

# Opening text

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## **Cassiano Sydow Quilici**

Universidade Estadual de Campinas  
Campinas, SP, Brasil  
cassianosyd@uol.com.br  
orcid.org/0000-0003-0042-5378

## **Eduardo Okamoto**

Universidade Estadual de Campinas  
Campinas, SP, Brasil  
okamoto@unicamp.br  
orcid.org/0000-0002-0376-9611

## **Juliana Martins Rodrigues de Moraes**

Universidade Estadual de Campinas  
Campinas, SP, Brasil  
jumoraes@unicamp.br  
orcid.org/0000-0003-0623-8178

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Continuing the approach to urgent contemporary issues, Conceição/Conception Magazine presents, in this issue, the Dossier "Anthroposcenes: performing arts, ecology, and diversity of ways of life." Our international guest editor, Professor Daniel Tércio - dance critic, professor, and researcher at the Faculty of Human Motricity of the University of Lisbon - managed to bring together a very significant group of collaborators from different nationalities, including an unpublished essay by the Portuguese philosopher José Gil together with Ana Godinho. This rich material comprises a diversity of theoretical and practical perspectives on the subject, expressed in different styles and forms of writing.

The concept of "Anthropocene," which designates a new geological era marked by human action and its destructive impact on nature, especially since the Industrial Revolution, throws us in the face of a series of urgencies and perplexities. How to understand and overcome the human incapacity, especially of the constituted powers, to act efficiently and fast in the face of the severe risks that we run? What is performing arts' role in criticizing and deconstructing the mechanisms of the crisis' denial and our contributions to the process of reinventing hegemonic ways of life, including a dialogue with other cultures and modes of existence?

The material gathered here provides precious clues that summon new forms of understanding, activating our belief and willingness to act. Suppose the "anthropocene" may still seem too abstract a concept for some. In that case, artistic devices and practices it refers to are sensitive experiences that modify our ways of being and acting in the world, based on a strong sense of interdependence. Consolidated ideas are challenged and reformulated with the more general questions that ecological crises trigger. Openness to communities and traditional knowledge also appears as a fundamental attitude in this process of reinventing artistic activity in a world that demands other forms of connection between humans and non-humans.

Finally, we hope that both the Dossier and the articles gathered in this issue can contribute to the consolidation of a field of research that is increasingly necessary.