

**ART  
UNLIMITED  
2019**

# FRANCISCO TROPA

BORN IN 1968 IN LISBON, PORTUGAL

LIVES AND WORKS IN LISBON, PORTUGAL

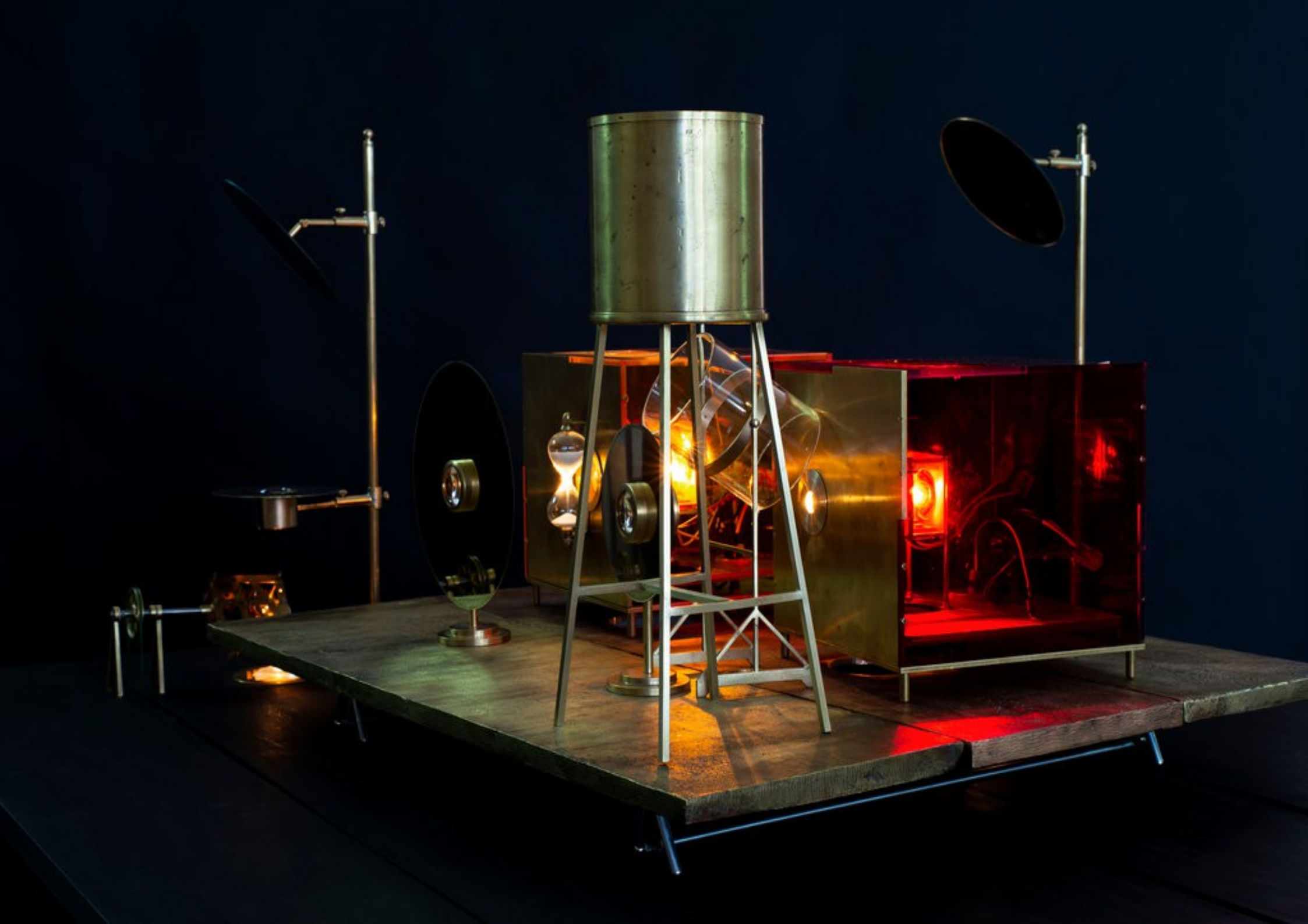
# PHARMACIE, 2019

PHARMACIE IS AN INSTALLATION CONSTITUTED OF 4 PROJECTION SYSTEMS (ONE LANTERN WITH AN HOURGLASS, ONE WITH A MECHANICAL CLOCK, ONE WITH A FALLING WATER DROP AND ONE PROJECTING THE IMAGE OF AN AGATE STONE) WHICH THE ARTIST WILL PRESENT FOR THE FIRST TIME AT ART UNLIMITED 2019.

SCULPTURE IS CENTRAL TO THE WORK OF FRANCISCO TROPA. SINCE THE BEGGINING OF HIS ARTISTIC PRACTICE IN THE EARLY 1990'S, HIS WORK HAS GAINED MUCH ATTENTION FROM