

RUI SOARES COSTA

Sweet series

original soundtrack by André Gonçalves

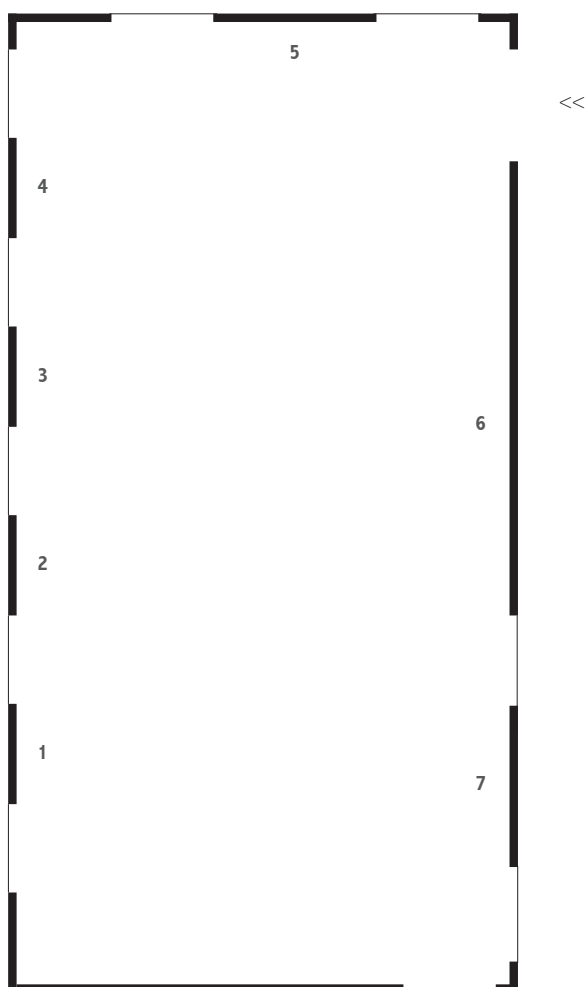
7 - 31 January 2016**Opening**

7 January 7pm

Finissage

28 January 7pm

release of exhibition catalog



1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
untitled
2015
200 X 140 X 5 cm
sugar and varnish on plywood

6
untitled
2015
200 X 420 X 5 cm
sugar and varnish on plywood

Sweet series gravitates around the concept of time and its relation with memory. If Painting tends to be an atemporal discourse, immutable and immune to the idea of time, these pieces take time as a working tool. Despite looking at Memory as a container where elements are stored associated with a given time, Memory processes are generally reconstructive and context dependent. Memory can be seen not as a time container but as a set of processes that are built on time and that use time to take form. These paintings are the memory of a process, an open continuum. They incorporate time to make temporal and mutable paintings.

The **Sweet series** starting point are organic materials (wood and sugar) to which varnish is added to produce pieces that are living entities. These are paintings that evolve with the passage of time. Following a life cycle, paintings are born, they have a life and eventually they will die. The slow rhythm of the change makes the scale of the aging human. These evolving paintings are different today from what they were in the past, and what they will be in the future.

The work presented here derives from an equation with a predefined set of parameters. As in any attempt to produce an elegant equation, parsimony is a key element. Several of the parameters are kept constant so that one can observe the interaction with the others. Size and support are the same, plywood on a wooden frame with 200 X 140 X 5 cm. The materials are always, and only, sugar and varnish. The parameter "type of varnish" is kept constant with the use of maritime varnish (with the exception of a piece in which two types of varnish are used). Variation takes place with the parameters "sugar quantity", "sugar type" and "varnish quantity", controlling the saturation of varnish in which the sugar is embedded.

The **Sweet series** have an original soundtrack by André Gonçalves. Making use of his Musica Eterna, André creates an immersive organic atmosphere to go along with the experience of the ever changing paintings. Musica Eterna is made so that it never repeats itself. It uses a set of pre-determined elements that are compiled by a software to create an endless and always different soundtrack. Each moment is absolutely ephemeral. The paintings will evolve, the soundtrack will follow the metamorphoses. And will keep playing for eternity.

The combination of the Sweet paintings with Musica Eterna will transport us to organic and ethereal abstract landscapes.

Rui Soares Costa (b. 1981) has a background in the intersection of art and science. He was trained as a visual artist and scientist. He studied Painting at Ar.Co, Lisbon during which time he graduated in Social Psychology. Rui later pursued his post graduate education between Portugal and the US. Since 2013 he has been working exclusively as a visual artist. Currently living and working in Lisbon, Portugal.

Between 2000 and 2003 Rui studied Painting at Ar.Co, Lisbon. During that time he pursued a degree in Social Psychology at ISPA, Lisbon (2005). In 2009 he obtained a PhD in Social Psychology from ISCTE, Lisbon and the University of California, Davis.

During the next three years Rui was a post doctoral fellow in Social Neuroscience between the University of Lisbon and Princeton University, NJ. Rui has been supported by numerous grants and awards from public and private institutions in Portugal, US and UK. He was awarded a four year PhD grant and a three year Post-Doc grant from the Foundation for Science and Technology, Portugal; a Visiting Scholar grant by Alexander Todorov, Princeton University, US and several travel awards by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Portugal and the INCORE, UK.

His artistic work derives from his education as a researcher and his area of expertise. He has long been interested in cognitive processes like person perception and memory, as well as cognitive neuroscience. Rui brings a set of knowledge, tools, methods and mechanisms from an array of fields and domains into his practice as a visual artist. He combines it with influences from contemporary music, literature and cinema.

Sweet series is his first solo exhibition.

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André Gonçalves (b. 1979), works across the fields of visual arts, music, video, installation and performance. Recent projects have included installations such as 'Of how we have to leave doubts, expectations and the unachieved' (2008), 'Trigger Happy' (2009) and 'The Bird Watcher' (2010). These and other works have been presented in several galleries and festivals such as Nam June Paik Art Center, Seoul; FILE, Sao Paulo; Experimental Intermedia Foundation, Diapason, New York; Lab Syntèse, Montreal; Collision Collective, Boston; Untitled Artspace, Oklahoma City; Arnolfini, Offload Festival, Bristol; Steim, Amsterdam; Atlantic Waves, London; Pixelache Festival, Helsinki; ICA, London; Gallery 0047, Oslo; Ura! Gallery, Istanbul; Centro Zittelli, Venice; La Casa Encendida, Media Lab and Sonikas Festival, Madrid; L'Antic Teatre, Barcelona; IFI, Pontevedra; Museu Vostell Malpartida, Maquinarte Festival, Cáceres; Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, CCB, Galeria Lisboa 20, Festival Temps D'Images, Luzboa, EME, Lisbon; Pushing the Medium, Nodar.

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