



**unplace**

networked art: places-between-places

## Credits

João Paulo Serafim, with Bárbara Assis Pacheco  
**Rio (Improbable Museum — MIIAC) · 2015**

Drawing, sculpture, video, documents.

Web-specific work for the [unplace](#) exhibition within MIIAC

## Biography

João Paulo Serafim

Born in 1974 in Paris, France. He currently lives and works in Lisbon, Portugal.

João Paulo Serafim undertook his formal academic training in Photography and Visual Arts at Ar.Co, the school where he has been lecturing in the Photography Department since 1998. In 2005, he took part in the Photography Course of the Gulbenkian Creativity and Artistic Creation Programme. He is currently taking a Master's Degree in Multimedia Art (Photography) at the Faculty of Fine Art of the University of Lisbon. Since 2005, he has been working on the MIIAC – Museu Improvável Imagem e Arte Contemporânea (the Improbable Museum of Image and Contemporary Art), a fictional museum project based on an iconographic research of a personal collection, built up over the course of the artist's career. He has exhibited his work regularly in Portugal and abroad, most notably at the following solo exhibitions: *Cosmos – Sobre Arte, Ciência & Óptica* (On Art, Science and Optics), 2014, – *R123GCAB – Arquivos do MIIAC* (The MIIAC Archives) – 2013, Centro Cultural do Mindelo, São Vicente, Cape Verde. *A Possibilidade de uma Fuga* (The Possibility of Flight) – CAAA, 2012, Guimarães, European Cultural Capital. *A Coleção é uma forma prática de memória* (Collecting is a practical form of memory), 2011, Galeria Baginski, Lisbon. *Museu em construção...* (Museum under construction), 2009, Galeria Baginski, Lisbon. *Museu Improvável / MIIAC* (The Improbable Museum / MIIAC) – 2008, Museo Blanes, Montevideo and *Musée Improbable* – 2008, Centre Culturel Gulbenkian, Paris. He also collaborates in creations for Theatre and Dance: Teatro do Vestido and Victor Hugo Pontes.

[miiac.com](#)

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## Description

RIO it's an exhibition within an exhibition of a virtual museum.

For the unplace exhibition, MIACC proposes a project that questions the place as a fictional space. This idea resulted in the invitation to collaborate with the artist Barbara Assis Pacheco on developing an exhibition for the “Improbable Museum space”. One of the features of this exhibition is that it can only be seen virtually, using various devices. In *Rio*, the artist asks: *Can Nature fail?* The artist based her work on an episode that took place in 2006, when, after drifting across the ocean on an iceberg, a group of penguins were washed ashore on the beaches of Rio de Janeiro, (I was able to witness this phenomenon because I found myself in Rio at that time). The Improbable Museum (MIAC) is a museum of images. But, more than this, it is a machine for thinking about images – from scratch: what is an image, what use does it have (for us), how does the thing that we call an “image” work? The predominant 20th-century image was a photographic one – Now, at the beginning of the 21st century, it is a digital image. The photography of the 21st century is digital, as are the means for its storage, conservation, restoration and cataloguing. The museum's tasks – what does photography do to the museum? And what does the museum do to photography?

J.P.S.

