

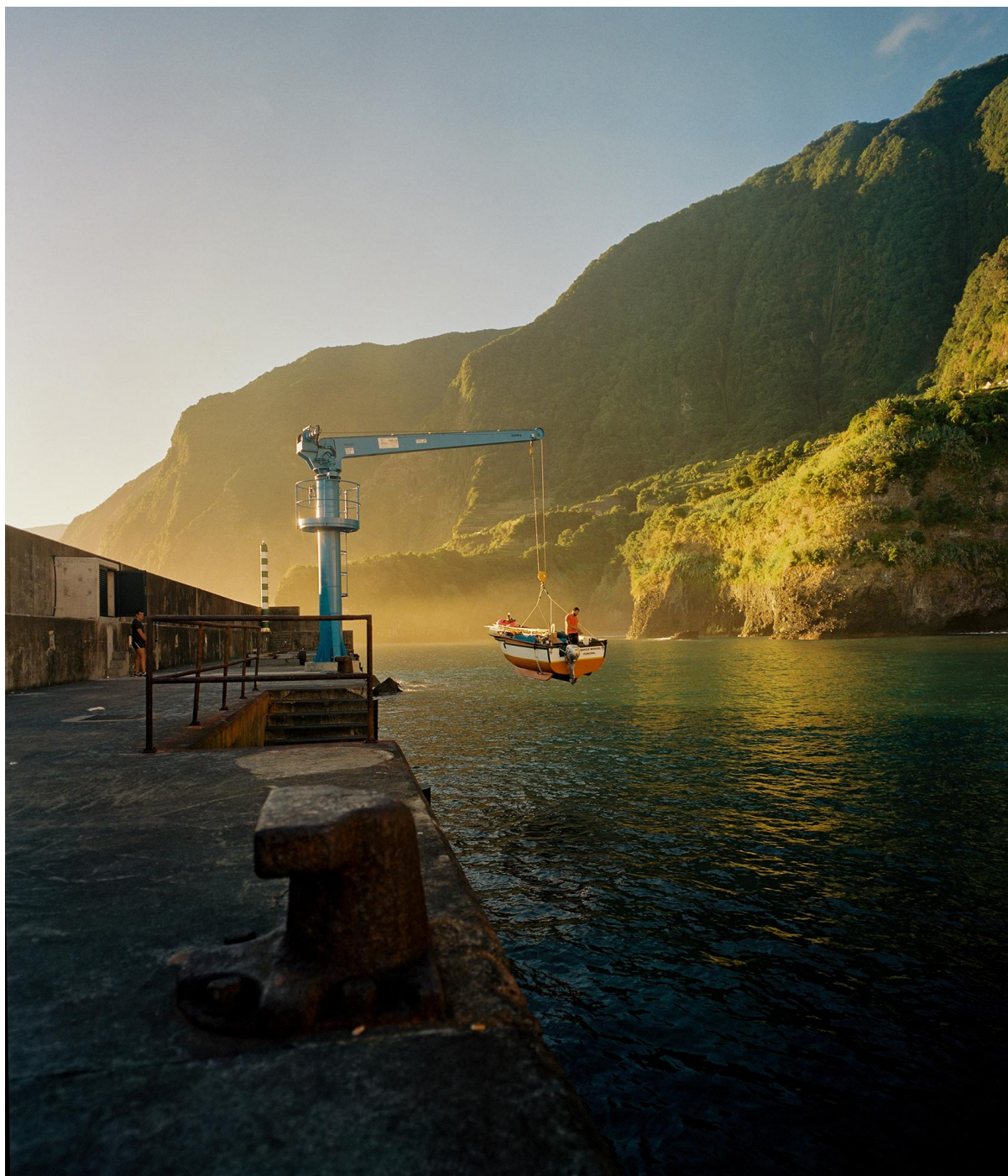
All Islands Are Mountains

NUNO SERRÃO

 [10.34640/universidademadeira2023serrao](https://doi.org/10.34640/universidademadeira2023serrao)











All Islands Are Mountains

Questioning the power of discomfort (ongoing)

We live in the age of multi-tabs, binge-watching, and immediatism. We have instant coffee, instant messaging, expressways, and speedy boarding. Travelling and arriving faster than ever, we no longer have the time to understand what we are slowly losing along the way. If all journeys are made of comfortable shortcuts, what happens to the questions that arise from discomfort and uncertainty?

I faced this while observing the contrasts of the gradually evolving Madeira landscape, where natural and constructed spaces are progressively being transformed by a new Europe attempting to keep up with modern life.

This five million-year-old volcanic mountain that grew from a depth of around 4000 meters is now in its penumbra period, as it is neither slow and traditional nor modern and fast enough to face this century's challenges. That dichotomy is most evident in the rural areas where, for instance, at the base of the new brutalist express-ways whose speed prevented population exodus, we find old roads that wind around the same landscape slowly and sinuously, keeping tradition in.

Knowing that I could be facing a perspective bias resulting from the correlation between depth perception and the speed we travel through time, I decided to slow down and equipped with a medium-format analogue camera, wander and wonder about the power of stillness and what happens when we lose those questions that can answer what remains unanswered.

The result is a visual exploration of the contrasts and complexities of these topics, inviting the audience to slow down and reflect on the human condition and the impact of speed and progress on our environment and humanity.

Nuno Serrão

Nuno Serrão is a Madeira Island-born Portuguese photographer and director. His blank slate begins with a functional level of emotion, logic, minimalism, and curiosity; he views these to be the building blocks of his life and creative process. Led by curiosity, Nuno often creates or documents ambiguous but frameable non-linear narratives about uncomfortable topics that, in the end, pose a new set of questions, keeping alive the mystery surrounding us, our universe and what is fundamental or emergent. His work is driven by the belief that if answers are to be found, they will come from the realm of non-locality through the sum of all relatable questions. However, even if the perfect answer is like the speed of light, exponentially harder to come close to, and impossible to achieve, nothing will give him more pleasure than to keep trying.

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Selection of recent exhibitions, talks, and events: Gallery 46, London (February 21-25, 2023); Futures Meeting, Camera Torino, Turin (Nov, 2022); Transitions, Fotogalerie Friedrichshain, Berlin (Sep – Oct, 2022); Investigations into Infrastructure, Studio2, Detroit (May, 2022); FUSO, Centro de Arte Contemporânea, Lisboa (Jul, 2021); Rvkfringe Festival, Gallerí Fold, Reykjavik, (Jul, 2021); Mostra Instituto Camões, Museu de Arte Contemporânea, Vigo (Jun, 2021); Quantum Shorts Conversations, National University of Singapore (Apr, 2021); Aesthetica Filmmaker Insights Panel, York (Nov, 2020); Lenzburg Photo Festival, Lenzburg (Sep, Oct, 2020); Fotofestival Schiedam, Schiedam (Sep, 2020); Helsinki Photo Festival, The National Museum of Finland, Helsinki (Jul, Sep, 2020); Living Yourself, Millepiani, Rome (Mar, 2020); Living Apart, Millepiani, Rome (Mar, 2020); Rotterdam Photo Festival, Rotterdam (Feb, 2020).