INSTITUTIONS AND CRITICS, NOTABLY IN 2011 WHEN HE REPRESENTED PORTUGAL IN THE VENICE BIENNALE.

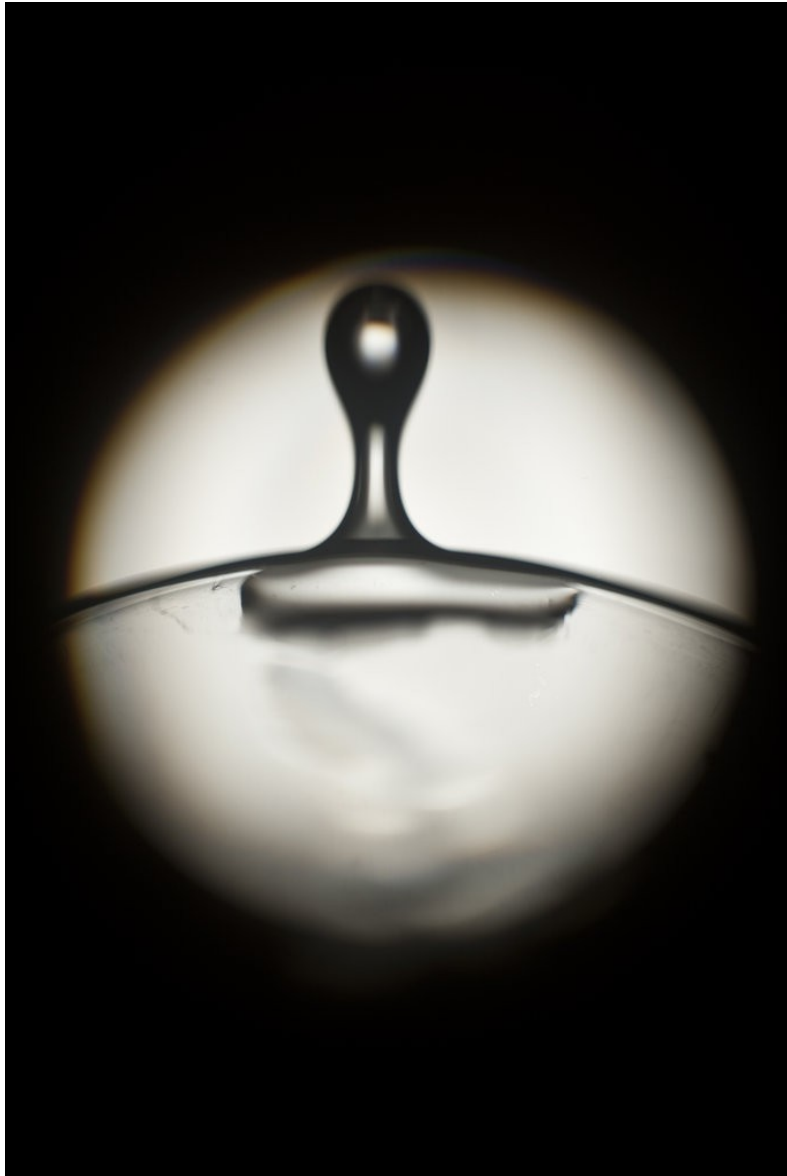
IN THE WORK OF FRANCISCO TROPA, SEVERAL MEDIA -INCLUDING SCULPTURE, DRAWING, PERFORMANCE, PHOTOGRAPHY AND FILM- CONVEIN IN A SERIES OF REFLECTIONS AND ARE INTRODUCED BY THE DIFFERENT TRADITIONS OF SCULPTURE. SUBJECTS SUCH AS BODY, DEATH, NATURE, LANDSCAPE, MEMORY, ORIGIN AND TIME ARE ALWAYS PRESENT IN HIS WORKS AND ARE CHARACTERIZED BY AN ENDLESS PROCESS OF PROJECTING REFERENCES FROM ART HISTORY, INFLUENCES FROM OTHER ART WORKS OR PREVIOUS WORKS OF THE ARTIST, OR LITERATURE.

