

The other's shadow

RODRIGO FISCHER



The other's shadow



The other's shadow is an interdisciplinary project by the artist Rodrigo Fischer who proposes a creative exchange between a theater, film and visual arts artists to devise a performative framework crossing concepts such as installation, time-based media, performance art, and theater. Inspired by Dostoiévski's novel *Notes from underground*, the project aims a dialogue with the city and its shadows, to affect and be affected by it, in order to understand what it would be and what can be identified as an

underground. Who are the people in this environment and how they behave while they are submerged in this political context?

The project is developed throughout an artistic residence between the director Rodrigo Fischer and the collaborators from each specific city the project is going to be devised. The proposal is to work with at least one filmmaker and one visual artist who lives in the city where the project is going to be created, thus promoting the encounter of a foreign perspective with local perspectives.

Throughout the process of a wandering immersion into the city, which can range between one and three weeks, the goal

is to collect things, that is, images, sounds, texts, interviews, and objects that will be correlated to compose the work's landscape. All these things, such as lost objects, trash, discarded materials, recycles, people's stories and any audiovisual material that contribute to the creation are going to be collected during the immersion.

Although the project is created from the specific material of each city and prioritizes an open process, such as discoveries and detours, the show structure can follow the same project created in New York or at least consider its outline as a reference.

In other words, a proposal divided into three steps, which can be performed both in a theatrical space that allows the public to visit and also in a conventional room or gallery: 1) A public visiting and its interaction with the images, sounds and objects installation; 2) Audiovisual exhibition and its potential assemblages with objects (on this stage, the audience can already be accommodated) 3) The performer's interaction with the works and the live audiovisual compositions. The proposal is that these steps reflect narratives, affections, and experiences of the city's immersion combined with their multiple narratives of what may be the underground.

"The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes."
Marcel Proust

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The other's shadow images of the show at Dixon Place in New York City on June 15th, 2018.

1st and 2nd images portray the first step of the show: A public visiting and its interaction with the images, sounds and objects installation.



3rd and 4th images portray the second step of the show: Audiovisual exhibition and its potential assemblages with objects.



5th and 6th imagens portray the third step of the show: The performer's interaction with the works and the live audiovisual compositions.

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The proposal of *The other's shadow* is to recognize and reframe potential agency among bodies, objects, images, sounds and architectures that are discarded, invisible, oppressed, useless, crooked and that lose their social, useful or aesthetic value. The project is a platform to talk about the subalterns and their concerns.

Who are we against the city within a neoliberal and capitalist context?

What is our political goal and who currently lives in the underground?

How does being in the underground can affect our behavior and how does our attitude within this space can affect the city? It is important to

emphasize that the underground approach will be set based on each city's distinct context. Besides all these questions mentioned above, the one that most moves the project is: how to see people, architectures, images and objects from different perspectives, subverting the social and cultural parameters to reconstitute our relationship with the city? By assuming the city's characters as a creative material - as well as its objects, paths, wastes, obsessions, epiphanies, expressions - the creation assumes as an open, curious and full of otherness framework.

"Whereas major theater represents and thereby helps to reproduce the relations of power in the dominant state apparatuses, minor theater operates by amputating and subverting the structures of this theater; minor theater not only stops representing and reproducing dominant relations of power but also contributes to the becoming a generalized 'minor' consciousness"

Gilles Deleuze

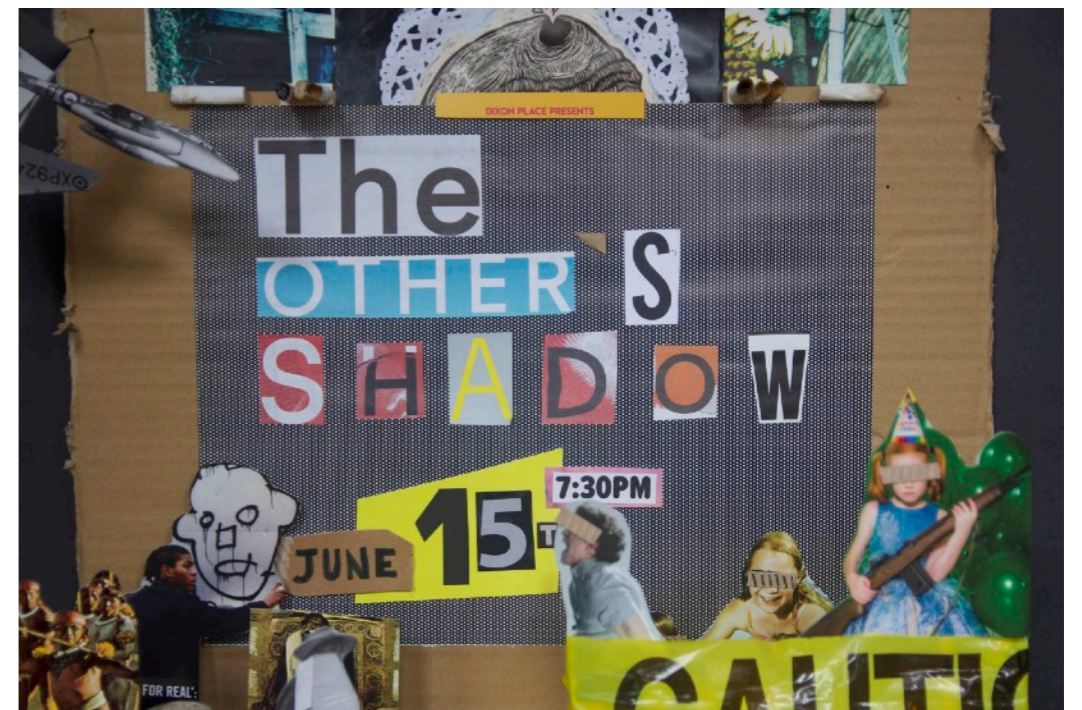
The plan is to mobilize actions that allow us to readjust our subjectivity, our body and our affection based on our interaction with the city and with different modes of existence, to bring the idea of what Deleuze called the "minor consciousness". Actions that not only occupy and resignify the

