

Stories of Trauma: Post-Memory of Women in the Time of Dictatorship

International Conference

September 19th and 20th, 2025

Organization and Support:

IHA – Instituto de História da Arte, NOVA FCSH / IN2PAST
CHAIA – Centro de História da Arte e Investigação Artística, Universidade de Évora / FCT/ IN2PAST
IGIUMA – Universidad de Málaga
Galerias Municipais / EGEAC – Câmara Municipal de Lisboa
Um Teatro em Cada Bairro / EGEAC – Câmara Municipal de Lisboa

A Theater in Every Neighborhood – Coruchéus Municipal Complex, Lisbon

Scientific Committee:

Bruno Marques (Universidade Aberta; IHA – NOVA FCSH / IN2PAST)
Ana Pérez-Quiroga (CHAIA – Universidade de Évora / FCT / IN2PAST)
Javier Cuevas del Barrio (IGIUMA – Universidad de Málaga)

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Free admission, mandatory registration at: umteatroemcadabairro.corucheus@cm-lisboa.pt

The conference *Stories of Trauma: Post-Memory of Women in the Time of Dictatorship* is an international initiative dedicated to critical and artistic reflection on the traumatic legacies of 20th-century Iberian dictatorships, with a special focus on women's experiences. This project aims to bring together artists, curators, and researchers from various countries, fostering the exchange of knowledge and artistic practices surrounding postmemory and silenced narratives.

This is a two-day conference, with interdisciplinary thematic sessions, which will take place within the exhibition *How to Talk about Trauma? A Dictatorship Still Present in Iberian Women* on display at Galeria Quadrum (Lisbon Municipal Galleries) until September 20, 2025.

Speakers:

Alice Geirinhas, Ana Pérez-Quiroga, Avital Barak, Bruno Marques, Carla Hayes Mayoral, Cintia Gutiérrez, Cristina del Águila, Elo Vega, Giulia Lamoni, Isabel Araújo Branco, Isabel Freire, Isabel Henriques de Jesus, Javier Cuevas del Barrio, Pablo Sanchez León, Paula Godinho, Pedro Faro, Pedro Santa Maria, Raquel Ermida, Sara Antónia Matos, Susana Gaudêncio, Susana Mendes Silva, Susana S. Martins, Paulo Simões Rodrigues, Vanda Gorjão.

14:00 – 15:15 | Panel 4 (Language: English)

Theme: ***Seeing Together: Feminist Art, Visual Activism, and Collective Practice.***

Moderator: **Paula Varanda** (IHA NOVA FCSH / IN2PAST)

Presentations:

- **Raquel Ermida** (IHA NOVA FCSH / IN2PAST) *Four Heads, One 'Pussy': The Struggle for Bodily Autonomy and Reproductive Rights in the Work of the Feminist Artist Collective ZOiNA.*
- **Avital Barak** (IFILNOVA) *'What are you facing?' – A collective investigation into traces of erased history.*
- **Giulia Lamoni** (FLUC; IHA NOVA FCSH / IN2PAST) *A cross-border co-curatorial journey. Some notes on the exhibition The Power with which we leap together.*

15:15 – 15:30 | Coffee Break

15:30 – 16:30 | Roundtable B (Languages: Portuguese and Spanish)

Theme: ***Body, voice, and practice: Artists in dialogue with their artistic experience.***

Moderator: **Luísa Soares de Oliveira** (IHA NOVA FCSH / IN2PAST)

Participants:

- **Alice Geirinhas** (CIEBA / FBAUL)
- **Cristina del Águila** (IGIUMA - Universidad de Málaga / Universidad de Sevilla)
- **Elo Vega** (IGIUMA - Universidad de Málaga)
- **Susana Mendes Silva** (CEIS20 / Universidade de Coimbra)

16:30 – 17:15 | Closing Lecture (Language: Portuguese)

Speaker: **Isabel Freire** (Independent Researcher) *I write to you, Carmen Marques, 95 years after your death.*

Saturday, September 20th

11:00 – 11:30 | Panel 2 (Languages: Portuguese and Spanish) *Within the exhibition A Dictatorship Still Present in Iberian Women at Galeria Quadrum.*

Theme: ***How to talk about trauma in contemporary art.***

Moderator: **Ana Pérez-Quiroga** (CHAIA – Universidade de Évora / FCT / IN2PAST)

Presentations:

