Every time a new artist approaches us we are amazed at how they find out about the ELA gallery. Word of mouth, “affiches,” invitations by mail and email and the articles in the Flash (that are frequently spread abroad) are only a few examples. Whatever it may have been that led them to us, I very often realize how much courage it has taken them to take the step and ask us if their works of art may be shown at the cafeteria art space, especially when it concerns their first big show.

Enter Antonio Pereira Morgado. He found out about the ELA gallery through the company that he works for. It keeps campus in radiant and shiny shape. Therefore he already knew EPFL, including the ELA space, inside and out, literally, before he decided to move forward on his art.

Antonio, who studied Art History for a few years while visiting the «lycee,» was born in Prado, a small village in the northern interior of Portugal between Viseu and Guarda. Although Portugal has beautiful landscapes inland, he always loved the coastal area and the sea with its ever changing colors. Color also plays an important part in the towns and cities in his home country: especially in the northern part the homes are painted in very bright and mixed hues. The people are colorful as well, both in the sense that they are open, warm and welcoming to others, and through their love for «song and dance.» It is this «magie des couleurs» and the abundance of light that we find in Antonio’s work.

Impressed early on with the works of Van Gogh and Dali, his latest inspiration has been Jonas Gerard, a contemporary American artist from North Carolina, who is known for his vibrant abstract pieces. Antonio’s work reflects a similar taste for vibrancy; he sets a tone in his work that may be described as a «play of abundant colors.»

Antonio Pereira Morgado came to Switzerland in 1993 and first lived in Interlaken. The impressive exposition of a local fellow countryman who became an artist-friend was an important happening in his life. He began to think about creating his own work, and when he moved to Lausanne in 1998 he still had that idea in mind. In 2001 he began to materialize his passion for painting and with the help of a local friend he invested in his first art supplies. Specifically drawn to the canvas, he mainly applies oil paint, but occasionally also works in plaster, because of its structure. He first puts down the thick substance, then comes in with color on top. He mainly paints figuratively at this stage and has recently also begun to learn how to paint portraits. Every now and then, though, Antonio paints abstract pieces as well, and whereas he feels that in figurative art he can directly express whatever he wants to share with others, «abstracts stand somewhat on their own: they have the privilege to allow an emotion of a certain moment to be captured, while maintaining a level of mysteriousness at the same time.»

Antonio Pereira Morgado feels that perhaps he has not found his own identity yet in painting. This will surely keep him going on his continuous quest for new possibilities, ideas and images. May his road be challenging, ever expanding and always be colorful.

Enjoy the show!

Antonio Pereira Morgado
«Magie des Couleurs»
Abstrait et figuratif
April 12 - May 28
Artist’s reception:
Thursday, April 15
18h00 - 20h00
Location: EL buildings,
room ELA 010
Hours:
8h45 - 17h00 Mo - Fri
Information:
gusta@botanical.nl