

ÁLVARO SIZA VIAGEM SEM PROGRAMA

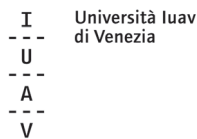
Álvaro Siza



la Biennale di Venezia

13. Mostra
Internazionale
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“ÁLVARO SIZA. VIAGEM SEM PROGRAMA” DRAWINGS AND PORTRAITS

COLLATERAL EVENT OF THE 13th INTERNATIONAL
ARCHITECTURE EXHIBITION - LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA

Venice, 27 August 2012 _ “Álvaro Siza. Viagem sem Programa” is the title of the collateral event that **Fondazione Querini Stampalia** will be hosting from **August 27 to November 11, 2012** (admission is free of charge).

The exhibition is exclusively dedicated to the most personal aspects of the Portuguese architect Álvaro Siza – one the leading players in the international design scene – who was recently awarded the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the 13th International Architecture Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia.

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La Qualità e il Rispetto.



Organized by the **Medicina Mentis cultural association** in cooperation with Fondazione Querini Stampalia, the exhibition is the result of the many meetings the **two curators – Greta Ruffino and Raul Betti** – had with Álvaro Siza in his studio in Porto. The 53 works on show were developed from travel notes and sketches and were personally selected by the artist for the event. They narrate his work in architecture as well as his concept of life.

In addition to shedding light on Siza’s **extraordinary eidetic memory**, the exhibition underscores the power of the drawings (chiefly portraits) created during his youth, his many trips abroad for work purposes, recent dinner parties with friends and moments “free from the burden of work” populated with memoirs, views and ironical stances accumulated with the passing of time. They all contribute to giving form to his way of living and conceiving life.

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“The exhibition – explain the curators – explores the qualities of human nature and design culture alike, with a view to revealing the indissoluble link between these two factors and the Portuguese artist’s most intimate sentiments. It is thus an emotive itinerary that expresses his acute capacity for observation, which he then translates into tangible fragments of reality”.

The work (fifty-three 1/1 prints authenticated by the author that form a unique, **previously unseen collection**), shall be displayed in a sequential order. A succession of prospects, dreams, memories, and the faces of unknown persons and friends encountered in that extraordinary “**Journey without a plan**”, which is **life itself**.

The exhibition will also have a **video projection** area of the interview made in Portugal in August 2011 where Álvaro Siza talks about his personal involvement with design, his childhood, the beginning of his career, his most important encounters and closest friendships, as well as a glimpse into amazing new projects.

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The catalogue of the exhibition “Álvaro Siza. Viagem sem programa” (published by Red Publishing in four languages and printed on Favini eco paper), containing the 53 drawings and full transcript of the interview, will be available for sale – as of August 27, 2012 – at the Querini Stampalia BookShop and at leading Italian and international bookstores.

www.viagemsemprograma.com

Press e info:
press@dumbodesignstudio.it
Tel. +39 342 8490082

The curators, Raul Betti and Greta Ruffino, share a passion for travelling, photography and art, as well as an area dedicated to design and communication. Raul, an architect from the IUAV University of Venice, and Greta, a lecturer in Communication Sciences, deal with integrated projects involving graphics, design, publishing, and cultural events.

Medicina Mentis - Cultural Association Venice supports art – in every form of expression – through the organization of exhibitions, cultural events and meetings with renowned personalities. Medicina Mentis was set up to provide everyone the opportunity of knowing, sharing and comparing diverse artistic and cultural experiences. The founders firmly believe that every form of artistic expression can have a “therapeutic” effect on the lifestyles of homo urbanis who is almost always afflicted by stress combined with boredom. Medicina Mentis is formed by professionals from the fields of architecture, design, graphic art and communication that cooperate with various sector associations and experts in order to promote and enable the public to enjoy free access to art and culture.

www.medicinamentis.it

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Medicina Mentis
Associazione Culturale

Tel. +39 342 8490082
www.medicinamentis.it
info@medicinamentis.it
press@dumbodesignstudio.it



**Fondazione
Querini Stampalia**
Onlus

Santa Maria Formosa,
Castello 5252, 30122 Venezia
tel + 39 041 2711411
fax + 39 041 2711445
ufficiostampa@querinistampalia.org
www.querinistampalia.it