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**ELECTRA 31**

**Dossier / Colour**

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What is colour? What are colours like? How do we see colours? What is the colour of our time? Colour is the central theme of Electra's 31st issue. It imposes itself on our vision with almost irrefutable evidence, yet remains shrouded in mystery. Far from being a property of objects, it is rather a question of perception resulting from light, present in all dimensions of human experience. From art to architecture, from design to

politics, colour permeates practices, discourses, and cultures, conveying symbolism and codes that vary across time and space, geography and chronology. Neither science nor empirical knowledge can fully explain it, marked as it is by tensions between chromophilia and chromophobia, exuberance and sobriety. This 'Subject', enriched by perspectives from different disciplinary fields, brings together contributions from **Michel Pastoureau, Elena Manferdini, Andrea Cavalletti, Anne Lafont, Ricardo Vieira Lisboa, David Scott Kastan, and António Guerreiro.**

The renowned curator, art historian, and feminist **Tamar Garb** is interviewed by **Afonso Dias Ramos** for the 'In the First Person' section. In this conversation, held in Lisbon, she reflects on the multiple geographies that have shaped her life and work, from Cape Town to Paris and London, and on the challenge of different ways of looking at culture across Africa and Europe in times of great tension and political instability.

This issue of *Electra* also features as yet unpublished works by the great writer, poet, and visual artist **Henri Michaux**. A leading figure in 20th-century European intellectual scene, he was the author of works of inexhaustible originality, combining surprisingly different types of knowledge and wisdom, genres and disciplines. The important drawings featured in this edition, which are part of his Archive, are presented in a text by curator **Tim Geissler**.

In the 'Portfolio' section, we leaf through the pages of *Electra* and, at the same time, through the pages of a book intervened and recreated by the imagination and wisdom of **Sonia Gomes**, one of Brazil's most internationally renowned artists. This work is presented by curators **João Mourão** and **Luís Silva**.

On the hundredth anniversary of the birth of **Marilyn Monroe**, a universal and enduring icon, the renowned Italian philosopher **Mario Pezzella**, a specialist in film aesthetics, writes an essay of great interpretative depth on what Marilyn was, with her innocent and guilty beauty, and what the world made her. He recounts how Monroe lived her tormented life as a woman, between fame and emptiness, and her dazzling career as an actress.

This issue also features an interview with architect **Neil Leach**, conducted by Lucinda Correia, in which they discuss architecture in the age of artificial intelligence and reflect on the future of cities; Turkish novelist and journalist **Kaya Genç** writes about the fascinating figure of German philologist **Erich Auerbach** and his masterpiece, *Mimesis: The Representation of Reality in Western Literature*, written in Istanbul; renowned Portuguese artist **Jorge Martins** comments on a famous quote by **Pablo Picasso**; writer, multimedia artist, and curator **Jeremy Fernando** writes, in a very personal tone, about his hometown, Singapore; and professor **Damiano Palano** offers a reflection on the word 'Polarisation'.

# ELECTRA



## Colour

Dossier

Michel Pastoureau

Elena Manfredini

Andrea Cavalletti

Anne Lafont

Ricardo Vieira Lisboa

David Scott Kastan

Henri Michaux

Unpublished

Sonia Gomes

Portfolio

Marilyn Monroe

*Persona and Shadow*

Tamar Garb

'We are in  
a punitive age.'

Interview

Erich Auerbach

Kaya Genç

Architecture and AI

Neil Leach

English  
edition

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and contemporary culture

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and Africa  
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31

