

"Speculum, Spectrum: About Self-portraits"

By Bernardo Mosqueira, 2015

(to my love)

Dears Bruna, Daniela, Marina, Renato, Sávio, and Sura,

We have not met in person yet, and I apologize for my distance, but it was absolutely important that I did not know you before finishing this text and curating this exhibition. It is important to make it clear, strangely enough, that this may seem at first glance, that this exhibition is not about Anna or about how you "interpreted" that undeniably interesting person she is. This is an exhibition about the challenge of being in the world.

For different reasons, you have been chosen and are now the important instruments of a subject-building exercise. If I am interested in how Anna's eyes see your eyes looking at her eyes, I could not position myself between the parts. I see Anna, Anna sees you.

I am currently in a hotel room in a strange city and produce this text in front of the mirror. Writing under these conditions is the result of a score that I imposed to myself. In that position, I see my reflection behind the laptop, on a surface of glass and silver. I think he even looks like me, but it's not me: this is just an image that I recognize as mine and that helps me deal with reality. Within the mirror, our desires, our fears, our fantasies, our creations always live. We look at these things to learn how to deal with life out here. However, it is not always the mirror that reflective surface that we frame behind doors, cars, sinks, and beds. What happens is that there is a mirror in every look.

In my first experience with Anna's practice, she greeted me by saying, "Hi, you can stay here with me for as long as you want, and we can talk about anything or even be silent. The only rule is that we look into each other's eyes as long as this encounter lasts. " It was certainly different with you. It was the singular shape of the mirror in the eyes of each of you six that made Anna invite you to this project. You are the first in a group that should reach a total of 30 after 10 years.

Anna invited you to represent herself, and in this process, she provided to the viewer all sorts of necessary information. The exchange of emails, letters, SMS, Whatsapp messages, tickets, transcriptions of voice messages etc. are all available for public viewing on the shelf albums. In each of the albums is the story of a relationship that derives from work, but not necessarily as work.

"Work" in "Self-portrait" is a strategy to deal with life: to feel less lonely, to organize the house, to look at the world in a better way, etc. (And that's when Anna turns the mirror over to me as she holds my head with both hands as she learned from one of you.)

"Self Portrait" is an experimental process of audiovisual creation of narrative about a person elaborated by an artist who has training and experience in the field of cinema. However, this is, above all, a project that, in proposing to select a wide variety of people for the same invitation, exposes, in the end, the diversity of ways of existing in the world. As touching and impressive as their interpretations are, they will never be definitive. The mirror always reflects the image of its inverted or modified object. Talking about the mirror is talking about the existence of an infinity of points of view and therefore about diversity. The mirror we use to help us to realize our powers and to create our identity is coupled with a network of mirrors organized as a great room of mirrors reflecting each other. That, we call Culture. Reflection or speculation: This exposition is about the modular vector of culture - it has this ambition and dimension.

Talking to Anna and watching all your videos, I was completely delighted by you. After opening the exhibit and as soon as I get back from traveling I would love to spend a night drinking with you. If you do not mind, I'll get the white wine. I'm allergic to red.

With love,
Bernardo Mosqueira