urban space, but that also provoke us to think about different modes of expression based on concepts such as invisibility, reduction, scarcity, uselessness, minority, helplessness, and exhaustion.

The other's shadow is a project focused on a performative creation connected to the idea of invisibility and the potential of the dark side. It prioritizes a hybrid creation

through different modes of expression in all its steps - conception, process, and presentation. It is a project that allows a diverse dialogue with the city, both for the residence, immersion and presentation plans, as well as for other possible plans throughout its implementation, such as performances, site-specific interventions, lectures, work in progress and workshops for local artists who may participate into the project. Finally, it is important to emphasize other possibilities such as actions related to recycling, waste collection and a sustainable art perspective.

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The image on the left is an assemblage of three portraits made with New York residents who served as creative material. A top right image was taken during the immersion, at a place called Dead Horse Bay in New York City, which is an abandoned beach completely covered with glass bottles. The last image is a photo of the promotional material made by the artist Yasmin Santanna, who worked on the graphic design from materials found in the trash.

The project can unfold into several proposes:

◆ Installation/exhibition

The installation of images, sounds, and objects that is visited by the audience on the show's first step can also be configured as a permanent installation. That is, it can be visited by the audience at other times.

◆ Workshops

During the immersion's step, at least two workshops can be run. The first one can be lead by the director Rodrigo Fischer to actors and non-actors with the subject: *Polyphonic performance: agency and recycling images, sounds, objects, and bodies.*

Another workshop can be led by a local visual artist who is going to devise the objects during the immersion. The visual artist can propose a workshop with a sustainable art perspective.

◆ Exchange with local artists

In addition to the exchange with a visual artist and a local filmmaker, it is also intended to establish partnerships, dialogues and collaborations with other local artists and residents.

◆ Site-specific art and performances

During the city immersion's experience, in which the performer Rodrigo Fischer and the guests will be collecting materials for the performance, it is also intended to do some interventions and performances into the city. Thus, the project establishes connections with the local people, it transforms the urban space and space and it is also a strategy to promote the work. These actions may be propagated by other collaborators who are interested in the project, such as the workshop participants and other local artists interested on the project.

◆ Digital content

The purpose is to establish partnerships with designers, programmers and local artists interested in developing digital content. One of the plans is to develop at least two actions for digital content: audiovisual capsules and poetic doodles about the creative process that will be published on social networks, blogs, and websites.

◆ Recycling ideas

Considering the project's concept is based on things that are no longer "useful", the plan is to develop some political actions for recycling, waste collection and sustainability.

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About the director

Rodrigo Fischer is a Brazilian artist and professor who has been working in performing arts for over 20 years as a theater director, actor, video designer, and light designer. Founder of Grupo Desvio, he develops multidisciplinary projects crossing time-based media, performance, theater, and installation. Fischer's works have presented in theater festivals and academic congress in Argentina, Belarus, Brazil, Chile, Estonia, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Hong-Kong, Spain, Tunisia, and the United States.

Besides his background in theater, he develops projects and research based on the appropriation of audiovisual aesthetic and new media onstage; investigations about decolonized theater; improvisation, devised theatre and dramaturgy; and the agency among images, sounds, lights, objects, bodies, and space to create polyphonic performances.

BFA (2006) and MFA (2009) focused on devised theatre at the University of Brasília (UnB), in his Ph.D. (2015) he analyzed the work of John Cassavetes to understand some connections between the theatrical and cinematographic aesthetic concluded at The Graduate Center, CUNY and UnB. In his first post-doctoral at the University of Brasília, the research was composed to think of what would be a polyphonic performance through the appropriation of new technologies onstage. In his second post-doctoral at NYU's Performance Studies Department, supervised by Andre Lepecki, the investigation was about the agency among objects, bodies, sounds, light, space, and images to create an interdisciplinary project.

For the past nineteen years, he has directed the Grupo Desvio to develop performances, techniques, and experimentations, mainly focused on the actor craft and his autonomy in the creative process. He led and performed Desvio's pieces, such as *Pequena Existência* (2002); *Beckett às Avestas* (2004), *Eutro* (2008), *Misanthrofreak* (2013), *The Losers* (2015) and *The Other's shadow* (2018).



Photo by Diego Bresani. The multimedia show Misanthrofreak was created in 2013 and it is still being presented all over the world. Directed and performed by Rodrigo Fischer.

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VIDEO LINK

The current version was presented in New York City

<https://vimeo.com/279953987> (Password: kantorstein)

*It is important to mention this version was created as a work in progress and it was not possible to apply all the resources required.