## Texts by

**Tamar Garb**

**Kaya Genç**

**António Guerreiro**

**Michel Pastoureau**

**Elena Manfredini**

**Andrea Cavalletti**

**Anne Lafont**

**Ricardo Vieira Lisboa**

**David Scott Kastan**

**Mario Pezzella**

**Jorge Martons**

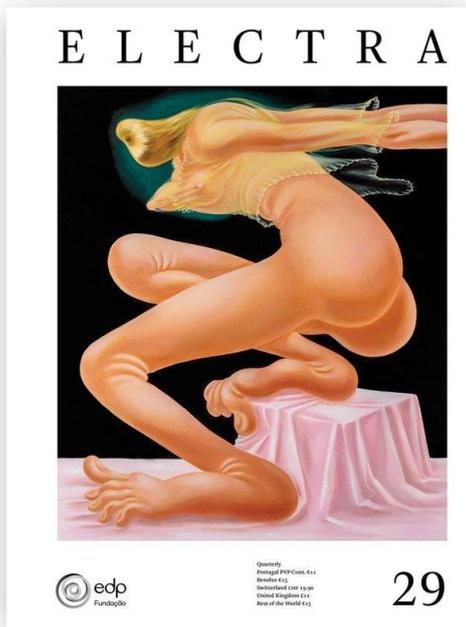
**Tim Geissler**

**Jeremy Fernando**

**Neil Leach**

**Damiano Palano**

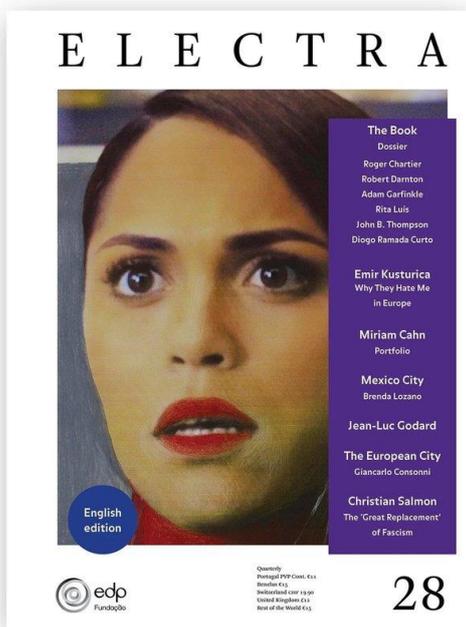




[Electra 29 / The Body](#)

‘The Body’ — in the past, present and future — is the main theme of Electra 29. This issue looks at the body and the place it occupies in time and in a changing world: changes in our relationship with our own bodies and with the bodies of others, in the relationship between body and gender or sex, between the individual and the social body, and also between biological body and cultural body, or between physical body and ageing body.

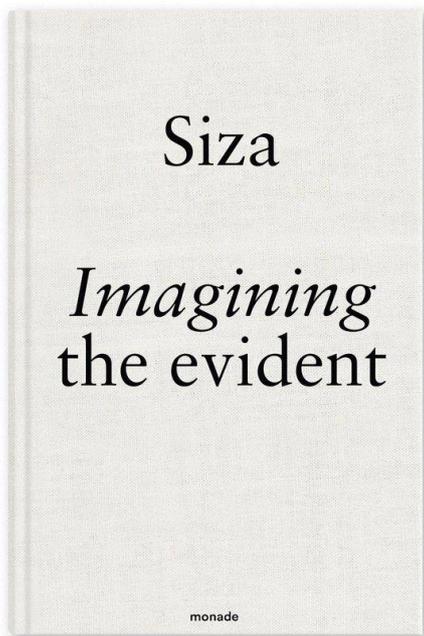
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[Electra 28 / The Book](#)

‘The Book,’ ground for culture and civilisation, is the central theme of Electra 28. An extension of memory and imagination, child of obscurity and silence, product of labour and fun, a place of continuity and rupture, motive for bonfires and reason for censure and persecution, an object that spans centuries of history, shaping societies and ways of thinking, but also an entity that goes beyond physical supports and embodies memory, knowledge and the individual and collective imagination, the book has carried the substance of time and the vertigo of life with it over the centuries.

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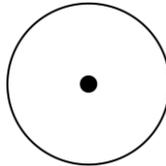


[Imagining the Evident / Álvaro Siza](#)

The referential book by Álvaro Siza on his own work, first time in English. Describing some of his projects, his expectations and struggles, references and decisions, this book is a fundamental contribution to the understanding of Álvaro Siza's architectural thinking.

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