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# OH LISBOA, YOUR LIGHT, MY SHADOW

Luis Mileu

I've been directing movies for 37 years, such a long time!

When I was asked by Luis Mileu to look at his pictures, a fair and reasonable enchantment came to me.

I know that cinema deals with movement, with time and the inscription of the body in space, this "gestus" spoken by Brecht. What if everything is simpler? Just concerned human beings between the light and shadows which surround them? The optimistic looking for the light, the pessimists looking for refuge in the shadow.

Luis Mileu pictures fixate outstanding moments where the violent light either hurts or saves, where the black shadow might hide scared souls or throw someone into the absolute evil. This ambiguity, not allowed by cinema, explodes here as a big triumph. Instead of the ordinary words, the merciless silence of the eye which discloses.

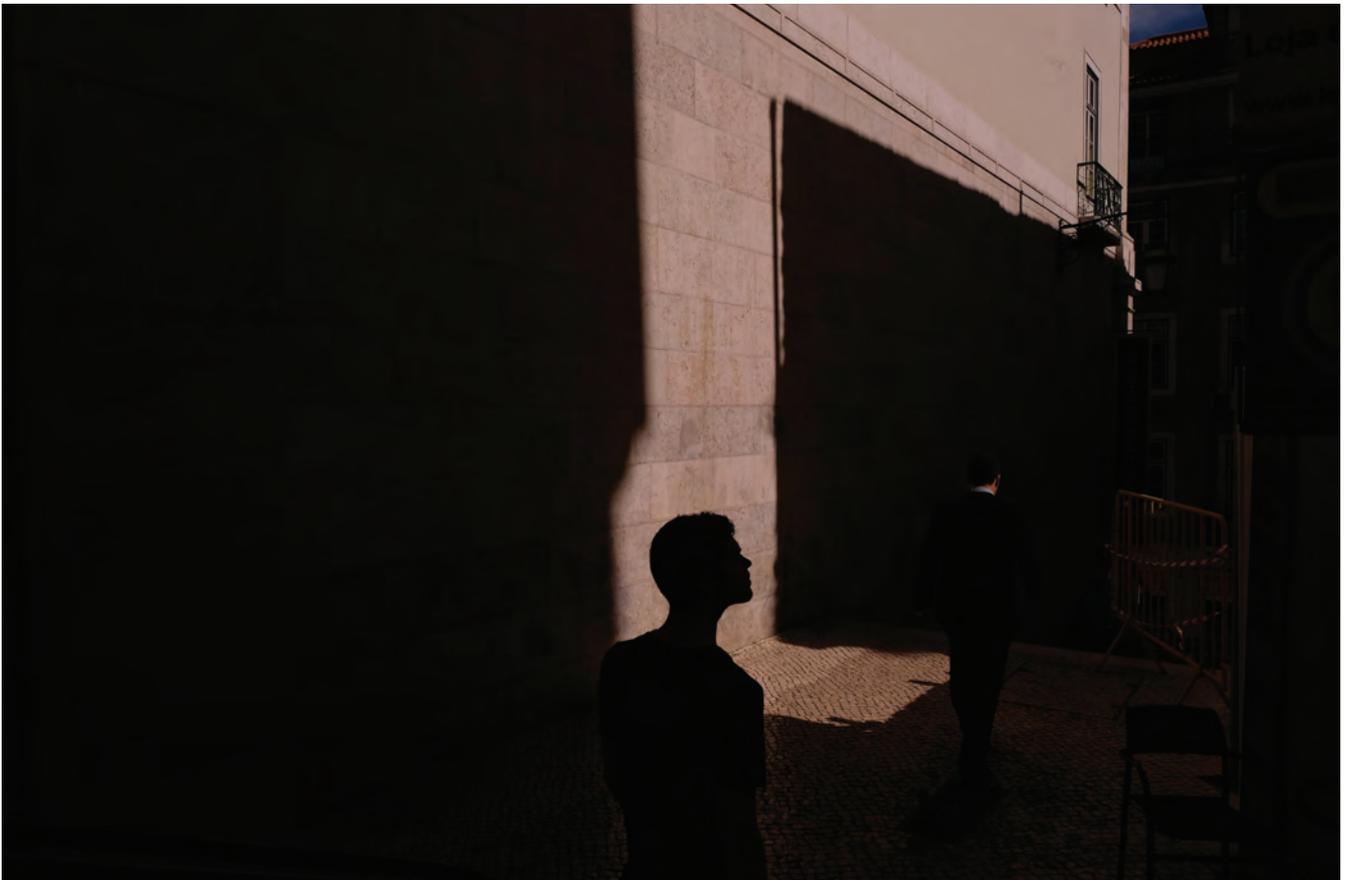
Lisboa is known for its magnificent light which the sun and the reflection of the Tejo's big estuary sculpt in cascades of light the buildings of its seven hills.

But in his pictures Luis draws other thing. As if everything (people, trees, buildings) was just slippery shadows, as if everyone had their name engraved in loneliness and fear. And finally the fog, not pacifying nor less ambiguous: the reflection of the face of the girl which disappears in the blurry mirror, one unlikely and sinister black bird that Luis stopped in its fast flight.

In this 28 spectra so may suspended stories that could explode!

Lisboa, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017

João Botelho



Luis Mileu was born in Estremoz, Portugal in 1972. He studied in Lisbon where he graduated in graphic design at IADE-U Institute of Art, becoming more interested in photography in the following years. During the 2000s, Luis started documenting the street characters in Lisbon – an ongoing project. In 2009 he traveled to Cuba and developed his first personal project – a street shooting approach to portraiture. Most of his work is an emotional journey through street characters. His photography work has been exhibited in Lisbon, Shadow Dancers – Loja das Maquetes (2010), Project 2 Faces – Cinema S Jorge (2011), Boa Vista – Palácio Quintela, (2014), LisbonWeek (2017) and Brooklyn NY, Photoville (2015). He lives and works, most of the time, in Lisbon.

[www.luismileu.net](http://www.luismileu.net)

Kunstraum Botschaft. – Portugal  
Zimmerstrasse 55, Berlin

07.07. – 08.09.2017  
(closed from 01.08. – 18.08.2017)  
Tue – Fri  
11 am – 1 pm | 2.30 pm – 5 pm

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