

RAÚL MOURÃO

Mechanic

03 MAY – 16 JUN 2007

Raul Mourão (Rio de Janeiro, 1967) is one of the leading names of the 90's generation in Brazilian art. Graduated by the School of Fine Arts Parque Lage, he uses a large range of materials and techniques like drawing, sculpture, video, photography, installation and performance.

In this exhibition the artist presents recent works from the series *Fitografias* and *Caderno de Anotações*, as well as the video *Cão/Leão* made in 2002. The *Fitografias* series were inspired in the informal trade of food and drinks usual in the city of Rio de Janeiro. The colourful tapes that are used to protect the refrigerating boxes call the artist's attention some years ago. Since then, he has been photographing them and making several graphic experiences in different shapes and materials. The four pieces in Formica (130 x 80cm) presented in this exhibition reflect a recurrent process in Mourão's work, which is that of synthesis and subtraction. This work is like a game that starts in the city landscape and ends, through the method of geometric reduction, in an almost abstract place.

In the video *Cão/Leão* (Dog/Lion) the leading character is a street dog, which lives in the same street where Raul has his studio, at the bohemian neighbourhood of Lapa. For 12 hours he and a small staff followed the animal's daily routine, resulting in 84 minutes of reality show parody, which ends up changing the dog's way of life. From a despised and abandoned being, the dog suddenly becomes the leading actor of a movie and the centre of the filmmakers' attention.

In the series *Cadernos de Anotações* (meaning notebooks), the artist works over several drawings selected from his diverse notebooks, scanning and inserting them in a grid that resembles the signalling language used in electronic panels. The process imposed by the artist

takes chance as a natural component of the work, both in the making of and in the final result. There will be presented 10 pieces (40x60 cm) in stain steel plates and 6 drawings over paper (30x40cm).