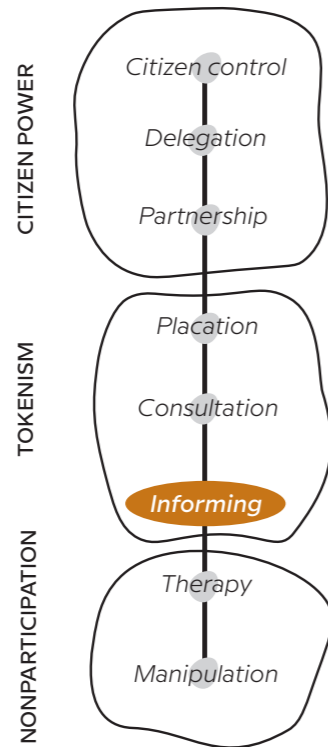


# The light that exists

A LUZ QUE HÁ

LOCATION  
**Funchal, Portugal**

TIME PERIOD  
**In 2018**



## THE PROJECT

ALUZ QUE HÁ is an exhibition about drawing exercises made by children which took place in PORTA33, a private contemporary art center. The creative works aimed to help children with emotional instability or little relationship with others in their growth and learning process of the self. The other purpose was to connect young people with the art space in order to promote new behavior and dynamics in our society.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE SPACE

Funchal is the capital city of Madeira Island. This place could be characterized as a remote place because the island is quite far out the continental coast of Portugal. However, the islanders feel less isolated thanks to the internet and the regular daily flight to Europe. The center of Funchal is well equipped with public spaces and services. However, this part of the city lacks fast access to sitting areas. In addition, the roads are narrow, cobbled, with elevation and not suitable, neither for old people, nor children.

## WHAT MAKES THE SPECIFICITY OF THE PROJECT

A LUZ QUE HÁ was initiated by the founders of PORTA33 which asked Luísa Spínola, a school teacher and illustrator, to lead drawing exercises

for children. At the end, the children's drawings were displayed in the PORTA33 gallery.

## ROLE OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY & METHODS USED

The activities consisted of several drawing workshops which explored different themes, subjects or techniques for teenager's educational and psychological needs in order to self-empowerment. The local community was however poorly involved in the project because only a few children participated in the workshops. All family and friends of children were invited to the exhibition opening but the rest of the population could also visit it. The peaceful space offered by PORTA33 for the workshops had a fundamental role in putting the children in the right predisposition to creative work. PORTA33 is

supported financially by public institutions like the Government of the Autonomous Region of Madeira or the Municipality of Funchal but also by some foundations and companies based in the Region.

## RESULT

The creative work was a success. The team managed to impact positively on the children's growth, working with them on their capacity of expressing themselves and interacting with others. Both families and PORTA33 benefited from the activities. First, the children and their parents have found support in education and today more children and adults get involved in workshops. Afterwards, PORTA33 and Luísa Spínola gained even more recognition and visibility for their cultural and education work. A LUZ QUE HÁ exhibition surprised positively usual visitors because of the purity, simplicity and diversity of the creations exhibited in the gallery. The fact that the children saw their work on display helped them gain confidence.



Figure-ground plan of network of public spaces in Funchal. The image represents a portion of São Pedro parish where PORTA33 is inserted.



Drawing exercises with Luísa Spínola ©Porta33



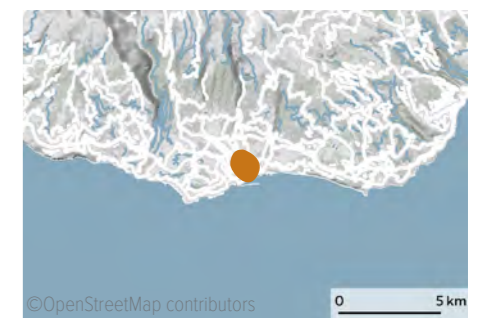
Drawing exercises with Luísa Spínola ©Porta33



Exhibition opening ©Porta33



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more about this project



Creative works in  
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