

Matias Duville, Paulo Nimer Pjota, Luiz Roque  
*The First and Last Freedom*  
curated by Lara Pan  
9 September – 5 October 2014, London

MAN IS AN amphibian who lives simultaneously in two worlds – the given and the *homemade*, *the world of matter, life and consciousness and the world of symbols*. In our thinking we make use of a great variety of symbol-systems – linguistic, mathematical, pictorial, musical, ritualistic. Without such symbol-systems we should have no art, no science, no law, no philosophy, not so much as the rudiments of civilization: in other words, we should be animals.

By Aldous Huxley

The First and Last Freedom is derived from two alternative perspectives: the introduction by Aldous Huxley in the book of his long-term colleague and friend, Jiddu Krishnamurti and Krishnamurti's second major opus, *The First and Last Freedom*.

This exhibition intends to connect various cultural and historical influences and translate them into a unique conversation amongst a young generation of artists coming from different cultural backgrounds.

Can we define our actual era? Krishnamurti defines a society as a product of human's relationships in it. How long can the humanity sustain the global consumerism knowing that there is less and less support from the government for the higher education in arts, humanities and social sciences? Artists, scientists and philosophers respond to the actual era by replacing the future into a global utopia. Their perception is shaping a universal message mirroring the humanity in the quest of seeking the truth of the present. Exploring this concept, the exhibition presents works of following artists; Matias Duville, Paulo Nimer Pjota and Luiz Roque. Selected works denote language components made of memories and symbols that reflect deeply in our conscious being.

The works of the artists point to the symbolical aspects of the old world, encouraging the spectator to create a train of images that lead away from the reality into fantasies of the past or future. In his book "The First and Last Freedom," Krishnamurti says, "Ideas are memories, the result of experience, which is response to challenge."<sup>1</sup> The world today is perhaps experiencing the collapse where the ideas of Freedom has become part of the universal vocabulary and represents just a word, or a stand-in for an untold dream for most of the humanity.

Krishnamurti remarks " We do not need great historians to tell us the fact that our society is crumbling; and there must be new architects, new builders, to create a new society. The structure must be built on a new foundation, on newly discovered facts and values. Such architects do not yet exist."<sup>2</sup>

In the meantime, remembering some shadows of the old world which displays the instinctive, archaic playground in our memories, we should not forget the significance of the world of symbols

1 "The First and Last Freedom," J. Krishnamurti (New York: Harper & Row, 1975), Chapter 10.

2 Ibid., Chapter 3