

monade



## **ELECTRA 19**

### **Dossier / Democracy**

We have grown accustomed to hearing a chorus of voices talking about a "crisis of democracy", a "the unease in/of democracy", or the ailing "state of democracy". Democratic regimes are being threatened by crossfire and converging phenomena that call into question the very foundations of representative democracy. Everywhere we find an explosive mix of plutocracy and technocracy, populism and identitarianism, unlimited consumerism and environmental destruction, social

fracturing and generational rupture, excessive corruption and media manipulation. From this situation, ripe for discussion and diagnosis, emerges the central theme of this issue of *Electra*: The State of Democracy. This topic is the starting point to question the various challenges and risks of our current democratic drift, in a dossier that includes texts and interviews by **Wendy Brown**, **Yves Citton**, **Colin Crouch**, **Dario Gentili**, **Chantal Mouffe**, **Christophe Pébarthe**, **Barbara Stiegler**, **Paulo Tunhas** and **Manuel Villaverde Cabral**, accompanied by an editorial by **José Manuel dos Santos** and **António Soares**.

This issue's "In the First Person" looks at **Mário Lúcio Sousa**, a musician, singer, poet, former Minister of Culture in Cape Verde, and author of *Manifesto a Crioulização* [Manifesto of Creolisation]. In conversation with João Pacheco, he speaks of the experience of being born in a fishing village in Tarrafal on the island of Santiago, and of the political and cultural potential of the Creole model. Based on the theoretical, literary and musical interventions of Mário Lúcio Sousa, which take creoleness as a cultural and political ideal, an article by **Marta Lança** accompanies this interview.

At a time when sleep and insomnia are growing concerns, North American historian **Roger Ekirch**, in an interview with **Diogo Vaz Pinto** for the "Metropolitan" section, talks about his research that questions prevailing ideas about sleep, past and present, about the transformation of time and our manner of sleeping, and about how nights were formerly spent.

Considered one of the most radical, eloquent and effective artists of our time, **Giorgio Griffa** is the author of the "Portfolio" for issue 19 of *Electra*, presenting a representative series of his most recent works, accompanied by an essay by curator **Francesco Manacorda**.

The "Book of Hours" section publishes diaries by **Flora Thomson-DeVeaux** and **Rodrigo Nunes**, recounting the weeks leading up to the latest Brazil's presidential runoff election, when that country was the centre of everybody's attention.

Also in this issue of *Electra*, artist and translator **José Miranda Justo** comments on a phrase by **Rainer Maria Rilke** about the complex relationship between the work of art and criticism; **Nikos Pratsinis** writes about Heraklion, the capital of Crete, the island of the Minotaur and the Labyrinth; researcher and professor **Steffen Dix** takes a look at the place of emptiness in art and philosophy; journalist **Javier Martín Del Barrio** tells us about Influencers; researcher **João Pedro Fróis** tells us about the restless life of a very singular artist, **Jaime Fernandes**; and **Afonso**

**Dias Ramos** writes about **Marie-José Mondzain's** latest book, *K comme Kolonie: Kafka et la décolonisation de l'imaginaire* [K for Kolony – Kafka and the Decolonisation of the Imaginary].



## Texts by

**Wendy Brown**  
**Yves Citton**  
**Colin Crouch**  
**Dario Gentili**  
**Chantal Mouffe**  
**Christophe Pébarthe**  
**Barbara Stiegler**  
**Paulo Tunhas**  
**Manuel Villaverde Cabral**

# Portfolio by

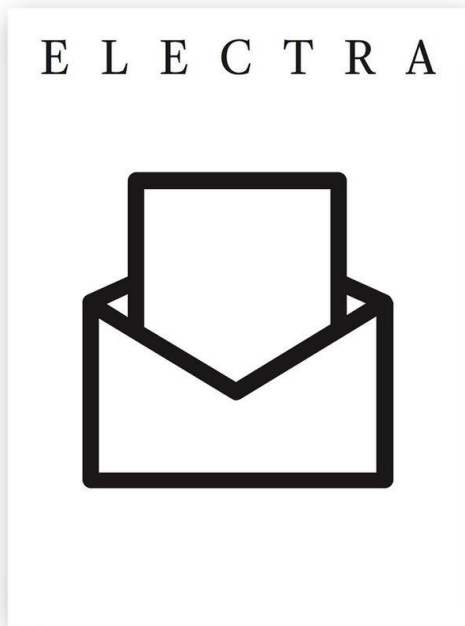
Giorgio Griffa

## Also Featuring

Mário Lúcio Sousa  
João Pacheco  
Marta Lança  
Roger Ekirch  
Diogo Vaz Pinto  
Francesco Manacorda  
Flora Thomson-DeVeaux  
Rodrigo Nunes  
José Miranda Justo  
Rainer Maria Rilke  
Nikos Pratsinis  
Steffen Dix  
Javier Martín Del Barrio  
João Pedro Fróis  
Afonso Dias Ramos  
Marie-José Mondzain

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Highlights



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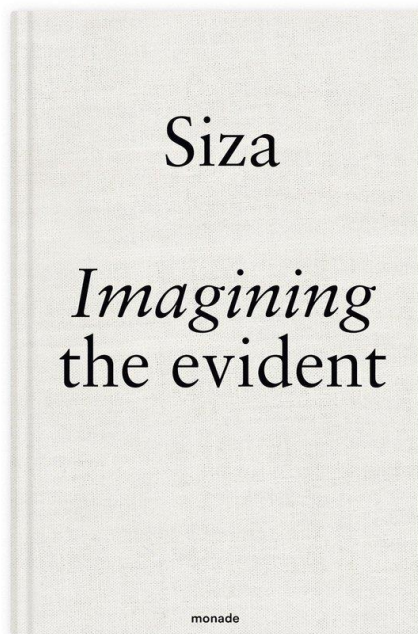
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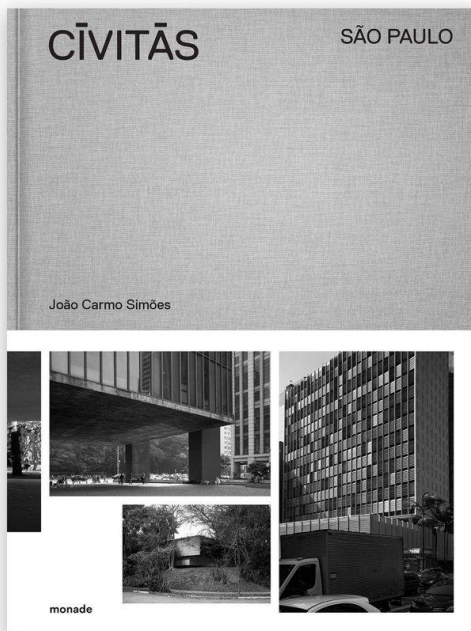


## Imagining the Evident / Álvaro Siza

The referential book by Álvaro Siza on his own work, first time in English 2nd edition.

Describing some of his projects, his expectations and struggles, references and decisions, this book is a fundamental contribution to the understanding of Álvaro Siza's architectural thinking.

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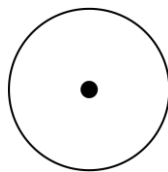


## CIVITAS / São Paulo

This richly illustrated monograph explores the city-building aspirations of the Brazilian modern masters through their buildings in São Paulo. Works by Vilanova Artigas, Lina Bo Bardi, Salvador Candia, Rino Levi, Oscar Niemeyer and Paulo Mendes da Rocha were designed in response to the chaotic growth of one of the world's largest metropolises.

see more

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