A Hunger Artist

Workshop Leaders

Inês de Carvalho (PT)

Carlota Castro, Alice Prata (PT)

Length of workshop

5 days

Date

12.–16. June

Target Participants

Students & Emerging Artists



Workshop Description

A Hunger Artist is a phone call theatre piece created by VU in 2021 as a response to the pandemic confinement and the appeal of Between the Seas: Mediterranean Performance Lab and 1927 Art Space (Athens) for the development of low-tech actions to connect people and solidarity initiatives. Facing the suspension of live performances, we decided to create a safe space of intimacy that privileges the voice in a time of image saturation, with free access through online registration for a specific date and time. An email sent to audience members provides the necessary information to make the call and talk with A Hunger Artist in a personal, unique, and non-recorded way. The phone call script was written by Carlos Costa, adapted from José Vieira Mendes' Portuguese translation of Kafka's Ein Hungerkünstler.

In a time scarred by the pandemic and with the war in Europe as background, this cycle incites debate on the dominant public sentiments. It looks to create space for sharing and reflecting on the affections circulated in political, media, economic and cultural discourses. The performing arts often summon the most acute public feelings at a given time and place, making the impact of their forces visible. At PQ STUDIO 2023, A Hunger Artist workshop will address these questions through artistic practice and strategies that allow us to circulate affections, be in contact at a distance and imagine other worlds. By digging into personal imageries of loss, fear and frailty, participants will be challenged to write original scripts for phone call pieces, designing the contexts and spaces aurally conveyed by (their) voiced wor(l)ds. They will explore the scenographic within the immaterial space of a voice call. Breath, deliberate pauses, the narrative space created by word placement and the intimate time-space between the two ends of the line that overlap the physical space of the listener combine to become scenography. This scenography "site-specifies" in the place of reception and occurrence of the "autopoietic feedback loop" phenomenon (E. Fischer-Lichte).

On the workshop's first day, participants will be introduced to A Hunger Artist's theme, concept, theory and lived experience testimonials. The following day participants devise their own pieces to be tested within the group on day three. Days four and five are performance days, where the pieces are shared with the public (registered "listeners" for the event). Hungers Artists in-training will follow a detailed schedule, taking turns in occupying the designated space for the phone call – a phone booth in a public space, under the gaze of passersby.

About the Workshop Leaders

Inês de Carvalho is a scenographer, visual artist and educator trained at the Lisbon School of Theater and Film (BA) and the Slade School of Fine Art (MFA). Inês has exhibited at WSD2013 and PQ2015 and has been an FTR SWG member and OISTAT education commission national delegate; member of APCEN since its foundation (2012). Inês teaches space and performance (U.Minho), scenography and costume (U.Évora); teacher-trainer in artistic education and communication (IEFP); runs workshops nationally and internationally. She has been collaborating with Visões Úteis since 2009 as a theatre, performance, and landscape designer and directs projects involving communities where she has been responsible for Artistic Creation and Mediation.





Participation in this workshop requires

Writing, performance and media.

Workshop Fee

3 000 CZK / 125 EUR (approx.)

Application

