

Press Release

5 May 2021

Paula Rego and Her Contemporaries

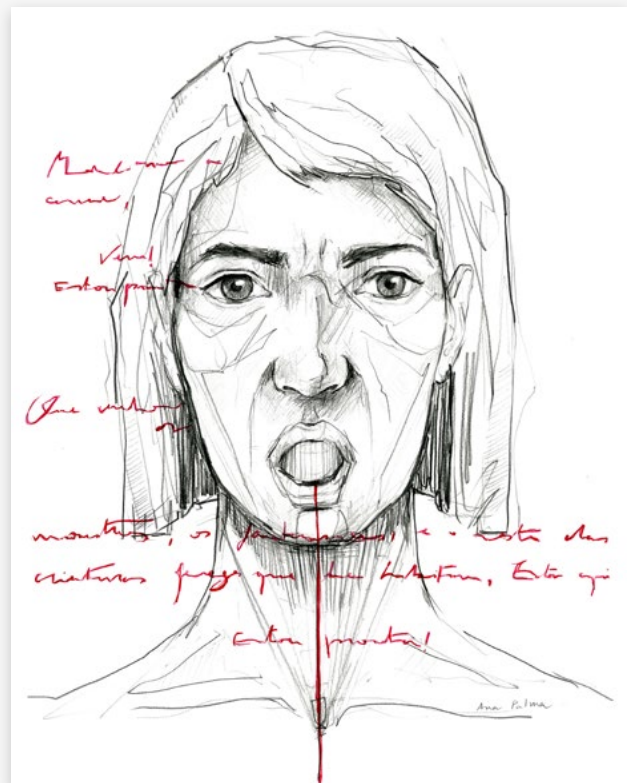
Curated by: Mara Alves
Date: 1 June – 16 July 2021, Monday-Friday 10am – 6pm
Private View: 1 June 2021 (by invitation only – subject to Government announcements)
Location: 12 Star Gallery, The European Parliament Liaison Office, 32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3EU, UK
Website: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/paula-rego>

The Embassy of Portugal in London is pleased to announce Ana Palma and Cliff Andrade as the two artists selected to have their work featured as part of *Paula Rego and her Contemporaries – an exhibition of Portuguese artists in the UK*. The exhibition is being held in collaboration with the 12 Star Gallery to celebrate Portugal's Presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2021 and will see the artists, chosen by way of an open call, exhibit their work alongside prints contributed by Paula Rego herself. It is curated by Mara Alves and has the support of Camões I.P.

We are very excited to have the contribution of one of the most important figurative artists from her generation. Among the eleven prints by Paula Rego that will be on display alongside works by the selected artists is an etching entitled *La Mano Muerta*, published in 2020 from a plate drawn in 1962/4, which will be shown publicly for the first time.

Paula Rego and Her Contemporaries invites us to look back at the past from an evolutionary perspective as well as celebrating the creative processes in response to the challenges facing Europe in the 21st century: the digital transition and its impact on the visual arts as well on the world at large; the development of a social Europe, with a particular focus on the EU's role in the world.

Mara Alves, the exhibition's curator, commented: *The project aims to promote Portuguese artists in the UK, whose works respond to the challenges*



Ana Palma
Demeter, 2021

Graphite and watercolour on paper. Image: 29.7 x 42 x 0.02 cm

that Europe faces in the 21st century. When considering its social and artistic phenomena, Portugal stands as a nation of renewed culture: authentic, powerful, and irreversibly globalised, yet with its creative roots untouched and uniquely understood by each artist involved in this show. Gifted with impressive technical and creative skills, and inspired by their thematic adversities, the artists remain rigorous within their linguistic production, willing to convey, within their imaginary universe, the expressive dimension of their current contemporaries.

The private view will have a harpist performance by the Royal College of Music's Portuguese student, Frederica Vieira Campos.

