

There is a time when we meet

By Bernardo Mosqueira, 2016

(for my love)

(*Fora Temer*)

Anna Costa e Silva's (1988) works question the processes of the formation of subjectivities and identities and experiment different dynamics of relationships. The artist investigates how communication is a structuring force for original and fertile forms of socializing. The encounter has been her object of investigation - but not only that.

"Asymptotes", developed by the artist between 2010 and 2014 during her master's degree in Visual Arts at the School of Visual Arts in New York is an immersive video installation. First exhibited at Caixa Cultural in Rio de Janeiro in 2014, it is composed by three large U-shaped screens, six sound channels and several comfortable seats in the center of the dark room, where the audience can accommodate for the 45-minute projection.

Reassigned to the Brazilian Contemporary Movement Space in 2016, visitors can see again the result of the experiment in which Anna invited the actress Carolina Macedo Haddad and the actor Felipe Abib to live for at least 12 hours a day for 7 days, separated into two rooms of the same apartment. During this time, the artists interacted through the exchange of video-letters that were recorded and then projected in the room of the interlocutor. The actors did not meet at any time and they could choose the content of the letters that were recorded and projected. Much of the tension of work is in this desire and imminence of finding each other. Scripted and improvised scenes are mixed with moments in which the actors comment on the experience of filming the work. On the left screen is the man's universe, and in the right, the woman's. The middle is the space of friction and construction from the two.

The word "asymptote" comes from the Greek, a- (no), syn- (together), ptotos (fallen), "what does not fall together", that which does not meet.

A function, in Mathematics, is an equation that defines the relationship between elements of two sets. For example: $f(x) = 1/x$ or $y = 1/x$. In the Cartesian plane, the function can be expressed as the design of the relation between two axes. Asymptote in mathematics can be understood, graphically, as the boundary line at which the movement of a function's curve approaches without ever actually touching. However, the more one of the elements of the function reaches toward infinity, the closer the encounter is - although it never happens. If Anna Costa e Silva's works deal precisely with the encounter, "Asymptotas" could seem to affirm that, regardless of desire and effort, we will never be able to reach each other. But she goes beyond that.

In a more recent work, entitled Practices of being with, Anna proposed that unknown people relate for a few hours by following, page-by-page, a sequence of unusual instructions capable of stretching and folding membranes. At another work, Encounter, defined by the artist as the

“minimum unit” of her work, Anna invites people to enter her camping tent to have individual conversations in which the only imperative is to look into each other's eyes for the duration of the meeting. In a work that will last 10 years (Self Portrait), Anna invites actresses and actors to interpret herself in relationships.

The encounters do not fit into mathematics, they cannot be read prosaically or arithmetically. Encounters, like life and the world, are poetic, have rhymes and dissonances. Beyond words, as Felipe Abib suggests at a time in "Asymptotes," they happen in the silences, where order or meaning do not exist. They are in the space between letters and figures, in the air that passes through the vocal cords, which enters through the nostrils. They are in what remains of candles on the table, banana on the plates, stardust on the body or scalp dust under the nails. Or in the holes in a shoe made with nails in the attempt to get into the space of the other. The encounters are quantum, and can be both enormous and less than minimal, for contradiction does not exist in the world but only in language. They do not fit in mathematics, but they fit exactly in the inapprehensible, minimal, and infinite space between the drawing of the curve and the asymptote of the function - for what happens is that the encounters do not fit in the plane in the representation. The encounter, in *Asymptotes*, is on the search - for itself, for the other, for something that justifies existence. Actors, characters, and work mingle in a living process that is independent of what was planned and goes toward infinity; the universe of one in relation to the other.

What happens in "Asymptotes" is a proposal for a relationship, which Anna Costa e Silva carries out in her works, having the meeting not only as an object of research but as a procedure, technique, and matter.