PRÉMIO
SONAE MEDIA ART

🐦 @SonaeArt#SonaeMNACArtCycles
📌 sonae-mnac-art-cycles
f Sonae Art

PRESS RELEASE
6th December 2017

<u>Biggest national art award in the field of new media gives 40,000 euros to the winner</u>

RODRIGO GOMES WINS SONAE MEDIA ART AWARD 2017

Sonae Media Art Award is a Sonae initiative with Museu Nacional de Arte Contemporânea – Museu do Chiado, which seeks to encourage creativity and innovation in society, awarding young Portuguese or foreign creatives who live in Portugal and present original works with multimedia as a support and/or a subject, both in an exploratory and innovative way and from a critical and historical point of view.

Rodrigo Gomes is the winner of **Sonae Media Art Award**'s second edition, the most important national contemporary art award, worth 40,000 euros. This initiative is a result of Sonae's corporate responsibility policy, which seeks to promote creativity and innovation in society, namely through promoting and developing initiatives in the fields of art and education.

Rodrigo Gomes was chosen among the five finalists by a jury that analysed his original works currently on show in a collective exhibition at MNAC – Museu do Chiado. The jury for this second edition was formed by Filipa Oliveira (curator and current artistic director of Forum Eugénio de Almeida, in Evora), Nuno Crespo (lecturer and researcher in the fields of aesthetics, art theory and critique, architecture and philosophy) and Rasmus Vestergaard (director and head curator at DIAS – Digital Interactive Art Space, the first Danish kunsthalle with a specific focus on media art and digital art).

The Sonae Media Art Award covers all kinds of contemporary creation, from picture to sound, including the exploration of video, computing, sound and mixed media, in which other forms of art such as performance, dance, cinema, theatre or literature may be incorporated.

The first edition, in 2015, had Portuguese artist Tatiana Macedo as the winner of the Sonae Media Art Award, with her work '1989', which explored video and film, through a triple projection with spatial sound, in a personal and sensitive way, connecting individual and political.

MUSEU NACIONAL
DE ARTE CONTEMPORÂNEA
DO CHIADO

In this second edition, **Rodrigo Gomes** stood out with his work '**Estivador de Imagens**' which, according to the jury, "revealed a good understanding of what is the exhibition of a new media art piece in the gallery of a museum. The match between picture, sound, motion and matter, in a sculptural installation, was completely achieved. One should equally stress the installation's ability to engage the spectator in a satisfying artistic experience. Besides these technological and formal aspects, one should also mention the way his work establishes a vital connection between the legacy of important artists like Harun Farocki and current themes like vigilance, terror and war.

The jury would also like to stress the particular quality and relevance of the works presented by the remaining finalist artists, showing a vast research and experimentation field, visible in the various media that comprise them.

In André Martins' work, 'Memorial Feed', the questions raised are very important in the context of the discussion about what it means to exist in a network, the right to be forgotten, anonymity and the way we'll be remembered digitally. The spatial configuration of the piece 'Wolfanddotcom', by André Sier, is complex and defying, revealing a considerable programming and image building work. In 'Samarra''s case, Nuno Lacerda's work, the audience is actually building an image, in an inviting and playful game. As far as 'GOD', by Sofia Caetano, is concerned, the relation between video images and the 'mise en scène' is efficient as it engages the spectator in a direct relation with the work and the suggested immersiveness is very interesting and up-to-date.

Last but not the least, the jury would like to stress the importance of the joint work of MNAC and Sonae in organising this award, which contributes in a vital way to the discussion and the development of new media art in the Portuguese context."

Catarina Oliveira Fernandes, Head of Communication, Brand and Corporate Responsibility at Sonae, says: "The **Sonae Media Art Award** is a materialisation of the values and the culture of Sonae, namely of the creativity and innovation as a means for social and cultural development.

PRÉMIO
SONAE MEDIA ART

@SonaeArt#SonaeMNACArtCycles
sonae-mnac-art-cycles
Sonae Art

PRESS RELEASE
6th December 2017

We pride ourselves that Sonae's continuous investment in this partnership, as well as in many other collaborations we have established in the whole country, is providing young artists with the opportunity to develop new works, at the same time as we contribute to the publicising of their work, promoting a growing approach between society and art."

