



Portugal Pavilion hosts traditional Carnival show “Caretos de Podence”

Lisbon, March 11th, 2022. The Portugal Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai is hosting a traditional Carnival show, the Caretos de Podence, this Saturday, 12th, at 6.10 pm.

The Caretos de Podence are the manifestation of an ancestral tradition from the small village of Podence, Macedo de Cavaleiros, in northern Portugal. It is a tradition that combines profane, magical, and religious elements whose origins are impossible to date back.

The Caretos are masked men who, during the Carnival, wear rudimentary masks made of either leather or ordinary tin, and colourful costumes made of wool. The colours of their garments and masks – red, black, yellow, green – contrast with the darkness of wintertime, and their presence is announced by the sound of the cowbells they carry around their waist and on their shoulders.

Reproducing a festive atmosphere that carries the audience back to ancient times and rituals, the Carnival of Podence differs from the parades characteristic of urban areas and is therefore considered as the most authentic carnival in Portugal. This is also a social practice related to the end of Winter and the beginning of Spring.

The element “Winter Festivities: Carnival of Podence” was inscribed on the 12th of December 2019, on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity (UNESCO), during the 14th Intergovernmental Committee of the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage meeting, in Bogotá, Colombia.

