

PEDRO DE KASTRO

Biography

Pedro De Kastro, aka PDK, was born in 1971 in Lisbon. He sketches since he can remember. In 1994 he began his studies in Drawing at Ar.Co. (well known Art and Visual Communication Center in Portugal), where he started developing his linear construction, hatching and rendering techniques. He went on to study etching at Galeria Diferença and in 1996 he further expanded his knowledge in this technique with Bartolomeu dos Santos (a renowned Professor at the Slade School of Fine Arts, London). After his second solo show in 2001, he won first prize in Drawing at the 10th Biennial of Young artists From Europe and the Mediterranean (BJCEM), held in Sarajevo. That year he left Europe and settled in São Paulo, Brazil, where he lived until 2018.

PDK has exhibited consistently in various countries, both individually and collectively, since 1996.

In his practice, De Kastro specializes in pencil and china ink drawing and metal engraving. In an essay written for his big solo show at MuBe (São Paulo's Museum of Sculpture) in 2011, director and curator Fábio Magalhães, wrote: "Having a virtuoso ability to work with perspective and dark and light, Pedro de Kastro executes his drawings and engravings with the minutia of a watchmaker".

His work is featured in several editions of *Dreamscape: The Best of Imaginary Realism*.

De Kastro draws inspiration from classicism, romantic landscape painting, comics, cyberpunk, and more.

Fueled by his eco-sociological concerns, everything more or less starts in his dreams (or 'hellish nightmares', as he likes to call them). His hand just follows and his obsessed-like hachures and renderings do the rest.

PDK divides his work into two major series: *Darkscapes* and *Dreamscapes*.

He presently lives and works in Lisbon.