

21^{feb} — 24^{apr}

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EXHIBITION

Actos de Língua

Carlos M. Oliveira and James Newitt

In this video installation, Carlos M. Oliveira and James Newitt bring together their respective practices of choreography and moving image in order to address the bodily expression of language and the friction that occurs in communication between people.

The work highlights differences between languages whose expression passes through the body, exposing a multiplicity of modes of communication and their possible cohabitation. It explores a sensitivity to the diversity of bodies while blurring divisions between ability and disability. The idea of translation as equivalence of meanings is rejected and, instead, the work considers meaning that is in permanent transformation, supporting other forms of common existence.

Actos de Língua problematizes and celebrates what it means to live in a community made of differences, in which language is an act of constant translation and transmission: a social gesture that carries clarity and misunderstanding, as well as murmurs, tremors and vibration.

Leaves in the underbrush
(addressing the infrastructures of
perception and discourse)

‘Actos de Língua’ makes me reconsider what it means – for each of us – to find ourselves planted here. What it means to operate from within our languages, tongues and manners of speaking, as well as from the specificity of our equipment of perception and movement: their possibilities, constraints, habits and particular styles. To be sure, the most naturalized ways of sensing and perceiving, identifying, naming, classifying, relating, separating, and transmitting are anything but neutral. That is why the seemingly simple fact of using the body and language every day to think, sense and do things requires attention to the way history and ideology move and sediment not only in words, but also in the infrastructures of perception and movement; to the way our forms of organizing movements, senses and discourses travel across histories and ideologies that comprise multiple layers of systemic violence.

By questioning the conditions and terms in which we move, sense, (re)cognize, think, and communicate, ‘Actos de Língua’ addresses socio-political facts that are usually well camouflaged in everyday life and remain unaccounted for as a leaf in the underbrush. For perception and discourse are things we do every day (the ‘domestic’ dimension of life and of any artistic work, so to speak); things we rarely have time to examine in appropriate conditions. It seems to me that ‘Actos de Língua’ mobilises precisely those domesticities that constitute the ground from which we are given to rethink the composition of

the common. A necessarily convoluted common, in which dissonant complicities abound. The ground that emerges when we begin to ask, for instance:

How to account for the several layers of systemic violence manifest in the infrastructures of everyday perception.

How can we truly interrogate the infrastructures of knowledge and history (which are indebted to deeply embedded infrastructures of perception and discourse) that often prevent us from knowing in other ways, from seeing and hearing other stories, from imagining other forms of relation and other forms of life.

How can we move against the current of institutionalization of a continuous movement without breaks (the implicit pedagogy of capitalism).

What practices of collective perception do we need to rehearse in order to live in better conditions than those we are offered in the current society of performance (which can also be called ‘the more than expanded society of plantation’).

What movements – what images – what imaginations – what remediations – of perception and discourse do we need to practice together, differently.

Paula Caspão

Artistic Direction

Carlos M. Oliveira and
James Newitt

Videography

James Newitt

Choreography

Carlos M. Oliveira

Sound Composition and Mixing

Diogo Alvim

Performers

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Aliu Baio, Tarlie Lumbie,
Ana Ribeiro, Tony Weaver

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Teresa Figueiredo

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Descriptive Subtitles**

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**Audio Description
Script Review**

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Lighting

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Co-production

Anda&Fala

Support

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