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FUNDAÇÃO PLMJ (PLMJ FOUNDATION)

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Personnel[Luis Sáragga Leal – founding partner and President of PLMJ Foundation; Patricia Dias Mendes (Senior Associate lawyer - General Manager of the Foundation); Ana Cristina Ramos (Assistant of the Foundation)

Governing[Private Foundation, entirely and exclusively set up by the law firm PLMJ – Law Firm RL, recognized with cultural interest by the Portuguese Cultural Ministry

The PLMJ Foundation was established in 2001 by the law firm A.M. Pereira, Sáragga Leal, Oliveira Martins, Júdice e Associados (“PLMJ – Law Firm, RL”), under the motto “a law firm as a space for culture”. Luis Sáragga Leal, one of the founding partners of PLMJ – Law Firm, RL was the mentor of this philanthropic cultural project, conceptualizing its incorporation, development over the years and the guidelines for the future of the institution.

Business[Law firm. The firm PLMJ was founded at the end of the sixties as a partnership between António Maria Pereira and Luis Sáragga Leal and, in the following decade, they were joined by two further founding partners, Francisco de Oliveira Martins and José Miguel Júdice. Over the years, generations of lawyers have joined these four founding partners to make their contributions to PLMJ’s growth, strength, modernization and vision of the future. The policies of internationalization and specialization pursued by PLMJ since its first beginnings have led to the firm’s impressive and sustained growth over the subsequent years.

In 2007, PLMJ celebrated its 40th anniversary and to commemorate this landmark, PLMJ commissioned an impressive six meters tall iron sculpture,

from the artist Rui Chafes, which was offered to the city of Lisbon and is displayed in the gardens of the main Avenue of Liberdade, in front of PLMJ central offices. In recent years the PLMJ – Law Firm, RL, has taken a position in other markets, becoming an international law corporation. In these terms, the PLMJ Foundation also followed these steps, and in 2010 expanded its affairs abroad, embracing the art created by artists of the CPLP countries.

Year[2001

Size[Total of 1254 works of art, in the following categories: Drawings: 96 ; Paintings: 261 ; Sculptures: 114 ; Photographs: 691; Video art: 92

Description[Almost all of the recognized Portuguese contemporary artists are represented in the Foundation collection and, some of these artists, were supported by PLMJ Foundation when they were emerging artists.

The main emphasis of the collection is to promote contemporary art created by Portuguese artists, but also from Portuguese-speaking countries (i.e. “CPLP” countries, such as, Mozambique, Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, St Thomas and Prince and East Timor). Over the years it has established itself as one of the most important Portuguese cultural institutions.

The PLMJ Foundation was created to institutionalize the cultural purposes carried out by PLMJ Law Firm, RL, since the end of the nineties, and corresponding to the beginnings of its art collection. In this initial phase, the collection was more oriented to the principles of more traditional corporate art collections and, was more aligned with other Portuguese corporate art collections (promoted by Portuguese groups of companies) The PLMJ Law Firm was a pioneer and the most representative in Portugal of corporate art collections created by Law Firms, which are normally more conservative and focused on paintings, drawings or sculpture. Luis Sáragga Leal has always acted following “open minded criteria” to establish and to develop the art collection and was advised, in some of the art acquisitions, by well-known curators, such as, Miguel Amado, who has provided in the past, curatorial services to the PLMJ Foundation and, more recently, João Silvério.

Location[In alignment with the firm's motto “a law firm as a space for culture”, almost all the works of art in the collection are exhibited in all the

spaces of the PLMJ - Law Firm, RL (in the areas accessible to clients, but also in all of the offices of the lawyers and of the staff), at all of its offices (Lisbon, Oporto, Faro, Luanda, Maputo and other offices included at PLMJ International Legal Network).

There are also some works of art on loan. There is a long term agreement between the Portuguese Ministry of Culture and PLMJ Foundation for the loan of works of art to institutions of the UE, placed at Brussels and other works exhibited in the context of specific exhibitions (in art galleries, in Portugal and abroad and in Museums).

Additionally, the PLMJ Foundation presents its collection regularly (at least, by means of an annual exhibition, although in some years more than an exhibition was promoted), both in exhibitions produced by itself or in partnership with other organizations (in several places, such as, museums, art galleries, or in art academies). Also, between 2008 and 2012, the PLMJ Foundation managed a gallery in Lisbon, in which it hosted a series of exhibitions by Portuguese artists and by artists from the other members of the CPLP.

Status[Ongoing

Selection[The PLMJ Foundation has a clearly defined acquisitions policy. The collection of Portuguese contemporary art includes painting and sculpture, media which have been established historically; photography and video, media with an innovative character; drawing, and hybrid mediums, both auxiliary and experimental, and both instrumental and authorial. The selections have also been built with a sense of prospecting and an extensive criterion; it thus draws up an overview of the existing aesthetic trends, developed by both established and emerging artists. The main mentor of all the acquisition is Luis Sáragga Leal, sometimes supported by the technical advice of external curators.

Exhibitions[Several individual exhibitions in the gallery of the Foundation, such as, of Manuel Botelho, João Pedro Vale, Pedro Calapez, Luisa Mota, Pedro Amaral, and also collective exhibitions: *Common Language* dedicated to artists from the CPLP community; *Options and Futures* exhibition; *Points of View* exhibition. Collective exhibitions in several cultural institutions, such as, the Lisbon Museum; the Centre of arts of Coimbra; Serralves Foundation; Art Centre of Funchal Madeira; ArtContempo institution; Museum of Faro; Cinema S. Jorge; Festival IN in Lisbon; Cultural Centre of Brazil in Maputo, Mozambique; Inês de Castro Foundation; Arpad-Szênes Vieira da Silva Museum; Sociedade Nacional de Belas Artes.

Educational Programs[Through an internal project – Art & Law - all the lawyers and staff of PLMJ - Law Firm, RL, are in interaction with the art collection. In this context, one of the initiatives is to obtain impressions from lawyers and staff on works of art selected by them – they select a work of art and write a creative text about it. At the end of the project, a book containing all the texts was published. Another initiative was a photograph competition, selecting the three best by a accredited jury.

Other art support[In addition to lending works of art and the publishing projects, the Foundation has also assumed an important role in the cultural art scene, mainly by promoting the following activities:

--Donations of works of art and books to institutions performing social responsibility purposes.

-- An important donation to the Municipality of Lisbon of a sculpture created by the artist Rui Chafes which is placed on the center of the Avenue of Liberdade.

--Patronage of cultural projects (publishing, academic and others)

--Partnerships with the Media to publicize the artists represented in the collection

--Organization of seminars dedicated to art and cultural themes, as well as, ministering courses in academies of art education (with the subject of the interaction of art and law, and themes related to intellectual property)

--Publication of monographs related to the law applicable to the themes of cultural heritage, intellectual property, the art market, tax in the arts, among others.

--To sponsor and promote art competitions (for example, the PLMJ Video Art Prize destined to CPLP artists).

Publications[Since its incorporation the Foundation has developed an active annual publishing program. There have been 15 annual editorial art projects, that have featured different facets of the Foundation collection as follows:

The first four annual editions, were each dedicated to artists represented in the collection (e.g. Manuel Botelho, Pedro Proença, Pedro Casqueiro and Ana Vidigal)

An anthology of Portuguese contemporary photographers, *Extension of the Eye*:

25 Frames per second: Dedicated to video art works

Points of View – An anthology and compendium with an overview of