

Artigo Indefinível

Danta Ghira & Samuel Gapp

a CO-CREATION & PLAY

“*Artigo Indefinível*”

Translatable to “*something beyond description*”.

a **CO-CREATION & PLAY** held in Convento de São Francisco da Cidade de Lisboa in August 2023.

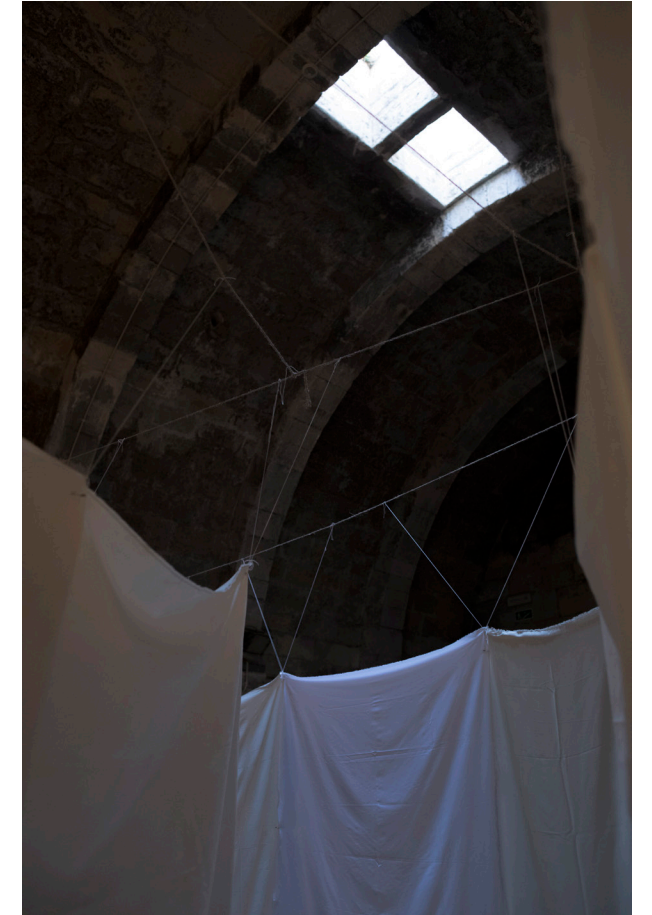
IN AUGUST 2023, THE WORK WAS PRESENTED IN THE MEDIEVAL CISTERN OF THE CONVENTO DE SÃO FRANCISCO, LISBON. SEVEN MUSICIANS AND A DANCER PERFORMED INTIMATELY THROUGH TEXTILE STRUCTURES, GUIDING THE AUDIENCE THROUGH A DREAMLIKE, EPHEMERAL PATH. VISITORS NAVIGATED A LITERAL LABYRINTH OF CHOICES, CYCLICALLY INFLUENCING THE PERFORMERS.

The piece is based on reciprocal interaction between public and performers, creating cycles of action and reaction. Written scores and a sculptural/scenographic assemblage form the compositional backbone, guiding actions while leaving space for responsive improvisation. Observer and participant merge, granting the public a central role: they not only influence the piece's unfolding form but also help bring it into being.

A sculptural scene and a written play served as twin foundations, grounding ephemeral gestures in a tangible dramaturgy of form, space and sound. Conversations between Danta and Samuel explored how a work comes into being, and what this reveals about our relationship with time, matter and presence. These exchanges inspired deeper ontological questions about historical objects and their resonance today.



