

## EN | Biography

# BELA SILVA



Photo: Margaux Nieto © Courtesy Atelier Bela Silva, Brussels, Lisbon

1/5

### **Bela Silva** **(Portugal, 1966)**

Bela Silva was born in Lisbon, Portugal. She lives and works between Brussels and Lisbon.

In Portugal she studied at the School of Fine Arts in Porto and Lisbon and at Ar.Co; and attended Norwich Fine Arts in the United Kingdom and the Art Institute of Chicago in the United States.

The artist exhibited her works at the Ann Nathan Gallery, the Rhona Hoffman Gallery, the Lisbon Tile Museum, the Anastácio Gonçalves Museum, the Ajuda National Palace, the Ricardo Espírito Santo Foundation, the Oriente Museum, the National Museum of Art Ancient in Lisbon and in the Museum des Arts Décoratifs in Paris. She participated in exhibitions in China, Japan, Brazil, Spain and France and held several ceramic workshops in Japan and Morocco. She attended artist residencies in Kohler, Wisconsin, USA, and Fábrica Bordalo Pinheiro in Caldas da Rainha, Portugal.

Bela Silva has made several works of public art, in which she integrates her work into the architectural element. Examples of that are the tile panels for the Alvalade metro station,

in Lisbon; the panels for the gardens of the Sakai Cultural Center in Japan and panels for the João de Deus school in the Azores. She has also produced numerous works specially designed for private collectors in Europe and the United States.

Bela Silva has collaborated over the years in a variety of projects and partnerships with important international brands such as Hermès, Serax, Viuva Lamego, Bordalo Pinheiro, Vista Alegre and Monoprix. In November 2021 she presented in Paris a hand-painted porcelain collection with the Florentine brand Ginori 1735.

Bela Silva's travels are an inexhaustible source of inspiration that allow her to include local history, culture and nature in her creative approach. The artist values the connection between communities and identities, incorporating traditional elements in her works that she reinterprets in a contemporary manner.

Bela Silva is represented by galleries in Paris, Lisbon, Brussels, Toulouse and Madrid.

### **Education**

1994

- Master of Art, Art Institute of Chicago, U.S.A. 1992

- Ceramic Course, Ar.Co., Lisboa, Portugal.

- BA in Sculpture, Superior School of Fine Arts in Lisbon, Portugal.

### **Scholarships**

- Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

- Luso-American Development Foundation.

### **Solo exhibitions**

2022

- "L'éveil du végétal", Galerie Regala, Arles, France.

2020/21

- Bela Silva - O Atelier, Rui Freire - Fine Art, Lisbon, Portugal.

2020

- Despierta Corazón Dormido, Spazio Nobile, Brussels, Belgium.

## EN | Biography

# BELA SILVA

2017

- Zotten (malucos), Alecrim 50 Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal.
- O Jardim das Tentações, MNAA, Lisbon, Portugal.

2016

- Desorient Express, Museu do Oriente, Lisbon, Portugal.

2015

- Galerie du Passage, Paris, France.

2014

- Toque de Midas, Alecrim 50 Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal.

2013

- Ceramic Panel Project, Bom Sucesso High School, Belém, Portugal.

2012

- A mesa, Galerie Valerie Traan, Belgium.

2011

- Céramiques, Galerie Saint Jacques, Toulouse, France.

2010

- Visita ao Porto, Trindade Gallery, Oporto, Portugal.

2009

- Stag Night, Alecrim 50 Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal.

2008

- O Armário dos Celadons, Casa-Museu Anastácio Gonçalves, Lisbon, Portugal.

2007

- Um olhar sobre o palácio, Ajuda National Palace, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Chegada do Príncipe Encantado, Bissaya Barreto Foundation, Coimbra, Portugal.
- Viagens pela Índia, Colares Gallery, Sintra, Portugal.

2006

- Sometimes I wonder if I'm in wonderland, Bedeteca, Lisbon, Portugal.

2005

- Zoologics, Trema Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal.

2004

- Jardins Secretos, Trema Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal.

2003

- Odaliscas, Trema Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal.

2002

- Mise en Scène, Trema Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal.

2001

- Moças, ARTitudo - Art Gallery, Castelo de Vide,

Portugal.

- Barroco Excesso, Toen Shigaraki Gallery, Tokushima, Japan.
- Barroco Excesso, Portugal Embassy, Tokyo, Japan.

2000

- Os Alabastrinos das Agapetas, Giefarte Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal.

1999

- Antes do mar, as águas, Tile Nacional Museum, Lisbon, Portugal.

1995

- Cerâmicas, Gary Marks Gallery, Chicago, U.S.A.

1992

- A Bela e os monstros, National Centre of Culture, Lisbon, Portugal.