A CONSTANT VEIN OF RESEARCH IN THE ARTIST'S PRACTICE, THE „LANTERN“ SERIES TAKES UP THE THEME OF THE SHADOW THEATER, THE ALLEGORY OF THE CAVE AND EARLY MOTION-PICTURE EXPERIENCES. WITH AN EXTREME LEVEL OF FORMAL AND TECHNICAL SOPHISTICATION, „PHARMACIE“ (2019) SUGGESTS AN ALLEGORY REUNITING THREE ARCHAIC INSTRUMENTS FOR MEASURING TIME: THE CLEPSYDRA WATER CLOCK, THE HOURGLASS AND THE MECHANICAL CLOCK.



« Pharmacie » consists on one homemade projection device, alternatively projecting the shadow of

1. the shadow of a falling drop of water
2. the shadow of sand falling from a hourglass
3. the shadow of a clock mechanism in movement
4. the shadow of an agata

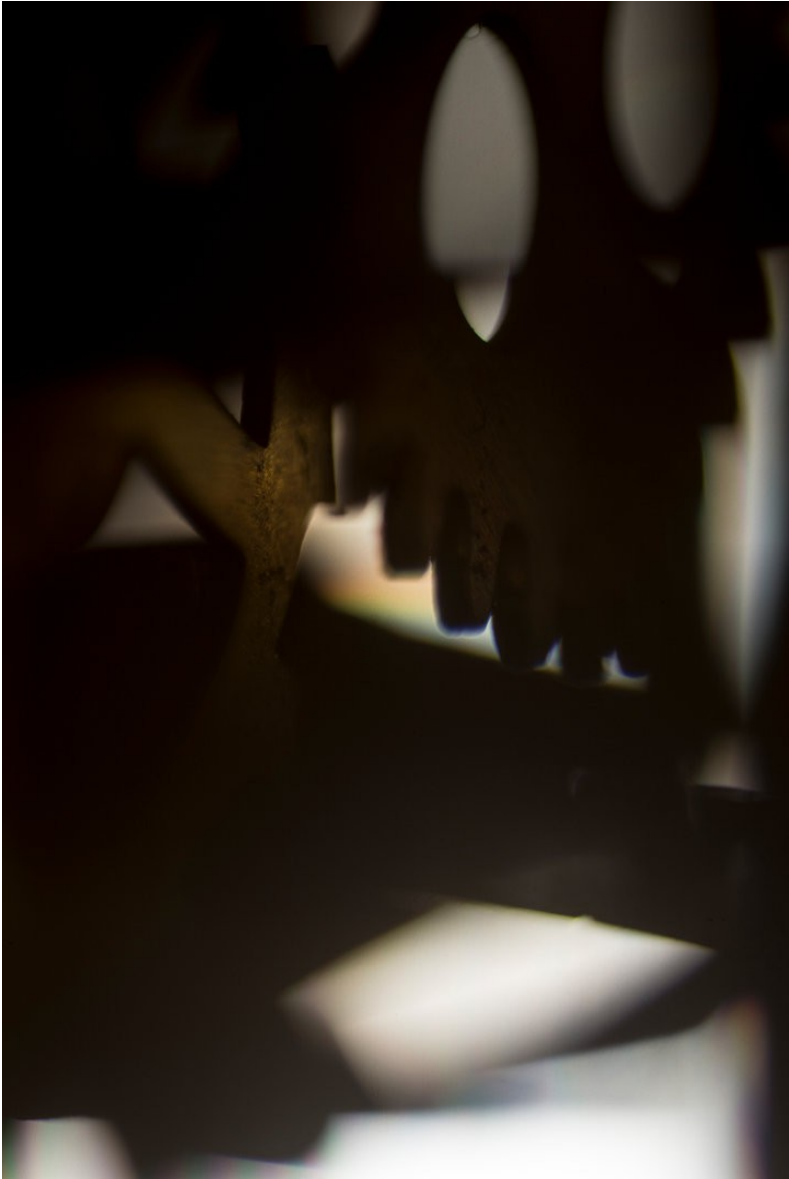


Projected shadow of a falling drop of water

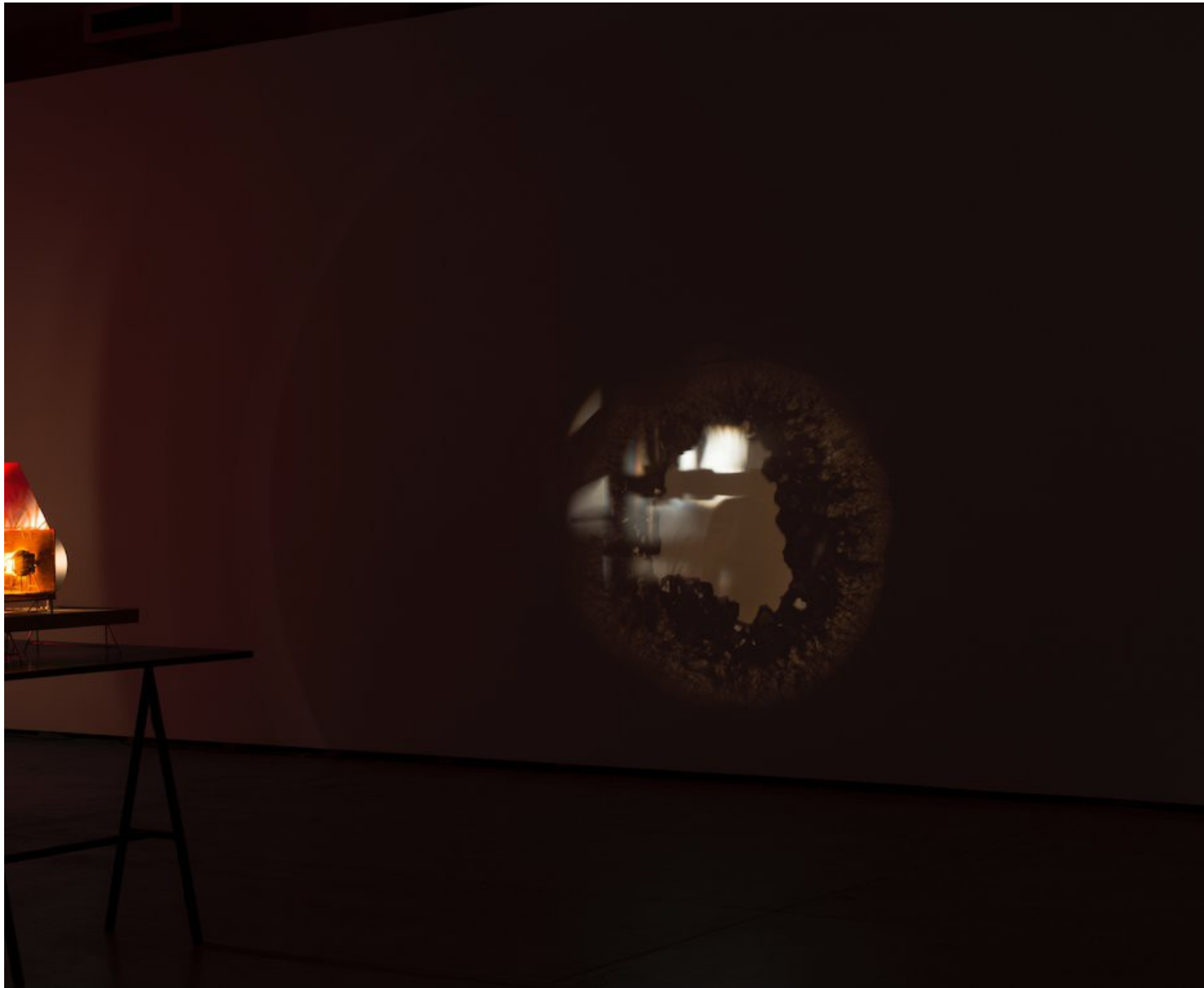


Projected shadow of sand falling from a hourglass

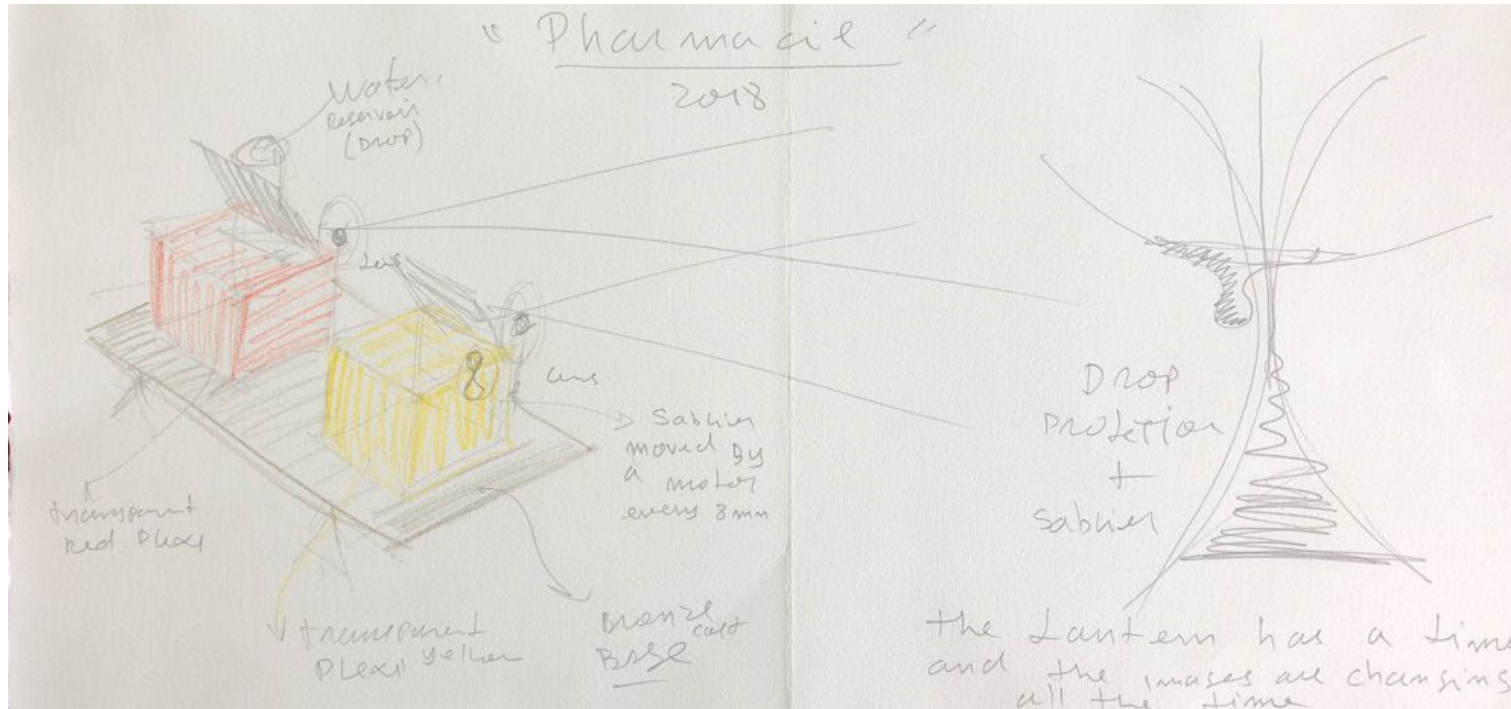




Projected shadow of a clock mechanism in movement



Projected shadow of an agata



Francisco Trope  
*Pharmacie*, 2019

preparatory drawing