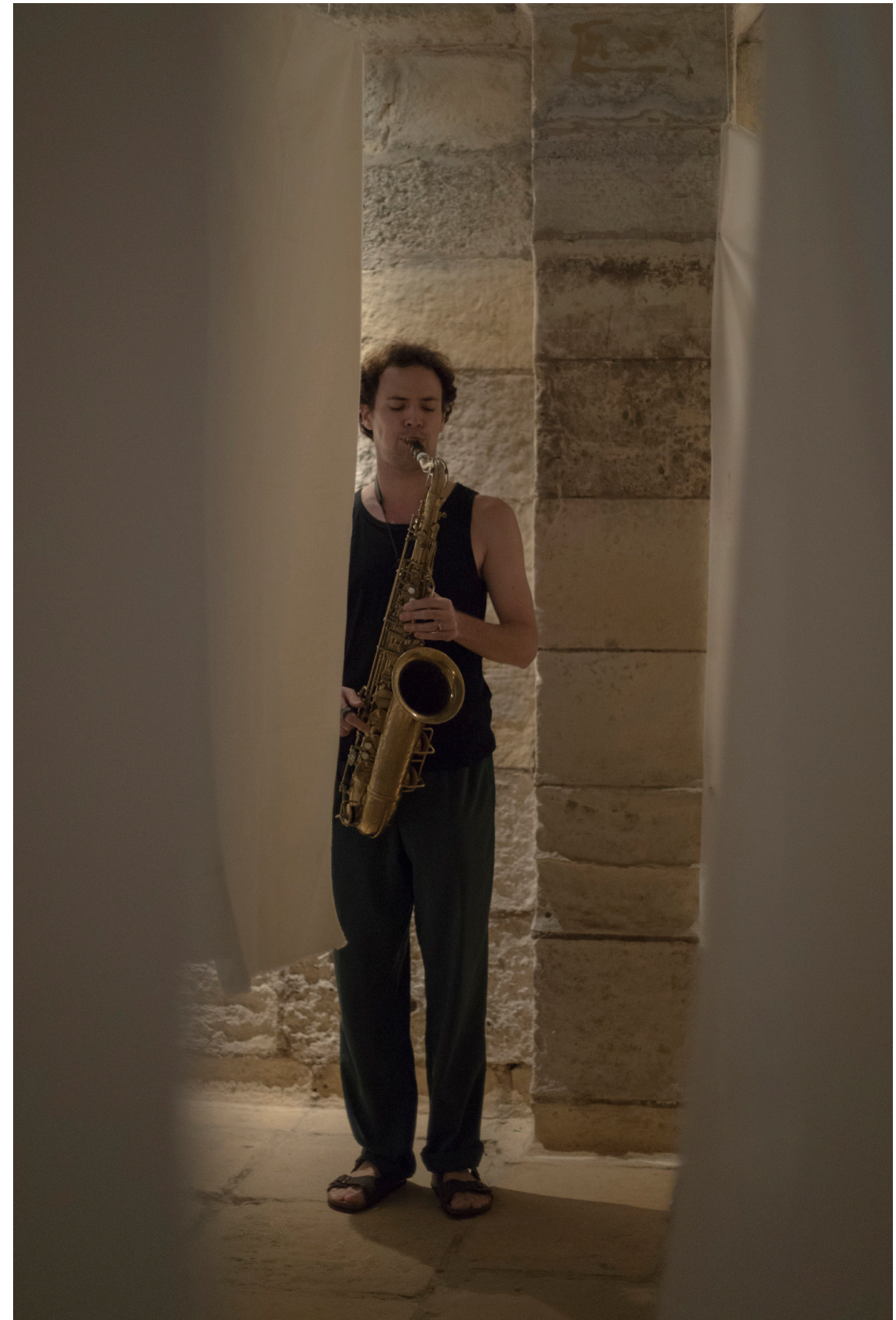




The piece draws on ancient Greek ideas of composition: the labyrinth as enclosure and structuring of ideas; peripeteia as a reversal; catharsis as a powerful effect on all involved. Translucent textile walls — light, mutable and unpredictable — evoke internal barriers of the creative process. Their shifting surfaces register friction between entities and egos, carrying a quiet, almost transcendental charge.



Written scores guide seven musicians while allowing improvisation. As the audience moves through labyrinthine paths, their seemingly spontaneous actions shape performers' decisions, governed by specific rules. Stone, fabric, instruments and bodies form a living microcosm — an ever-shifting interplay of sound, image and space, held in dynamic balance.





The work sensitises the public and stimulates perception. Its ever-changing sonic and physical nature mirrors organic, causal, inconclusive processes. It both implies and prevents fixed perspectives, inviting participants into an infinite state of “being-in-formation.”





“This confrontation with the ontological, with the questioning of identity and its limits, creates fundamental ambiguity on multiple levels for everyone involved - ultimately referring to the complexity, precariousness and fluidity of contemporary concerns and counteracting the global climate of biased, fundamentalist, radical tendencies and oversimplified ideologies.”

Danta Ghira & Samuel Gapp, Lisbon, December 2023.



Performer Inês Zinho Pinheiro, veiled by a textile cloak, embodies transformation and reciprocity, acting as observer, mediator and participant in the flowing interplay of body, space and sound.



CREDITS

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With the artistic body
Pedro Massarrão Cello
Eva Aguilar Cello
Mariana Dionísio Voice
Afonso Gaspar Flute
Tiago Mourato Clarinete
Honza Michálek Saxophone
Miguel Cardoso Tuba
Inês Zinho Body

Marco Sardinha Film and Production
Hugo Nunes Filming and Editing
Kenny Gad Filming
Maria Bicker Photography

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