### Group shows and Art fairs

2022

- Un Été au Portugal, Villa Tamaris, La Seyne-sur-Mer, France.
- Season XXI - Bela Silva & Vera Vermeersch, duo show, Arbre de Vie / Tree of Life, Spazio Nobile, Brussels, Belgium.

2021

- Threads of Nature, Spazio Nobile, Brussels, Belgium.
- The New Age of Humanism, Spazio Nobile, Brussels, Belgium.
- Arte Portuguesa Contemporânea, Portuguese Embassy in France, Paris.

2020-21

- Kleureyck, Design Museum Gent / Lille 3000, France.

2019

- Keep Your Garden Alive Révélations Biennial, Grand Palais, Paris, France.

2018

- Season X-Land/Scapes, Spazio Nobile, Brussels, Belgium.

2016

- Convidados de Verão, curated by Penelope Curtis and Leonor Nazaré, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal.

2015

- 10, dez anos, dez artistas, Alecrim 50 Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Wanderlust, Alecrim 50 Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal.

## EN | Biography

# BELA SILVA

2014

- For a minute there I lost myself, Alecrim 50 Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal.

2013

- Wake up! Summer Exhibition, Alecrim 50 Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal.
- O poder do fazer, laboratório 7, Tile Nacional Museum, Lisbon, Portugal.

2012

- "Birds never die in mid-flight. I think.", Alecrim 50 Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Bela & Benoit extra, Kortrijk, Belgium.
- Riso, Museu da Electricidade, Lisbon, Portugal.

2011

- A Corte do Norte, Plataforma Revólver, Transboavista | VPF | Art Building, Lisbon, Portugal.

2010

- Arte Lisboa, Contemporary Art Fair, Alecrim 50 Gallery, Lisbon Congress Center, Pavilion Rio, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Summer @ my place, Alecrim 50 Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal.

3/5

2010-09

- Figuras e Padrões - Albarrada panel, exhibition curated by Tile Nacional Museum (Lisbon) in Oscar Niemeyer Museum, Curitiba, Brazil.

2010-07

- Azulejaria Contemporânea e de Autor , temporary presentation in the 20th century core, Tile Nacional Museum, Lisbon, Portugal.

2009

- Arte Lisboa, Contemporary Art Fair, Alecrim 50 Gallery, FIL, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Cães, Trema Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Encontro de Ilustração, Trindade Gallery, Oporto, Portugal.
- Gruppo di famiglia in un interno, Istituto Portoghese de Sant'Antonio, Rome, Italy.
- O azulejo em Portugal. Lugar de Encontro de Culturas, Fundación Mercedes Calles - Carlos Ballesterro, Cáceres, Spain.

2008

- Enjoy, Galerie Mathieu Lenorman, Paris, France.
- Lá fora, Museu da Electricidade, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Imagens para LER + Obras de Bela Silva in the collection of Tile Nacional Museum (temporary presentation integrated in LER+ program), Tile Nacional Museum, Lisbon, Portugal.
- As Coleções do Museu Nacional do Azulejo,

Lisbon, Art Gallery, SESI, São Paulo, Brazil.

- Presenças de Azulejaria e Cerâmica Contemporâneas no Museu Nacional do Azulejo (1980-2000), Tile Nacional Museum, Lisbon, Portugal.

2007

- Cerâmicas para as Architecturas, Azulejos com autores (1950/2000), Ósirís Gallery, - Caldas da Rainha, by the occasion of Ceramic Festivities, Portugal.
- Tapices Cerâmicos de Portugal, O Azulejo do Século XVI ao Século XX, Real Fábrica de Tápices, Madrid, Spain.

2005

- Contrato Social, Bordalo Pinheiro Museum, Caldas da Rainha, Portugal.
- Oficinas de cerâmica do Ar.Co 2004-2005, Portugal.
- Arte Lisboa - Contemporary Art Fair, FIL, Lisboa, Portugal.
- Tão Estreita Regra Em Tão Vasta Liberdade, O Azulejo em Portugal do século XVI ao século XX, Universidade Pontifícia de Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain.

2004

- Arte Lisboa - Contemporary Art Fair, FIL, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Tile Nacional Museum, Lisboa, Portugal.

2004-02

- Cerâmica Cultura e Inovação 1851-2000, itinerant exhibition in six European museums: Budapest, Lisbon, Limoges, Stoke-on-Trent, Faenza, Selb-Plobberg.

2003

- 3 autores, 3 matérias, Trema Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal.

