

# Spike Island

## Spike Island Gallery Guide: Summer Show

**Jorge Santos - *the world appeared to her reflected by pure inwardness***

**17 July – 26 September 2010**

**Opening times: Tues – Sun, 11am – 5pm.**

Spike Island has a long history of working with Portuguese artists through residencies supported by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. **Jorge Santos** (1974) was awarded the 2009 Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation Production Residency at Spike Island, leading to the development of his first solo exhibition in the UK, *the world appeared to her reflected by pure inwardness*. A resource area documenting previous residencies has been created to accompany Santos' show, alongside a selection of contextual publications chosen by the artist.

For the summer show at Spike Island, Jorge Santos has created an exhibition of sculpture, video and prints which flow throughout the entire gallery. The artist is interested in the evocative effects of displacing the architectural elements of one space into another. He is also fascinated by the way in which different cultures articulate boundaries between their private and public spaces. The exhibition therefore combines elements from Bristol and Lisbon, whilst also merging fragments of architecture from domestic settings and street scenes. In the perimeter space, distinctly British cast iron railings are subtly rendered as embossed prints - *Blind Gate I*; *Blind Gate II*; *Paper Marked* - whilst in the imposing central space, the artist has created an open brick wall, *Blind wall*, a familiar feature in Portugal that would be used to separate the back of one apartment from another.

*Blind wall* was made from white plaster bricks, painted over with white paint; a physical form that almost disappears in certain lights. Like the rest of the works, it invites closer scrutiny when it becomes apparent that the outline of a vine has been carefully woven through the bricks. Natural forms as decorative pattern also occur in Santos' second major piece, the double video projection *Spring Cage*. Here the artist has created the illusion of a large domestic wall complete with skirting board on which is projected a shifting patterned wall-paper of vines, flowers and birds. Inspired by research visits to the print department of the V&A whilst in residence, this piece is Santos' own homage to the Arts & Craft Movement; an important influence on his wider practice.

The poetic nature of *the world appeared to her reflected by pure inwardness* with its barely there illusions and exquisite details, has infiltrated every area of the gallery, infusing the space with Santos' unique brand of romantic minimalism.

Spike Island would like to thank the artist for his time and commitment, to Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation for their support and Filipa Oliveira for her support in helping us realise this exhibition.



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