

# Casa A. Molder Gallery

## Hugo Brazão

### Toad on the Moon

**Hugo Brazão** (1989) is the artist featured in the fifth exhibition of Part 2 of the Casa A. Molder Gallery project.

**Toad on the Moon** is the title of the exhibition, which the artist conceived specifically for this space.

Using the sort of bright, almost playful colours we often associate with Pop art and a variety of materials, such as fabric, wood, resin, pigments and wool, Hugo Brazão tells us of the inescapable. **Toad on the Moon** is a set of sculptures, a dazzle of colour and materials that contrast with the gallery space: frozen in time, its colours old and faded as an expanse of still water, a lagoon that hosts these pieces. The two sculptures, one in fabric and wood and the other in resin, pigment and wool, tell us of the wonders that can be seen on the moon, that satellite of Earth, so close to it and so coveted. The figures we see on the moon are, in many different cultures, silhouettes of animals. For instance, in Chinese tradition the toad, an animal of ill fame in the West, where it is associated to the fear of darkness and seen as hideous and clumsy, is the animal seen on the moon – a goddess who was turned into a toad after escaping to the moon with the gift of immortality.

We see a drawing in wool of the toad, a silhouette with its four feet on the ground and contained in a circle, inside the resin wall piece, an unusual mix of materials knitted together by **Hugo Brazão**. Away from the realm of mythological wonders, we also think of this ill-reputed “gardener’s friend” as the subject of frightening scientific experiments. It is here, in the floor sculpture, evocative of a fabric flame with a moon-like interior, that the analogy between the toad that is slowly being heated, getting accustomed to the rising temperatures that will ultimately exterminate it, and our existence on earth, increasingly threatened by global warming, is activated. The frog on the moon, that goddess of reflected light, that moon we associate with madness, as in the irrational and wasteful desire to fly to the moon while the earthly paradise is being destroyed. All this is conveyed to us through simple plastic forms and malleable materials that we are familiar with, and drawings that stand out.

With a measure of delight, **Hugo Brazão** shows us the apocalypse.

### **The Casa A. Molder Gallery closes during the month of August.**

The exhibition is open to the public on weekdays, during the shop's afternoon schedule, i.e. from **3.30pm to 6h30pm**; visits on weekends and holidays can be made by previous appointment.

The Casa A. Molder Gallery is a project by artist **Adriana Molder**, intended as a showcase for contemporary art that makes use of the exhibition space of **Casa A. Molder**, a historic stamp shop at the heart of Lisbon, on the third floor of 101, 1.º de Dezembro Street, its address ever since it was founded by **August Molder** in 1943. The Casa A. Molder Gallery is a fully non-commercial project.

**The Casa A. Molder Gallery project is kindly supported by:**  
**Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation**  
**Câmara Municipal de Lisboa**

The Gallery is installed in the A. Molder stamp shop, on the third floor of **101, 1.º de Dezembro Street**. For appointments, please contact [info@galeriadacasaamolder.com](mailto:info@galeriadacasaamolder.com). Access to the Gallery is through the shop.

[www.galeriadacasaamolder.com](http://www.galeriadacasaamolder.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/galeriadacasaamolder>

**Hugo Brazão** (b. 1989, Madeira) lives and works in Lisbon.

His artistic practice covers painting, sculpture and textile and develops from the fiction/reality paradox, reimagining the material found within his research and finding its technical possibilities and different narratives that can be created around it. Brazão received his MA in Fine Arts with distinction at Central Saint Martins (London, 2015) and a BA in Painting at Faculdade de Belas-Artes de Lisboa (2013).

Recent solo exhibitions include Snake in a cookie jar (2023) at Voda Gallery in Seoul, What's for dinner? (2022) at Balcony Gallery in Lisbon and Cat did it! (2021) at Commonage project space in London. He has been exhibiting in group exhibitions in the United Kingdom, Portugal, Spain and Italy. Brazão has also been taking part in several art residencies in Germany, Norway, France, Portugal and the UK.