



Comune di Roma  
Assessorato alle Politiche Culturali  
e della Comunicazione  
Sovrintendenza ai Beni Culturali

**MACRO**  
MUSEO D'ARTE CONTEMPORANEA ROMA

## JOÃO LOURO *MY DARK PLACES*



João Louro, from the series "Blind Images," collection of the artist.  
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*On the second floor of the recently renovated via Reggio Emilia building, a bridge to the Museum's new wing, is a solo show featuring the Portuguese artist João Louro. It is a world in which nothing is as it seems, a universe where the short-circuit of vision and language creates original expressive pathways.*

For its Summer 2010 Exhibition Program, MACRO wanted each exhibition gallery to showcase a different artist, thus uniting a multitude of expressive languages and diverse worlds stimulating visitors' curiosity. One of the galleries of the Museum is home to *My Dark Places*, a solo show featuring the work of Portuguese artist João Louro (born in 1963 in Lisbon), curated by Luca Massimo Barbero. Works never seen before and specifically created for this show will be shown as part of Louro's *Blind Images* series. The works are inspired by the seemingly antithetical concepts "fear" and "pleasure," in addition to *The Black Dahlia* by James Elroy, and works of the Marquis de Sade. The text in the work, featuring phrases taken from textual sources, and the monochromatic scheme ironically and subtly interact with one another in a way that similar to labels or subtitles. The observer doesn't find a simple explanation or description in the text, but new suggestions, that open the eyes and mind to different, faraway worlds, filled with philosophical and literary citations. A simple color scheme seems almost to condense its meaning and contain unexpected aspects within the text.

The work of the artist is part of a critical interpretation of reality, the uncertainty, doubt, and complications associated with the creation of a poetic and visual experience. The conceptual art in the work of Louro opens new horizons, reaches across new, unexplored paths; something that is also seen in Louro's other series titled *Dead End*. This series is composed of a series of panels with indications of roads drawn onto them; while invasive, they possess the mystery of poetry, philosophy, and language. The series is instrumental for orientation in a multi-dimensional world, in which streets multiply and weave themselves together, like a demonstration of human imagination.

On the occasion of his exhibit at MACRO, Louro has produced one of his panels to be displayed in the front garden of the Portuguese Embassy in Rome, located in viale Liegi, 21, not far from the Museum.

João Louro (born in Lisbon, Portugal 1963), lives and works in Lisbon. After pursuing architecture studies at university, he dedicated himself to painting, graduating from the Instituto de Arts Visuais Arco. His work includes painting, sculpture, photography, video and finds

### MACRO

Via Reggio Emilia 54 Roma  
Second Floor, Left Gallery  
June 1 – August 22, 2010

Curated By Luca Massimo Barbero

Preview:  
May 27 through May 30

Open to the Public:  
June 1, 2010

its inspiration in the elaboration of visual expressions across languages, involving the viewer directly. Louro has exhibited his work in many important international museums such as the Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Elvas, the Museum of Serralves, Porto (2009) and the Centro de Arte Contemporânea Graca Morais, Braganca (2010). Additionally he has participated in festivals such as Manifesta (1996), Biennale di Venezia e Instite (2005), and his works are featured in many prominent collections such as Fundación Miró in Barcellona, the Margulies Collection in Miami, the Aberdeen Art Gallery in Scotland and the Museu Serralves in Porto.

**JOÃO LOURO “My Dark Places” is a project promoted by the City of Rome, Council of Culture and Communication -Superintendence of Cultural Heritage.**

*In collaboration with*



*The Portuguese  
Embassy in Rome*

*With thanks for their participation*



## **MACRO**

Via Reggio Emilia 54 Roma

Open from Tuesday to Sunday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

MACROTICKET: MACRO + MACROFUTURE:

Single ticket, € 4.50, € 3.00 concession. Valid for 7 days

[www.macro.roma.museum](http://www.macro.roma.museum)

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