Emília Ferreira, director of MNAC-MC, states: "**Sonae Media Art Award**'s second edition, a fundamental partnership between Sonae and MNAC-MC, for one of the most relevant visual art awards in our country, presents works that reflect new global contemporary art production tendencies. In the works of the five selected artists – André Martins, André Sier, Nuno Lacerda, Rodrigo Gomes and Sofia Caetano – there are classic themes like memory, death, extinction, fear, war or god, approached in languages like video, videogame, audiovisual sculpture and interactive multimedia installation. These new media, as they challenge the traditional relation between art and audience and question perceptive limits, constitute a growing global tendency. Its newness and the quick technological evolution and the way they connect with artistic languages offer an especially rich field for artists and audience, whose creative maturing, debating and fruition ability need support. The second edition of the **Sonae Media Art Award** thus confirms the relevance of this partnership for the national artistic world, something which is clearly present in the 123 applications presented to the jury formed by Adelaide Ginga, António Sousa Dias and Teresa Cruz. The award jury – Filipa Oliveira, Nuno Crespo and Rasmus Vestegaard – distinguished, unanimously, the work 'Estivador de Imagens' (2017), by Rodrigo Gomes, whom we congratulate".

It should be noted that, as part of the **Sonae Media Art Award** winner announcement ceremony, the exhibition catalogue of the five finalist works will be presented, including five previously unseen essays about each of the works, written by António Cerveira Pinto, João Silvério, John Craig Freeman, Margarida Medeiros, Maria João Gamito, Flávia Violante and Rita Salgueiro.

STATEMENTS BY THE FIVE FINALISTS AVAILABLE ON:
http://www.museuartecontemporanea.gov.pt/pt/programacao/1830

ANDRÉ MARTINS (1994)
He lives and works in Lisbon. After a short academic experience in the field of health sciences, he obtained a degree in Multimedia Art from the Fine Art Faculty at Lisbon University. At the moment, he attends a Masters course in Anthropology at the Social and Human Science Faculty of Universidade Nova de Lisboa.

He's participated in collective exhibitions and artistic residences, in Portugal and in Poland, where he was part of the ERASMUS+ programme. In 2015, he was awarded the 1ˢᵗ prize in the Jov'arte Biennial, promoted by the Loures municipality, a city that also hosted his first solo exhibition at Vieira da Silva Gallery.

In his work, he uses several media, both analogic and digital, in a continuous quest to capture, measure and synthesise human presence in the physical and/or virtual reality.
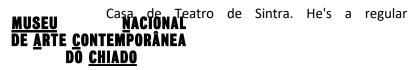

ANDRÉ SIER (1977)

Artist-engineer, electronic craftsman, programmer, musician and visual artist with a background in science, painting, sculpture, music and a degree in philosophy. In his 's373.net/x' studios, which he founded in 1997, he has spent the last 20 years producing works in script, 3D, video, sound, electronic, painting, drawing, sculpture, videogames, shown in over 27 individual exhibitions and one hundred collective events both nationally and internationally. Among the solo exhibitions, he stresses: 'Atlantis', at Museu Nacional de Arte Contemporânea do Chiado in Lisbon (2016), commissioned by Adelaide Ginga; '02016.41312785388128', in Sacramento Church, in Lisbon (2016), commissioned by Ocupart; 'Esculturas Generativas e Jogos (Δs/Δt)', in the São Vicente Church, in Evora (2015); 'Skate.Exe', at Luís Serpa Projetos Gallery (2014-15), as part of the 'Olho por olho, mente por mente' cycle; 'uunniivveerrssee.net', at the São Roque Museum, in Lisbon (2011), as part of the 'Perceções do Sagrado' contemporary art cycle; 'Ape-x', at NT Gallery in Łódź (2010), commissioned by Michał Brzeziński; 'Motion=Snd' at Kapelica Gallery in Ljubljana (2009), commissioned by Jurij Krpan; '747', at Quadrum Gallery, in Lisbon (2002), commissioned by António Cerveira Pinto.

He is currently undertaking his PhD programme at the Planetary Collegium under supervision of Roy Ascott and Mike Phillips. He has also been a regular electronic arts teacher since 2002, with over 50 workshops and annual courses in festivals, art schools, hacker/maker spaces and, since 2012, he is a guest lecturer at Evora University. As a user and programmer of artistic free software and hardware, he has published, since 2000, a few thousands of script lines, gathered in objects, libraries and usable programmes. Three times awarded at the Lisbon Maker Faire (2014, 15, 16), Cerveira Biennial (2009), Jovens Criadores (2006), supported by Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (2015), Samsung (2011), commissioned for the net.arte gallery of Direção Geral das Artes (2007).

NUNO LACERDA (1983)

Born in Lisbon and living in Sintra. BA (pre-Bologne) in Fine Arts – Painting by the Fine Art Faculty at Lisbon University (2008), he has training in graphic books by CITEN – Centro de Arte Moderna José Azeredo de Perdigão – Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, as well as in drama by Casa de Teatro de Sintra. He's a regular collaborator with

several collective illustration, music and theatre projects. He is currently working in the field of art education for children and teenagers at Coleção Berardo Museum, and for teenagers and adults with special needs at AFIF Diferença Foundation.

