

SUSANA GUARDADO

Sinner

featuring Beatrice Catanzaro, Cláudia Lopes Costa, Ynaiê Dawson

11 JAN – 23 FEB 2008

Susana Guardado is a Portuguese artist firmly positioned among the new generation of creators. Her art merges with her own life.

Since her first solo exhibition, musical references are constantly present, showing how sound and image are two indivisible elements of her Self.

Susana is also a DJ and she finds in music – and in its sensorial experience – the "possibility to create narratives without words". On the dance floor, a participative and sharing scenario, where ritual moments without transcendence easily take place, she captures the conceptual questions of her artistic work: interpersonal relationships in contemporary society; music as an aggregating and conducting element, capable of generating visual images and special moments, of producing and evoking memories; and, most of all, her personal way of dealing with all this, in an endless search for her identity and self-knowledge.

That's why her work doesn't define anything in particular, it only suggests; it suggests her own story that might, or not, be identified with other personal stories. Like music, she activates memory, inviting to the journey and the creation of new senses.

For her first solo exhibition at 3+1 Contemporary Art, the artist – in collaboration with Beatrice Catanzaro (video), Cláudia Lopes Costa (stage design) and Ynaiê Dawson (photography) – produced an installation with pieces that come from an intuitive working process, giving herself in to will, experience and sensation, rather than trying to build a pre-formatted conceptual thinking. From the first idea came, organically, all the others, with the happy coincidence of making possible for the artists to explore materials and processes that she was willing to explore a long time ago. Beginning with a formal and material investigation – *Testing Dance Floors* – a courtine opens to the immersion on an anonym collective experience – *Europa* – that becomes personal trough the confession – *Sinner*. From topographer to ethnographer, the artist reveals herself, at the end, as psychoanalyst of her own traumas, using visuality as a catharsis to purge the her "guilt": guilt of living the night more intensely than the day, of feeling more than thinking, of easily succumb to pleasure... even if she knows that this is what she is. Then, after the inner reconciliation, she feels the need of thanking those who were always by her side, walking her path, supporting her on the misfortunes and rejoicing with her glories (because even a sinner has its believers). So she decided to create her private *Wall of Fame*, eternally engraving the gestures of her personal idols that are, at the same time, her biggest fans.