Note to Editors:

Talks' programme:

We are hosting a series of online talks, and we are delighted to present them here:

8 of June, 5:30 – 6:30 pm:

Discussing the Women's Role in a Challenging Society – Ana Palma in conversation with Mara Alves (Contemporary Art Curator & Head of Projects) and Nina Pearlman (Head of UCL Art Collections). [Register here.](#)

15 June, 5:30 – 6:30 pm:

Rethinking Identity, Memory and the Notion of Belonging – Cliff Andrade in conversation with Mara Alves (Contemporary Art Curator & Head of Projects) and Katrin Sohns (Cultural Scientist and Curator). [Register here.](#)

22 June, 5:30 – 6:30 pm:

'Paula Rego and Her Contemporaries' – a conversation between the curator, art professionals, and scholars close to Rego's work. [Register here.](#)



Cliff Andrade
a tale of two Madeira cakes, 2020
Dimension: variable



Paula Rego
La Mano Muerta, 1962/64
Etching. Image: 19.5 x 29.5 cm. Paper: 38 x 47 cm.
Published by the artist in 2020 from a plate drawn in 1962/64 in an edition of 50.
Courtesy Paula Rego and Cristea Roberts Gallery, London © Paula Rego

For more information, see the links below:

Gallery details: [\(link\)](#)

To know more about the initial Open Call: [\(link\)](#)

For more information contact:

Curator **Mara Alves** on 07425089060
or maracralves@gmail.com

About Ana Palma

Ana Palma is a Portuguese artist born in 1986 in Viana do Castelo, Portugal. Brought up in the countryside, surrounded by Nature, she was a strong-willed child who loved to learn, explore and create. In 2004, she decided to learn more about painting and the creative process. She studied Fine Art in the University of Porto where she also went on to complete a Master's degree in Teaching Visual Arts.



Her thirst for art and culture and her fascination with travel and discovery inspired her to move to London in 2015, where she currently works as a freelance artist and an art teacher. She has always had a passion for sharing knowledge and experiences. Ana's interest in human psychology and personal development is evident not only in her work as a teacher but also in her artistic practice.

Her work delves into the relationship between women and nature. The human figure, the feminine and the natural world are unavoidable subjects through which memories, emotions and symbolism emerge. Ana Palma has exhibited as a solo artist and in several collective shows both in the UK and abroad.

"I am a curious artist driven by a genuine passion for painting and drawing. Drawing is part of my skin, my flesh, and my soul. I am in each line, in each stain and they are permanently constructing and deconstructing me." <http://ana-palma.com/>

About Cliff Andrade

Cliff Andrade completed his BA at the Glasgow School of Art before studying MA Print at the Royal College of Art, where he was the Tony Snowdon Scholar for 2018-2020. He also holds a BSc (Hons) in Economics & Politics from the University of Bristol. He is a winner of the Jill Todd Photo Award, and a finalist for the Association of Photographers Award and the Aesthetica Art Prize. He has exhibited work at a variety of galleries including the Royal West of England Academy in Bristol (2020), Southwark Park Galleries in London (2020), Spike Island Bristol (2016) and Streetlevel Photoworks in Glasgow (2014).

Cliff works with a diverse and dynamic range of media, combining traditional printmaking, photography & time-based media to explore notions that dominate his lived experience: belonging & un-belonging, place



& memory, displacement, labour & poverty, hope & hopelessness and notions of family – and the emotional potency of the intersections between them all. He is particularly interested in the idea of ‘home’ and its importance to our sense of personal identity. His work contains great imaginative, emotional power within a very intelligent, analytical approach, and it is the tension between these two elements that make it fascinating.

Drawing on personal and social histories, his rigorous commitment to research allows him to weave many sources and references into his work. Often working directly with migrant and particularly Portuguese diasporic experiences, he fuses the personal and culture specific with broad references to relate to both the individual and the universal. In this way, he creates non-linear narratives that open up conversations and instigate others to reassess their own relationship to his themes. While his work is rooted in personal experiences, his practice reaches out touching broad and universal concerns such as a desire for belonging and a connection to place.

Cliff’s current focus is in developing his interest in ‘walking art’, using walking as a way to ‘learn to unlearn’ – to bypass intellectual practices he cannot otherwise escape. In contrast to a ‘Baudelairean’ tradition, he considers himself a painter of modern lives, bringing forward a working class and migrant subjectivity to challenge a historically dominant objective narrative. His audio essay, *Bristoler Chronik*, developed with Bricks Bristol, explores his approach to walking and the themes and ideas it allows him to explore. It is available on [Apple Podcasts](https://cliffandrade.cargo.site/). <https://cliffandrade.cargo.site/>

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