

About Silence

by António Bracons

To create silence, to be in silence, to feel myself in silence.

Silence is not a reality in itself, but a relationship with the world. Only silence allows for inner listening.

The photographer is a person of silence. The very act of taking a photograph is, in itself, so often an act of silence. Personal and inner silence, even if only for brief moments, as if there were nothing else around, nothing disturbing or interfering.

There is also the silence of the image.

Photography, unlike cinema or television, produces no sound whatsoever. A photograph is a sheet of paper, an image on a screen. And both the sheet of paper and the screen are mute, silent. The sheet of paper may still have a sound of its own, when picked up, shuffled, or laid down. But it is a sound of silence, its own, which does not disturb.

There is also the silence when one looks at a photograph. An inner silence that opens up to see that image, to listen to the image.

And so often, the silence remains after looking at an image.

BIO

António Bracons was born in Leiria in 1965. He holds a degree in Civil Engineering from the Faculty of Science and Technology at the University of Coimbra. He lives in Odivelas, Portugal.

His educational background includes: Introductory Course, A.A.C. Centre for Photography Studies, in Coimbra (1984/85), the course 'The Photographic Project', Cooperativa Diferença, Lisbon (1995), a postgraduate degree in Photography Studies, IADE, Lisbon (2002/03) and the Informal School of Photography, under the guidance of Susana Paiva (2020/2021/2022).

He is the author and curator of the blog *Fascínio da Fotografia*: <https://fasciniodafotografia.com/>, where he showcases his work and Portuguese photography in general.

It was in Coimbra that he produced his first publications: the portfolios "De Noite e Ao Amanhecer" (1990), "Alguns Passos na Alta de Coimbra" (1990) and "Pombal" (1991); the University of Coimbra published "O Olhar de D. João" (1997, 2nd ed., 1998). He was the author and designer of the book "A Igreja de Nossa Senhora Rainha dos Apóstolos da Ramada" (2004) and published the books "Sobre o Silêncio" (2020, 2nd ed. 2026), "Ingenium" (2022) and "O elogio do fragmento" (2024).

He has held several solo exhibitions and participated in various group exhibitions.

He has contributed to publications, given presentations and taken part in discussions, teaches, and engages in other activities in the field of photography.