

Portugal dreams Gini Wade reports

Gini Wade investigates the *2nd Global Print* and the *International Printmaking Biennial of Douro, Portugal*

2nd Global Print included the work of 440 artists from 64 countries, and as I was in the show I decided to visit in September last year. The prints were shown in six venues, spread across the beautiful Douro Valley. The venues varied

considerably, from the impressive modernist Foz Coa Museum, to the Municipal Swimming Pool in the small town of Alijo. The quality of the prints was high, and they were well framed and hung.

I asked organizer Nuno Canelas how he came to put on these exhibitions. His simple reply was, 'I had a dream.' Canelas is a man of huge ambition, not so

much for his own artwork, but for bringing printmaking from all over the world to his area – not known for its art scene. He started small in 2001 and since then he has invited more and more artists. The *2nd Global Print* is just the warm-up act for the *8th International Printmaking Biennial of Douro* this summer, which will be even larger. The artists are also invited to come to Alijo to participate in non-toxic print workshops.

The question for printmakers will be whether to take part, if invited. I felt much admiration for Canelas' energy and hard work in almost single-handedly organizing these events. Inevitably some mistakes are made: some prints have not been returned in good condition, and being asked for extra money for postage of the catalogue does not create a good impression. It is the luck of the draw as to where your print will be shown. However, the catalogue looks good, and I would certainly recommend a visit to the region.



Prints displayed as part of the *2nd Global Print* at the Museum of Bread & Wine