- **Javier Cuevas del Barrio**. (IGIUMA – Universidad de Málaga) *Trauma, archive, and utopia.*
- **Bruno Marques** (UAb; IHA – NOVA FCSH / IN2PAST) *Trauma, feminism(s), and the aesthetics of care.*

11:30 – 12:45 | Panel 3 (Languages: Portuguese)

Theme: ***Accounts and narratives of trauma and resistance in literature.***

Moderator: **Filipa Subtil** (LIACOM|ESCS, IPL)

Presentations:

- **Isabel Araújo Branco** (CHAM) *Women, mothers, and daughters: Francoist repression in the work of Luisa Carnés.*
- **Isabel Henriques de Jesus** (IELT – NOVA FCSH) *“Dancing is opening space in a closed circle”: resistance and escape in Maina Mendes by Maria Velho da Costa.*
- **Pedro Santa Maria** (IHC / IN2PAST) *The scene of rape: Iberian National-Catholicisms in A Pécora by Natália Correia.*

12:45 – 14:00 | Lunch Break

Synopsis:

The conference *Stories of Trauma: Post-Memory of Women in the Time of Dictatorship* proposes a reflection on the intersection between trauma and post-memory, exploring how perspectives, discourses and contemporary artistic creations in Portugal and Andalusia engage, emotionally and politically, with the legacies of the Iberian dictatorships of the 20th century.

Far from a direct representation of these regimes, this artistic investigation examines how creative artists from neighboring regions address the traumatic past through narratives that intertwine lived experiences and inherited memories. Through testimonies, objects, and images, the artists confront the reverberations of violence that have lasted for generations, challenging the silence that still weighs on these memories today.

In this context, contemporary art reflects on the transmission of trauma and the direct experience of violence—from domestic violence to sexual repression, from harassment to rape, from labor exploitation to inequalities in fundamental human rights. Natalist policies, deeply rooted in Catholic morality, have marginalized women, denying them sexual and reproductive autonomy. Furthermore, these forms of oppression have been intensified by identity factors such as sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, class, and economic status. The project proposes an intersectional approach to these issues.

One of its objectives is to highlight the continued marginalization of feminist art in Southern Europe, which is often ignored by the canon of international art historiographies.

Central questions:

- How to create an artistic archive that reveals counter-narratives and amplifies the voices of silenced women?
- How can we transform this “sensitive material” into a shared cultural heritage that benefits the community and promotes gender equality?
- How can we approach the post-memory of trauma without falling into an irresponsible, voyeuristic, or opportunistic exploitation of other people’s pain?

Program

Friday, September 19th

14:00 | Opening Session

- Sara Antónia Matos and Pedro Faro (Director and Deputy Director, Municipal Galleries of Lisbon)
- Susana S. Martins (Directorate, IHA NOVA FCSH / IN2PAST)
- Paulo Simões Rodrigues (Vice-President, CHAIA UÉVORA / IN2PAST)

14:30 – 16:00 | Panel 1 (Languages: Portuguese and Spanish)

Theme: *History and memory of violence and oppression in the Iberian space*

Moderator: Ana Bela Morais (CEComp-FLUL)

Presentations:

- Pablo Sánchez León (UPV/EHU) *Trauma and generational cohorts in Spain: from the destruction of the republican democracy to developments under the '78 regime'.*
- Vanda Gorjão (CHAIA UÉvora / IN2PAST) *What women say when they allow themselves to break the silences: female resistance during the dark times of Salazarism, trauma, post-memory, and political dynasties.*
- Paula Godinho (IHC/ IN2PAST) *Intimate memories and tangible sufferings: the sensitive archive of Aurora Rodrigues and late Portuguese fascism.*

16:00 – 16:30 | Coffee Break

16:30 – 17:30 | Roundtable A (Languages: Portuguese and Spanish)

Theme: *Body, voice, and practice: Artists in dialogue with their artistic experience.*

Moderator: Cristina Pratas Cruzeiro (IHA NOVA FCSH / IN2PAST)

Participants:

- Ana Pérez-Quiroga (CHAIA – Universidade de Évora / FCT / IN2PAST)
- Carla Hayes Mayoral (IGIUMA - Universidad de Málaga)
- Cintia Gutiérrez (IGIUMA - Universidad de Málaga)
- Susana Gaudêncio (LAP2PT UMINHO / IN2PAST)