



FEATURED TEXTS OR PROJECTS

**FO:RCE _ Photography:
Reflection, Creation and Teaching**

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Abstract

This essay presents four final-year undergraduate photography projects developed within the Contrast project (2022–23). The works explore themes of identity, memory, family, fragility, and archives through distinct approaches: André Paulino's *Kaus*, a multimedia exploration of psychological states; Beatriz Pilré's *Elos*, a reimagining of family traditions and female lineage; Duarte Manhita's *01.C.18*, a cinematic study of hidden hospital spaces; and Maria Judas's *Searching in the Chest of Affection*, a poetic reflection on childhood and growth. Together, these projects highlight the value of tutorial-based pedagogy in fostering individual creativity, turning limitations into opportunities for authorial exploration.

Keywords: Photography, Reflection, Creation, Teaching, Visual criticism

Biography

Orlando Franco is a Lisbon-based artist, curator, professor, and cultural mediator. He holds a PhD in Media Arts from Universidade Lusófona de Lisboa and a degree in Fine Arts from ESAD–Caldas da Rainha, with further studies at Salamanca, the University of Lisbon, and Ar.Co. His artistic practice spans video, photography, installation, and drawing, often exploring tension, failure, weight, lightness, and the interplay between body and machine. He is Assistant Professor in Cinema and Media Arts at Universidade Lusófona, co-director of the Master's in Photography, and deputy director of the BA in Photography. Since 1999, he has exhibited widely in Portugal and abroad. Since 1999, he has regularly exhibited his work individually and in group shows. His recent projects include "Notes on Empathy and Otherness" at the Cultural Centre of Lagos, and "WAIT" at the Berardo Collection Museum, CCB, Lisbon.

Rodrigo Peixoto holds a Master's in Fine Arts from ESAD.CR (2010) and completed his photography studies at AR.CO (2000). In 1999, he was awarded a FLAD scholarship to study at SVA, New York. Participant in the 1st Photography Course of the Gulbenkian Programme for Creativity and Artistic Creation (2004). Author of several scientific articles on photography. He has been exhibiting regularly since 1999, and his photographs are part of the PLMJ, BES Arte, and EDP Foundation collections. Founder of the company "Resize" (2001 and 2018) and the "Art Division" department at L2Spirit (2005). Co-founder of "Hélice – Photographers Who Use Photography" (2016), an association that created the magazine "Propeller," where he is part of the editorial board. He has been a lecturer at ULHT in the Photography Department since 2008 and the programme director since 2017.

Essay

In this 2022–23 academic year, we present, as part of the Contrast project, the work of four final-year undergraduate students: André Paulino, Beatriz Pilré, Duarte Manhita, and Maria Judas.

These students' projects touch on themes such as identity, memory, fragility, family, and archival work, clearly reflecting some of the key directions in contemporary photography.

André Paulino's project, *Kaus*, unfolds as a dive into the inner workings of a psychological state where the speed of images and thoughts collide in a chaotic context. The result is an installation of text and images in various media: a manifesto, repetitive images engraved on metal plates, and audiovisual objects for multi-screen video and sound displays.

Beatriz Pilré's project, *Elos*, reveals part of a journey of self-discovery centred on family ties, marked by the female figures of her mother and grandmothers. This project explores the specific traditions of a region (Glória do Ribatejo), revealing bodies, identities, rituals, and landscapes, which, through photography, singularly reimagine this reality.

Duarte Manhita developed a photographic series entitled *01.C.18*, which focused on less visible hospital architecture. Archival spaces, storage rooms, and hospital laboratories, under dramatic lighting and cinematographic framing, reveal tense and dramatic narratives through suspended actions and the constant suggestion of movements that highlight human absence.

In her project, *Searching in the Chest of Affection*, Maria Judas embarked on an expedition into her memories, particularly the imaginary territory of childhood. Her work consists of images forming a constellation of symbolic references linked to that journey. This poetic visual narrative addresses the theme of growth as a phenomenon filled with uncertainties. Rather than questioning what it means to be an adult, this project meditates on the inability to remain a child. The images pave the way for a visual narrative that moves from the freedom found in the affections and relationships of childhood to an inevitable constant redefinition, marked by doubts, of the irregular path from adolescence to adulthood.

These four projects illustrate well the importance of the pedagogical practice of individual tutorials as a distinct form of teaching, promoting procedural development based on each student's unique specificity. This methodology enables the enhancement of each student's qualities while presenting solutions, in the form of authorial exploration opportunities, to the existing limitations and contingencies.

In reality, there are no "right" themes or predetermined paths. Problems, limitations, and difficulties can become starting points for a project, all while maintaining a deep respect for the identities and idiosyncrasies of each individual.

André Paulino

Kaus