Francisco Tropa,

*Pharmacie*, 2019

A conglomeration of objects, engines, materials and shapes deliberately arranged on a dark table: at first glance *Pharmacie* could be seen as a sculptural piece. In the centre, over a small bronze stand, there are two coloured acrylic cubes, two beams of light and colour that project their shadows on the sidewalls intermittently. The title evokes Marcel Duchamp's 1914 eponymous work *Pharmacie*.

The table and its elements are integral parts of an intriguing device composed of four lanterns, two of which are visible while the others stay hidden in the inferior face of the table along with optical apparatuses projecting images unto the same plane to create a palimpsest, a dance of light and shadow, forms and rhythms. A four-stroke cinema: a drop of water, an hourglass and a mechanical clock, three ways – from the ancient world to the modern era – to measure and represent the flow of time. The fourth image is the still shadow of an agate blade, a (photogenic) drawing inducing a visual and symbolic outline suggestive of the perspective of an inner gaze obtained from a primordial place, the cave.

Text Sérgio Mah

**Lantern series in public or private collections**  
updated May 2019

- *Lantern* with hourglass, acquired in 2019 by the **Philadelphia Museum of Art**, Philadelphia, USA.
- *Lantern (drop)* is a lantern with a falling water drop, acquired in 2018 by the **Reina Sofia Museum**, Madrid, Spain.
- *Cinema* is an installation with two Plexiglas projection devices (projecting light through the shape of an agate stone), acquired in 2017 by **Museu Serralves**, Porto, Portugal.
- *Lantern (Inventio in dies subtilior)* is a lantern with a mechanical clock that belongs to a **Private Collection based in Geneva, Switzerland** since 2016.
- *Lantern (clock)* is a lantern with a mechanical clock, acquired in 2015 by the French institution **CNAP (Centre National des Arts Plastiques)**, Paris, France.
- *Scenario* is an installation with 7 lanterns presented for the first time at Venice Biennale (2011) where Francisco Tropa represented Portugal. One lantern with a falling drop of water belonging to the work entitled “Scenario” has been acquired by **MUDAM**, Luxembourg.
  
- *ART UNLIMITED 2019:*  
*Pharmacie*, is an installation constituted of 4 projection systems (one lantern with an hourglass, one with a mechanical clock, one with a falling water drop and one projecting the image of an agate stone) which the artist will present for the first time at Art Basel Fair in 2019.

## Artist news

Solo exhibitions :

*The Pyrgus from Chaves*, Calouste Gulbenkian Museum, Lisbon, Portugal, until June 3, 2019

<https://gulbenkian.pt/museu/en/evento/francisco-tropa/>

*Tote bewegen*, Galerie Cahn AG, Basel Switzerland; from June 10 to June 16, 2019

Selected group exhibitions:

*Infinite sculptures; Cast and copies from the antique to today*, Calouste Gulbenkian Museum, Lisbon, Portugal and Beaux-arts de Paris, Paris, France, December 3, 2019 – February 16, 2020

ART UNLIMITED 2019

PHARMACIE, FRANCISCO TROPA