

**Plateia dos Mundos**  
**ÁLVARO BRITO**  
**06 DEC 2012 – 12 JAN 2013**

Álvaro Brito (PT 1985) presents *Plateia dos Mundos (Theatre of the worlds)* at 3+1 ARTE CONTEMPOÂNEA, with new body of work incorporates various elements from his practice including sculpture and video.

In this exhibition we are presented with a body of work which is a culmination of Álvaro Brito's various modes of practice up until this point. Previously the artist has produced various works which investigate the notions of architecture, scale and the construct of space by producing sculptures which result in objects, photographs or light boxes.

In the video we see an amphitheatre with Vitruvian characteristics, which takes as its starting point the description of the Theatre of Memory by Giulio Camillo (1480-1544). This "theatre" was intended to be experienced through mnemonic techniques. In the Art of Memory of Ancient Greece, speakers created mental architectures, where they "pinned" knowledge which they could access when they needed to remember a long speech.

Within the peculiar space of Camillo the aspiration to a universal knowledge resulted that the technique required for the assimilation not only in a physical act of browsing the "theatre" by accessing (as in a library) to different sections of human knowledge, but also in a mental technique which was necessary to complement this experience with the scrolling through a parallel (mental) space. The video *Theatre of Memory* attempts to observe the changes that would be effecting the position of the viewer, as in the theatre of Camillo, interpenetrating it with the position of the actor.

This experimentation is a continuation of the research into issues of scale and image that are evident in the artist's work; if even here, there was a predominance of the scale of the "architect model" and the survey of its transformation by photography, now its intention is to be an experience of perception in real time. And in doing so, in this project the study of small and large scale also extends to the exhibition space and the architecture of the gallery, creating a dual dialogue of perspectives between macro versus microcosmos, the recurring theme within the works.

In the works *Lugar mental (Mental place) 1, 2 and 3* this translates through the intersection of experience with physical objects and photographic visual perception - in its most cinematic sense. In them we have a medium in which it is necessary to perceive spaces with an interior structure independent from the exhibition space, so they can then transport the observer into a mental atmosphere, where the abolition of scale is total.

In this interplay of scales and spaces it is evident that the role of the viewer changes to an active one, almost performative, while invited into them. These constant shifts question the act of looking, as the perception of scale is limited by one's physical engagement. In these varying platforms within this exhibition we are momentarily absorbed into a distant place although strangely near.