

Arts, performativity, generalized crisis, and necropolitics

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The publication of this edition of the journal *Conceição*|Conception, has, for us, a very special meaning. The invitation made to Professor Ileana Dieguéz Caballero to integrate the team as Invited Editor of the Dossier “Arts, performativity, generalized crisis, and necropolitics” expresses the wish to open the journal to wider reflections on the place of art and performativity as cultural strength, in a complex and hard context such as the one we are experiencing. We understand it is no longer possible to ignore the emergencies of our time, especially the crisis of the hegemonic modes of existence that spread throughout the planet, often based on the destruction of the environment, economic overexploitation, cultural wars, and veiled and explicit extermination policies, mainly in the “peripheral” areas of the world. How can we reconsider artistic knowledge and the creative power they mobilize to face an unprecedented situation, reinventing artistic and cultural actions while forces that can reconfigure our personal and collective life?

In this sense, the collaborations from Latin American authors, including us, from Brazil, have fundamental importance in the discussion proposed here. The construction of other ways of realizing, thinking, and proposing, starting from the singularity of our experiences, in dialogue with the living thinking developed in Europe and in the United States, is an imposed challenge, if we wish to deal with the colonial marks that cross us. In this moment, we emphasize that listening to

voices from different traditions, especially indigenous and African-based, is essential to reactivate our political imagination, to renew ideas, and to deepen performative knowledge. We hope this process can be deepened, with this publication being an incentive to new discussion, meetings, and partnerships.

Finally, the dimension acquired by the COVID-19 pandemic configures an unpredictable situation, generating perplexities and attitudes that go from pure and simple negation to the political of the situation to deepen the mechanisms of control and demobilization of the population. Before the enigmas brought by “plagues,” the scientific and critical thinking can walk hand in hand with artistic investigations that reveal subjective and symbolic aspects and the dynamic of affections triggered by the new situation. These are the “pandemic knowledge”, evoked by Ileana in her beautiful opening text, who, before the unusual, develop with patience, rigor, and sensitivity possible paths to understand, care, and recreate our ways to be and live together.

For your information: from 2020, journal *Conceição*|Conception adopted a system of continuous publication. In this way of proceeding, there are no fascicles nor periodicity, as practiced until 2019. The articles are published as they are approved by the peer review process.