

PAPER TRAILS: Post-industrial histories, technical memories and art practices in Tomar

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TECHN&ART and EDHEA

Paper Trails

1. GOALS

- To assess the impact and viability of adopting a strategy of artistic reconversion of former industrial sites (both in terms of heritage and practices) in a comparative fashion, both in transdisciplinary and geographical terms;
- To collect official and informal histories from institutional, political and personal archives as well as former blue- and white-collar worker’s histories and collective memories of the factories in the shape of a documentary film;
- To explore the chosen topic by resorting to a combination of perspectives usually considered to be incompatible, such as the technical/industrial and artistic);
- To contribute to “landscape management in the context of sustainability” and “to foster positive change”, as established by IPT’s UNESCO Chair for the Humanities and Cultural Integrated Landscape Management, and as a result;
- To comply with the goals – Sustainable Cities and Communities, and partnerships for the goals – of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. RESULTS

This project functioned a facilitator between some current owners (entrepreneurs) of the buildings of former paper factories, and the academic and local communities. The idea being the creation of a forum to debate a new and viable future for those buildings. Moreover, it took the challenge of organizing an artistic event along with a film screening in partnership with the company Mainside in the former paper factory of Matrena, thus combining technical memories with art practices.

In addition, it assisted in, somehow, soothing the trauma of those who lost their jobs in the paper industry by exposing them to possible new prospects to their former workplaces.



Field work, - Museum of Paper of Terras de Santa Maria © Hugo Malianho



Checking paper samples with former workers at Fábrica de Papel do Prado © Hugo Malianho

3. PUBLICATIONS

Sol, H., & Luz, J. (2021, November). Dodging Nostalgia: filming and dealing with facts in industrial heritage site. In DAKAM MEMORY STUDIES’ 21/VI. International Interdisciplinary Conference on Memory and the Past (pp. 128-137). DAKAM Eastern Mediterranean Academic Research Center,

Barbosa, R. & Costa, F. (2022, September). PAPER TRAILS: Post-industrial histories, technical memories and art practices in Tomar: a project to rescue the past of the paper industry. Big Stuff Heritage, Seixal, Portugal.

Website: http://papertrails.techneart.ipt.pt/en/paper_trails/

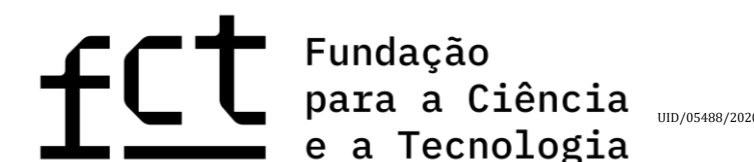
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