

# Hugo Canoilas

## Magma

30th March – 4th May 2013  
Tuesday - Saturday, 11am - 5pm  
(or by appointment)



Workplace Gallery is pleased to present *Magma* a solo exhibition of new and recent works by Portuguese artist Hugo Canoilas.

With its foundations in painting, Canoilas' work is often collaborative and incorporates video, sound, sculpture and performance as well as research-based projects. Over the last decade painting has led him to establish a dialogue between abstraction and a style that nods towards social realism painting. With a strong interest in modernism and literature, Canoilas' practice revisits histories from a political, poetic, religious or existentialist perspective and has a capacity to be in a limbo between some of these subjects.

For the past 3 years Canoilas has been collecting pages from free newspapers both at home and whilst travelling. Each page is selected either because of his inability to understand or comprehend the content both in terms of language and subject. These pages then form the ground for a series of paintings made 'blind' in which Canoilas presses the paper face down into paint. For Workplace Gallery, Canoilas has collaged a collection of these works by overlaying specifically selected and framed works with paintings projected from transparencies on analogue overhead projectors.

For his recent installation *Paradise Birds* – at 30th São Paulo Biennial - Canoilas created a series of epic scaled paintings on unframed, unprepared canvas using a process of dipping, staining, and drawing in ink rather than paint. Depicting characters who first explored the interior territories of Brazil the paintings move between figuration and abstraction, performance and propaganda calling into question the status of both the works as art objects and their subjects as either national hero or political tools.

*Magma* brings together a collection of works that explore Canoilas' ongoing enquiry into the potential for his work to operate between media, structure and meaning.

*'My work has a wide range of possibilities in terms of aesthetic and how medium takes shape. It has a lot to do with the multiplicity of events that take place in front of me and its infinite possibilities.'*

*'My work many times acts as a diagram that condenses a lot of different layers where all the social, the political, and the overall aesthetic come together. I do a lot of paintings and it always derives from this chaos. You have so many images in your head and some give you the responsibility to jump over, some are ways that let you go in a certain direction. We still have the positive and affirmative energy that can be brought to this world. The works come from this idea, it looks very complex, but at the end it is very easy and natural. I just can't explain it in a easier way.'*

Hugo Canoilas was born in 1977 in Lisbon, Portugal. Recent Exhibitions include: *Paradise Birds* - 30th São Paulo Biennial - *A iminência das poéticas*, curated by Luiz Perez Oramas, Tobi Maier, André Severo and Isabela Villanueva, Museum Casa do Bandeirante, São Paulo, The isle of the dead, Quadrado Azul Gallery, Porto, *Untitled (we can be altogether)*, curated by José Quaresma, MNAC - Chiado Museum, Lisbon, *A painting is getting its kicks*, 1M3, Lausanne, *Endless Killing*, curated by Chus Martinez. Huarte Contemporary Art Center, *Vota Octávio Pato - Ten reasons to be a member*, curated by Tobi Maier, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt, *Are you still awake?*, curated by Emilia Tavares, MNAC - Chiado Museum, Lisbon, *Strata*, curated by Francesco Stocchi, Sammlung Lenikus, Vienna, *Infinite tasks*, curated by Paulo Pires do Vale, Gulbenkian Museum, Lisbon, *Dear painter paint me... with heart and reason*, curated by Kaszás Tamás. Trafó Contemporary Art Center, Budapest. He lives and works in Vienna, Austria.

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[www.workplacegallery.co.uk](http://www.workplacegallery.co.uk)