

HOŠEK CONTEMPORARY

— EST. 2016 —

TÚLIO ROSA - HERE AND ELSEWHERE

Premiere: Friday 28th September 2018, 8 pm

Curator: Petr Hošek

"And suddenly, as we dared to hope, the elsewhere comes here to us..."

John Berger, *Confabulations*, London 2016

Taking as a starting point the work of artists who have explored the position of the foreigner in different contexts, *Here and Elsewhere* proposes a journey through images and stories, highlighting how the act of seeing can affect our bodies. Mainly based on two sources, Susan Sontag's essay *Project for a trip to China* and Jean-Luc Godard's movie about the Palestinian revolution, this new body of work created by Túlio combines choreography, reading and live-streaming of hand writing.

Written in the early 1970s, Sontag's essay consists of little paragraphs, almost resembling a poem. The China of her childhood evoked in the text is actually a product of her imagination, since she never travelled there. Her own memories intertwine with fantasies of this foreign land, symbolising something she cannot have or reach. Therefore, this piece can be understood as a "biomythography" where the author takes the reader to a place which she knows nothing about. How valid then is this journey, how truthful her words? Similarly, Túlio plays with the idea of two dimensions, the actual place and the other, often exoticised version of our imagination, thinking of ways to connect these two realities and accord them equal significance.

Túlio's performance draws its name from Godard's film *Here and Elsewhere*, which focuses on the Palestinian revolution. Also shot in the 70s, it juxtaposes scenes of a family comfortably watching TV at home and images of war and violence, opposing the relative safety of our Western existence with the distant terror of others in a far-away land. As Godard puts it: "the others: the elsewhere of our here". Putting aside the ideological message of the movie, it is impossible to not make the connection with the present and the current events. After all, not much has changed, as we still seem incapable (or reluctant?) of understanding these images and what they really represent.

In his work, Túlio treats the Syrian crisis, while he has actually never been there. He knows Syria like most of us do, through images, which often make it too abstract, too distant, an intangible object or simply too big to grasp. What grants him the permission to talk about the subject, to move from one reality to another? "We can never truly understand a topic we are working with, but what we can do is certainly get closer to it", he says, as his aim is not to be a voice for any Syrian. Perhaps we can never really understand, only attempt to reduce the distance between our bodies and theirs, and remember that we are always the "elsewhere" or "the others" for someone.

The artist Túlio Rosa

Born in 1989 in Brazil, Túlio Rosa studied Contemporary Dance at the Angel Vianna Faculty in Rio de Janeiro (BR), before receiving his master's degree in Performing Arts Practice and Visual Culture from the University of Castilla-La Mancha and Reina Sofía Museum in Madrid (ES). Over the past years, he has been developing a line of work which seeks to connect issues emerging in the social and political fields with his artistic practice. Since 2015, his research is in particular concerned by the circulation of images of violence in the media and its impact on the body. His work has been presented in various cities in Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain.

Túlio Rosa is the first artist of Hošek Contemporary Art Residency.

www.tuliorosa.com

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