2002

- New Work Mixed Media, Ann Nathan Gallery, Illinois, U.S.A.
- La Gioconda, Trema Gallery, Lisboa, Portugal.
- Ceramic Museum, Caldas da Rainha, Portugal.
- Arte Lisboa - Contemporary Art Fair, FIL, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Un Art dès Sens. L'Azulejo au Portugal, Hôtel de Ville de Paris, Paris, France.

2001

- Desenhos Eróticos, Trema Gallery, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Musée de Céramique de Vallauris, France.
- Arte Lisboa - Contemporary Art Fair, FIL, Lisbon, Portugal.

## EN | Biography

# BELA SILVA

- O Azulejo Moderno e Contemporâneo, Exponor, Leça da Palmeira, Portugal.
- Obras Sobre Papel e Cerâmica das Coleções do Museu Nacional do Azulejo, Tile Nacional Museum, Lisbon, Portugal.
- 2001-00
- O Azulejo em Portugal no Século XX, itinerant exhibition: Rio de Janeiro, São Salvador da Baia, Belém do Pará, São Paulo - Brazil.
- 2000
- Cerâmica e Joalheria Portuguesa, Wan Fung Gallery, Beijing, China.
- Cerâmica Contemporânea, Vallauris, France.
- O Azulejo Português no Século XX, Tile Nacional Museum, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Portugal, Sofa Show, Chicago and Ann Nathan Gallery, New York, U.S.A.
- 1999
- As idades do Azul, IEFP, Milan and Florence, Italy.
- One Thousand and One Drawings, Artist Space Gallery, New York, U.S.A.
- 1998
- 3 anos de Cerâmica do Ar.Co, Tile Nacional Museum, Lisbon, Portugal.
- 1997
- No small feet, Rhona Hoffman Gallery, Chicago, USA.
- Clay without boundaries, Ann Nathan Gallery, Chicago, U.S.A.
- 1996
- Tea Pot Show, Lill Street Gallery, Chicago, U.S.A.
- 1994
- Ceramic Sculpture, Ann Nathan Gallery, Chicago, U.S.A.
- 1993
- Last Critique, Pro Art Gallery, St. Louis, Missouri, USA.
- Biennial of Young Mediterranean Artists, Contemporary Art Museum, Croatia and Yugoslavia.
- 1992
- Bienal de Arte de Vila Nova de Cerveira, Vila Nova de Cerveira, Portugal.
- Cerâmica e Irreverência, Monsaraz, Portugal.
- 1991
- Biennale di Ceramica, Pallazo della Esposizioni, Faenza, Italy.

## Projects

- 2012
- Bestiário, corks in bisquit Vista Alegre, Lisbon, Portugal.
- 2011
- Commemorative work celebrating 125 years of Bordalo Pinheiro, Vista Alegre, Lisbon, Portugal.
- 2003
- Poster for the National day of Museums, Portugal.
- 2002
- Project for industrial production of tiles Afrodisiaco, Revigrés, Portugal.
- 2000
- Tile design for the commemorations of the city of Lisbon 2000, Lisbon, Portugal.
- 1998
- Azulejo Oceanos, Caixa Geral de Depósitos, Portugal.
- 1997
- Public art project with Mirtes Zwierzynski, new patterns/future visions, project with Chicago students, Chicago, U.S.A.
- 1995-97
- Marwen Foundation, workshops with Chicago students, Chicago, U.S.A.

## Public art

- 2013
- 4 sculptures project, about the four seasons, in collaboration with the nursing home "Ter Meersch3", Avelgem, Belgium.
- Tile Panel, in collaboration with the nursing home "Borgerstein", Mechelen, Belgium.
- 2008
- Tile Panel, Underground station of Alvalade, Metropolitano de Lisboa, Lisboa, Portugal.
- 2003
- Tile Panels, Saikai Culture Centre, Japan.
- 1999
- Tile Panel, Bica do Sapato, Calçada de Santa Apolónia/Rua Diogo de Couto, Lisbon, Portugal.
- 1994
- Project Ameritech, United Center, Chicago, U.S.A.

## Illustrations

- Pássaro Bisnau, Maria Alzira Cabral, Editora Leya 2008, Portugal.

This document was updated on October 2022.  
For reference only and not for publication purposes.  
If you need more information, contact the gallery.



## EN | Biography

# BELA SILVA

- Newspapers and magazines - New York Times, New City Chicago, Elle Magazine, U.S.A.
- Book of Tales, by Alice Vieira, Portugal.

### Collections

- Instituto Statale O'Arte per la Ceramica, Teramo, Italy.
- John Michael Kohler Foundation, Kohler, U.S.A.
- Marshal Fields, Chicago, U.S.A.
- Clube Português de Artes e Ideias, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Museu Nacional do Azulejo, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Banco Montepio Geral, Lisbon, Portugal.