

JULIÃO SARMENTO

Julião Sarmiento (1948–2021) is one of the most important contemporary Portuguese visual artists and one of those who achieved remarkable international projection with his work. Developed since the 1970s, Julião Sarmiento's work involves various artistic disciplines and media – drawing, painting, engraving, sculpture, installation, film and video, photography, performance, and sound, crossing over aesthetic and visual languages that explore and highlight his literary, cinematographic, and architectural influences.

Julião Sarmiento's career began by studying Architecture (and Painting, which he did not complete) at the Escola Superior de Belas Artes de Lisboa (1967–1974). The friendship and artistic complicity with Ernesto de Sousa (1921–1988) led him to the organisation of the exhibition that marked the years of rupture and creative agitation that followed the 25th of April 1974: *Alternative Zero* (1977). This seminal exhibition not only provoked profound changes in the national artistic context, but also showed works by a generation of artists who, like Julião Sarmiento and his great friend Fernando Calhau (1948–2002), were just starting out on their careers.

In the early 1980s Julião Sarmiento began a new phase in his work and was one of the artists who played a leading role in what became known as the "return to painting", taking part in the controversial exhibition *After Modernism*, held at the Sociedade Nacional de Belas Artes (1983). This decade marked the beginning of the internationalisation of Julião Sarmiento's work, with his participation in the XI Biennale of Paris (1980), Documenta 7 (1982) and Documenta 8 (1987), consolidated in the following decade, when he was Portugal's representative in the 47th Venice Biennale (1997), and reaffirmed with his participation in the 25th Biennale of São Paulo (2002). This international visibility and recognition were strengthened and amplified by his collaborations with the Canadian-Armenian director Atom Egoyan (b. 1960), at the 48th Venice Biennale (1999), with the video installation *Close*, curated by Michel Tarantino, and with the North Americans John Baldessari (1931–2020) and Lawrence Weiner (1942–2021) – major names in conceptual art – with the film *Drift*, made for the Centro Cultural de Belém (2004), curated by Delfim Sardo. Julião Sarmiento also collaborated with the Spanish sculptor Juan Muñoz (1953–2001), when both their works occupied the Metalúrgica Alentejana in Beja (1993). In 2021, as part of the commemoration of the 18th anniversary of *Umbigo* magazine, the artistic project by Julião Sarmiento and Lawrence Weiner is published, along with 17 other projects by other authors.

From 1976, the year of his first solo exhibition at the Galeria de Arte Moderna da Sociedade Nacional de Belas Artes (Lisbon), until 2020, his works were shown in

dozens of exhibitions in various Portuguese galleries, and numerous European and North American galleries.

Julião Sarmiento's work has been shown in Portugal at the most important museum institutions for contemporary art: at the Museu de Serralves, Porto (1992 and 2012), at the Museu de Arte Contemporânea – Fortaleza de São Tiago, Funchal (2001), at National Museum of Contemporary Art, Lisbon (2002 and 2020), at Visual Arts Centre, Coimbra (2004), at Arpad Szenes-Vieira da Silva Foundation, Lisbon (2011), at Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Elvas (2013), at Carmona e Costa Foundation, Lisbon (2018), at José de Guimarães International Centre for the Arts (2018). The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation has dedicated three exhibitions to him: in 1993 and 2000 at Centro de Arte Moderna, and in 2016 at the Delegation in France. Internationally, the artist had seen his works exhibited in several museums in Spain, Italy, France, Germany, Croatia, England, Brazil, and Mexico. From this exhibition activity resulted many books/catalogues, many of which were conceived in close collaboration with Julião Sarmiento.

The different phases of his artistic career have also been analysed by critics and curators – Germano Celant, Alexandre Melo, Nancy Spector, Delfim Sardo, Hubertus Gabner, James Lingwood, Adrian Searle, Louise Neri, among others – in articles published in prestigious Portuguese and foreign specialised journals.

The artist's book was also a field of artistic action that Julião Sarmiento experimented, conceiving his books within the principles of the avant-garde movements of the 1960s, which had its founding moment in Ed Ruscha's book *Twentysix Gasoline Stations* (1962), with a first numbered edition of 400 copies.

He is represented in several private and public collections such as:

Armand Hammer Museum of Art and Culture Center, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München, Germany

Caixa Geral de Depósitos, Lisboa, Portugal

Casa do Infante, Câmara Municipal do Porto, Porto, Portugal

CCA Kytakyushu, Kytakyushu, Japan

Centro Cultural de Belém, Lisboa, Portugal

Centro de Arte Contemporânea Graça Morais, Bragança, Portugal

Centro de Arte Manuel de Brito, Algés, Lisboa, Portugal

Centro Galego de Arte Contemporánea, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Coleção BESarte, Lisboa, Portugal

Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, Texas, U.S.A.

Ellipse Foundation, Lisboa, Portugal

Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

Fondazione per l'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea CRT, Torino, Italy

Fondo Artistico dello Archivio Storico delle Arti Contemporanee della Biennale di Venezia, Venezia, Italy

Fundação Carmona e Costa, Lisboa, Portugal

Fundação das Descobertas, Lisboa, Portugal

Fundação de Serralves - Museu de Arte Contemporânea, Porto, Portugal

Fundação EDP, Lisboa, Portugal

Fundação Leal Rios, Lisboa, Portugal

Fundação Luso-Americana Para o Desenvolvimento, Lisboa, Portugal

Fundação PLMJ, Lisboa, Portugal

Fundación “La Caixa”, Barcelona, Spain

Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan

Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Instituto Valeciano de Arte Moderno, Centre Julio González, València, Spain

Kunstpalaís Erlangen, Erlangen, Germany

Liechtensteinische Staatliche Kunstsammlung, Liechtenstein, Liechtenstein

Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

Malmö Konstmuseum, Malmö, Sweden

McMaster Museum of Art, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden

Munson Williams Proctor Institute, Utica, New York, U.S.A.

Musée d'Art Moderne et d'Art Contemporain, Nice, France

Musée des Arts Centemporains de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, Grand-Hornu, Belgium

Musée National d'Art Moderne/Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France

Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna, Bologna, Italy

Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León, León, Spain

Museo Extremeño e Iberoamericano de Arte Contemporáneo, Badajoz, Spain

Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain, Spain

Museu Calouste Gulbenkian / Coleção Moderna, Lisboa, Portugal

Museu Coleção Berardo, Lisboa, Portugal

Museu d'Art Contemporani Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

Museu Nacional de Arte Contemporânea - Museu do Chiado, Lisboa, Portugal

Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

Museum of Modern Art, New York, New York, U.S.A.

Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst, Antwerp, Belgium

Muzej Suvremene Umjetnosti Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

New York Public Library, New York, New York, U.S.A.

Novagalicia Banco, A Coruña, Spain

Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Regia di Caserta (Terrae Motus), Caserta, Italy

Saison Foundation, Tokyo, Japan

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, California, U.S.A.

Secretaria de Estado da Cultura, Lisboa, Portugal

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, New York, U.S.A.

Staatsgalerie Moderner Kunst, München, Germany

Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany

Stadt Museet, Lund, Sweden

Städtische Galerie am Markt, Schwäbisch Hall, Germany

Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus, München, Germany

Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst, Gent, Belgium

Tate Collection, London, England, U.K.

Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv, Israel

Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, The Netherlands

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia, U.S.A.

Washington State University Collection, Pullman, Washington, U.S.A.