His individual work develops around illustration and video. Awarded in 2011 and 2014 at FUSO – Festival Internacional de Video-Arte de Lisboa, with his works 'Percurso (6)' and 'Mapa Museu', respectively. Nuno was selected for several edition of the same festival in Paris, New York and Bahia. Other showcases where he's been represented include Cantabile, Goethe Institut – Lisbon, 2011; VAFA Video Art For All – Macao, 2012; Chantiers D'Europe – Paris, 2013; In-Video – Milan, 2014 – 2015; IndieLisboa 2015; and Proyektor – Madrid, 2016 – 2017.

He participated in the artistic residence 'The Non Zero Sum Art Games' at the Revólver platform, in Lisbon, 2013. He was selected for Young European Creation 2013-15. He's also had several collective exhibitions, such as 'O Efémero em Passagem', at Carris Museum, in Lisbon, 2014; 'Mostra de Arte Contemporânea', at Garagem Centro Difusor das Artes, Lisbon, 2015; 'Porque o Céu é Azul', at ISEG, Lisbon, 2016; and 'Panorama', at Le Consulat, Lisbon, 2017.

Out of the individual exhibitions, he picks 'Abscôndito', at the MUTE gallery in Lisbon, in 2016.

RODRIGO GOMES (1991)

Born in Faro, he lives and works in Lisbon. Rodrigo currently attends the Masters in Multimedia Art at Fine Art Faculty of Lisbon University. He has studied Multimedia Art with a specialisation in Sculpture at Evora University (2012-2015). He completed a Post-Graduation degree in Sound Art at Fine Art Faculty of Lisbon University (2015-2016) and a Communication and Multimedia Design course at etic_algarve (2010-2012).

Rodrigo co-founded the Evora Visual Arts Group at the Art School of Evora University (2013) and co-created the T10 Gallery (2014) in the same institution. He's produced multimedia concerts, like Pedreira dos Sons Festival with Evora University Symphony Orchestra (2014) and the collective vjing and videomapping project of electronic music 'Dejavu' (2014-2015). He participated in the artistic residences 'RésVés' in the village of Alte (2016), 'Utopia' at Montemor-o-Novo Convent (2015) and 'LUZ3', organised by Pedro Portugal in Aldeia da Luz (2013).

He has regularly exhibited his work in collective events since 2014, of which he stresses the presentations 'Viga Goiva Maço' – Quadrum Gallery (2017), 'Mostra' (2017), Festival Múltiplo at Zaratan – Arte Contemporânea (2016), Soniferous – Exposição de Arte Sonora at Fine Arts Faculty of Lisbon (2016), 'Utopia' – T10 Gallery (2015).

SOFIA CAETANO (1987)

Born in Ponta Delgada, Azores.

Sofia has a BA in Fine Arts – Painting by the Fine Arts Faculty of Lisbon University. She studied Directing at RESTART and Photography at Instituto Português de Fotografia and was an intern as photojournalist at VISÃO magazine. She completed her Masters of Fine Arts in Media Art at Emerson College, Boston, USA, where she later taught Introduction to Film Production and Foundations of Visual and Media Arts Production.

Her work focuses on movie writing and directing and research/experimentation of its relation with installation and consequent exhibition/drama space. Her filmography includes two fiction short films, documentary and experimental, dance video, music video, art video and, more recently, a web series.

From her work, she picks 'BLISS' (2016) – a hybrid between cinema and installation, which received a Grant in Audiovisual and Multimedia Artistic Creation by the Azores Government. The work is a science-fiction short film which explores existentialist comedy, in a future reality where God is a female scientist. It is presented to the viewer through a film experience that is physical and individual, for the spectator is required to move around the room in order to watch 'BLISS' in different screens and projections. The experience gathers a set of video and sound installations, with sculptural elements.

The film version of 'BLISS' premiered at Michigan Theatre, on the 55th Ann Arbor Film Festival, and its intallation version was first presented at Arquipélago – Centro de Artes Contemporâneas, in the city of Ribeira Grande, in Azores.

Sofia participated in collective exhibitions in Lisbon, Ponta Delgada, Nazare, Porto and Boston.

Her films were part of film festivals in the USA, Japan, Mexico, Turkey, Greece, Switzerland and Portugal. During her path, Sofia was given the Women in Filmmaking Award by the Emerson LA Film Festival and the MFA in Media Art for Excellence by Emerson College.

Sofia Caetano lives and workd between Pittsburgh, in Pennsylvania, USA, and Ponta Delgada, Azores, Portugal. She is currently writing her first full feature film, 'The Happiest Man', and founded, with Elliot Sheedy, The Spectacular House producing company.

Through these five projects we have watched a questioning of art's perceptive limits, placing concepts like interactivity, performing and immersive character, in the centre of the creation of a dialogue with the audience.

These projects also reflect upon science, technology and art's traditional limits, and the parts played by the artist and the spectator, before a new artistic map where communication will itself be forged in a growing virtuality.