the surface, allowing a glimpse into new other sides.

Scratching the surface, a line is drawn. Some lines are more fluid and quiet, others are more abrupt and rugged.

The lines leads us. The lines teases us. Disruptive moments occur.

Disruption: interruption. Disruption: break. Disruption: crash.
Disruption: disorganization. Disruption: new light. Again, something new comes up, a new universe, plus another side.

New lines are drawn and broken again. And again. The pieces of knowledge are fitting along the line. And between the lines. Some pieces are lost in the process, some reappear unexpectedly.

The knowledge remains incomplete. Always incomplete. But less and less incomplete. Or not.

Seek the great utopia, the essence of things, understanding the concepts, the knowledge itself. After all, nothing but a utopia, but thankfully the utopia remains.

Joao Batista, 2015

The Process

My artistic activity is mainly focused on photography, an approach in black and white and purposely blurred photographs, in order to create layers of abstraction and thus highlight the underlying concepts. Cross concept to the whole work is the relativity of knowledge, which has been explored in thematic series like Lost, The Other Side, Limits or La Grande Ligne.

For this exhibition I thought I'd highlight some work that I have done physical intervention scratching on some photos or compositions, combined with other pieces into a coherent whole. This scratching technique arose in connection with the series La Grande Ligne.

The first time I exposed this kind of work was on display that I made in 2014 in the museum Santa Joana, Aveiro. An example can be seen here:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/joaobatista/15167290734/in/album-72157644954952012/>.

This scratching technique can be seen as a plastic approach to strengthen the idea of line or thread, but also serves as a means to express knowledge discovery, which may be done when "scratching the surface" of things and we begin to discover aspects and ideas that do not glimpsed.