

Visionary Architecture

“Art Doesn't Go To Sleep In The Bed Made For It”

Jean Dubuffet

The collector's point of view

Castles, palaces and huts come out of the minds of the innocent; plans, machines, gadgets take ceaseless turns powered by the creative spirit of beings living in the fringes.

The artistic productions, a refuge of originals who fairies gifted with magic powers, express, in an unconscious language, the verbal inability to communicate.

Excluded from society and committed to asylums, or living voluntarily on the edge of civilization, the creators of “Art Brut”, a concept devised by artist Jean Dubuffet in 1945, without a formal education, built an art movement, free of influences, commercial concerns or individual notoriety.

Especially distinguished in writing, painting, engineering as well as architecture, like the extraordinary “Palais Idéal” by Facteur (Postman) Cheval, in Hauterive, “Maison Picassiette” by Raymon Ysidor, in Chartres, “Maison Bleu” in Dives-sur-Mer by Portuguese Euclide da Costa Ferreira. The “Anarchitectures” by Canadian Richard Greaves, or the Watts Towers built by Simon Rodia in Los Angeles, concrete examples of “Art Brut” architecture.

In parallel, the plans for amazing projects by authors from this art movement, like Vasilij Romanenkof, a Russian carpenter, Jean Perdrizet, a Frenchman who attended

a vague course on bridges and pavement, Pierre Petit et Raymonde, who worked as a locksmith in Bourges (France). In Germany, Karl Hans Janke who, committed to a psychiatric hospital, drew four thousand technical plans, or Martin Erhard, a miner who drew plans for subterranean and mobile homes, and also Serb Tanasic, an architect who went mad and pinned his drawings to trees in public gardens using thumbtacks. Or John Devlin, from Canada, who attended Cambridge University and, after a severe depression, drew the plans for a new utopian city called New Cambriensis.

As well as Brazilian Jesuys Crystiano, Americans George Widener and Malcolm McKesson, Russian Yuri Titov, Austrians Leonhard Fink and Leopold Strobl, Swiss Wolfli, English psychic Magde Gill, Cuban Dilla and many others, who are part of this extraordinary group of visionary “Engineers” and “Architects”, creators of a world where they feel comfortable.

This exhibition will be showcased at the Art Museum at “Oliva Creative Factory” in São João da Madeira.

It will be curated by Antonia Gaeta

Vernissage on 29 April 2017.

António Saint Silvestre