

MARCO PIRES
SLOW ATLAS:
AMERICAN LECTURES / LIÇÕES AMERICANAS



25.01 – 08.03 2025
GALERIA PEDRO OLIVEIRA

Opening /
Inauguração: 25.01 – 16h

Calçada de Monchique, 3
4050-393 Porto

Galeria Pedro Oliveira is pleased to present “Slow Atlas: American Lectures,” Marco Pires’ sixth solo exhibition at the gallery, which opens on Saturday, January 25, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

The exhibition is made up of a series of fourteen colour photographs that form part of a photographic atlas that the artist develops across his core artistic practice. The series of unpublished photographs presented here was taken in 2012, in the American state of California, city of Los Angeles, and brings together a set of urban landscapes that map a space in this city that freezes a kind of nostalgia for a time that no longer exists and that refers not only to an American cinematic aesthetic, but also to the specific environment of a city that produces cinema.

The exhibition's subtitle was adapted from Italo Calvino's book of essays, “Six Proposals for the Next Millennium” (1985), an invitation from Harvard University to produce a series of lectures in which the author calls for reflection on the millennium that was approaching at the time, and about which Calvino chose six key aspects that in his opinion would be decisive and important to preserve in the future: Lightness, Speed, Accuracy, Visibility and Multiplicity.

Twenty-five years into the new millennium, contemporary culture presents very different challenges from those of society in 1985. Calvino's last unfinished lecture can be understood as an open metaphor for the current challenges of contemporary society, and in particular of culture that this series of photographs focuses on, which politically has shown recent signs of threat to democracy, in a country that was once known as the land of freedom. The same country whose political leaders intend to ignore climate change, whose consequences currently plague and erase part of the landscape of the city of Los Angeles, and where policymakers discuss the use of social media apps. This exhibition does not evoke the American dream, instead it tries to reflect on the latent and urgent challenges of the contemporary world that generations have disregarded.

Image: “Slow Atlas: American Lectures”, (2012-2025)
Color photograph printed on baryta paper, UV70 glass, oak frame, 90 x 124 x 4 cm

On view: 25.01 – 08.03.2025
Tuesday to Saturday: 3 – 7.30 pm

Galeria Pedro Oliveira

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