

a Super - menina

spaces,
letters and books

created by Os Espacialistas

with words by Gonçalo M. Tavares

15.10.22 to 12.02.23

Woman, man

A woman who touches the sacred - gets burned.

A man who touches the sacred explodes, is torn to pieces, decapitated, amputated of legs and arms, transforms into shapeless trunk, and then in ash that is swept, to the outside of the house, by a hasty and not very careful broom; ashes get mixed with garbage and rainwater, slide the ashes down the street in the middle of dirty water, fall the ashes through the metallic grates, disappear in the pipes; transforms, finally, man into something else - man ceases to exist because he touched the sacred.

A woman who touches the sacred - gets burned.

A man who touches the sacred explodes, is torn to pieces, decapitated, amputated of legs and arms, transforms into shapeless trunk, and then in ash that is swept, to the outside of the house, by a hasty and not very careful broom; ashes get mixed with garbage and rainwater, slide...

Gonçalo M. Tavares

Little Girl Agustina turns 100 and Os Espacialistas prepared her a birthday party with capital and miniscule letters and a lot of stories to tell, time and time again. With double, triple and multiple words in meaning. Words that change in direction and size, that wax and wane as we count them, we enter them like homes inhabited by aweness images. Words that sometimes are kids and other times are grown ups. That transform in popular phrases and tales while we walk and discover them in the white spaces where they are intertwined with each other with all the uncertainties in the world. Neighboring words full of risks, of good and bad in/tensions, capable of all types of close and distant connections, from the most human to the cruelest that dissect and desecrate all that is

human, sacred and mundane. Words written on the walls of closed worlds for boys and girls with chalk memories that don't get scared nor do they get anguished in their smallness, and open themselves to the domestic discovery of all kinds of human and animal relations, who dream, count, add, subtract, multiply and divide in images of games and power, sweet and perverse at time, in constant family conflict.

In Agustina's closed world, it is the body and it's connections that are at stake. The metaphor of the heart, which she carries from one side to the other, is the inter-human conflict.

In this exhibition dedicated to the Super-Girl who was Agustina Bessa-Luís, Os Espacialistas transform the aerial walkways of the Convento de São Gonçalo's cloister in a body of a child and in his/her playground. They create a booklet of meanings, of walls, ceiling and floor, full of images, games and objectual notes of anatomical origin, a reflection of the most part of human activities present in Agustina's texts, through the way she "drafts" her characters' human relations, mirrors of her own family and social context.

Each of the cloister's wings is a booklet page written by a Espacialista's photographic narrative and a set of 100 spatialized words, from Gonçalo M. Tavares. A space overcrowded with images and objects in similarity with the writer's manuscripts. A space where each wing is a life season where geometric figures are characters, where you can

play domino, laranjinha (orange game), go sailing and dream with *Vale Abraão*.

Here, playing is raising awareness of the future of the uncertain body of each of us through games of letters and ancient words, games of scales, traditional obgames still present in the memories of some of us, transformed into poetic games of body, space and language, where the anatomic nature of the most part of s/paces is revealed, of the gestures and objects of our (artistic) daily routine where the body, the pig and coprophagy randomly throw themselves, in a permanent visceral game because of the big knot in the guts that unites us all.

We can see it in the dialog of scales created between the big silver birthday party letters installed close to the ceiling, forming the names of Agustina Bessa-Luís' books, and the thousands of characters in the form of a scattered letter soup close to the floor, in the tone of footnotes, human and animal for corn grain boys with rats teeth. A notebook in power waiting to be written by whoever inhabits it, filled with memories and images of posthumous children's playgrounds, from someone who writes us all to the front.

The artistic assembly of objectual nature walls, ceiling and floor, the Espacialistas' images produced from s/paces, different size letters, types and materials, books and a lot of other objects derived from the Espacialista's Kit and of traditional agricultural practices are reverberating Agustina's memorial and imaginary works.

All the installations are dialogues between traditional children's games, social and familiar conflicts and agricultural human and animal (wicked) activities present in the books and memories of

Agustina Bessa-Luís.

Houses, families, lands, animals, animal and agricultural practices, objects from inside and outside, landscapes, gestures, traditions, children's games, (human) games, monas (traditional portuguese dolls), fire, religion, wine, viscera, water mills and cinema are all present.

Agustina had an ambiguous relation with water. Espacialistas' liquid images appear in the form of instantaneously written sculptures, threshed like cereals, violent likes humans, fluid like the river, fountain of purifying flames of the big liquid fire that is the river, symbol of continuous rebirth, image of the contemporary liquid modernity. The river's water is papersheet, pen, inkpot, medium and message, surface and depth, metaphor of the torrential fluidity of her in movement writing, that never ceases to run even when it misses, mistakes or forgets.

An unpopular birthday party, full of fulls and voids (vides) and artistic p/references from Os Espacialistas, open to all Super-Menina's friends, she who liked to write letters, who started writing stories from stamps she cut to illustrate what she wrote, who born posthumous and will forever live as a child.

Happy Birthday Super-Menina!

We wish you like the party we arranged for you.

Os Espacialistas

