

«CONVERSAS DIVERSAS»

EPISODE 1: «QUEERNESS, PERFORMATIVITY, PLURIVERSITY»

LÉA MEIER – Is it working? It's good? Ok. Do you want to begin?

CLAUDIO BUENO – You can start please.

LM – I am Lea Meier I am a visual swiss artist, right now I am in Lausanne in Switzerland and it's 3:30pm.

CB – I'm Claudio, I'm a visual artist and I coordinate with João the EXPLODE! Platform and now we woke up and had a breakfast, it's 10:30am in Brazil, we are in Brazil, in São Paulo.

JOÃO SIMÕES – I am João Simões, I co-create the EXPLODE! Platform with Claudio. I'm a researcher, an artist, designer and I do a lot of things in my life.

CB – Your hair is amazing Lea.

LM – Thank you, I'm really happy. I am working mainly with performances and writing and in the last time I was particularly working on dirt and cleanliness issues and how they are really strong thematics to understand race, gender and class issues and how the construction of dirt and cleanliness has a really strong influence on our desire, subjectivities and bodies

(Excerpts from video "Quem chega cedo beba agua" Brazil, 2019 by Lea Meier)

CB – Lea How do you differentiate the idea of cleanliness from Brazil and Switzerland?

LM – I think that what make me want to work on this topic, specially in São Paulo I was really impressed or interested because in Switzerland as a fact of cleaning the streets it is really hidden, people are making it during the night so you are not always able to see the workers cleaning the street. In São Paulo I was really impressed because you are seeing workers of the city of São Paulo cleaning the streets or monuments or statues all the time.

CB – Yes.

LM – I am really interested in all kinds of gestures of care, how you wash something, what gestures you will make, washing stuff, washing your own body and

prohelvetia

then I thought it would be really interesting because of course I am always washing my flat, my apartment and my domestic surroundings but like washing the street is another experience.

(Excerpts from video "Queer City" Brazil, 2019 directed by Danila Bustamante for EXPLODE!)

CB - One thing that we cannot elaborate through language, through words only but with self expression, with our body. How we dance, how we celebrate, how we make politics, how we organize ourselves. For us it is very important to not consider only the mental ideas or the mental elaboration but also how the body can manifest different kinds of knowledge of the world. Yes?

LM - Yes.

CB - And how can we multiply these ways of living, learning and exchanging knowledge. How can we create spaces for sharing this kind of knowledge?

JS - There is a lot of people who because of the prejudice and violence against their bodies they are thinking possibilities of living because they want to live, in another possibility of world, in another possibility of existence, in a pluriversal way of living.

CB - What did your body learn from the experience in São Paulo? Living in São Paulo, what was the experience in your skin?

LM - I think as there is a lot of different experiences the strongest one is that in Switzerland or in Europe or I think in the occident white people don't learn that they are white, so I think that I learned that I am white and I am still learning it and thinking about it, this is one of the biggest experiences and it is also very important that I learned that and I hope that every white people will do the same, maybe... There is so many different bodies that it helps you to go through a healing process and that you can also not just change the way you see your own body but the body of other people walking in the streets also, and I think it was really nice for me.

(Excerpts from video "Ma Maison est une maison sale" 2018 by Lea Meier)

LM - In the beginning of this year I was working on a new performance where I am trying to make myself appear dirty or as a monster to try to escape from the heteronormative eye of the society, or the male gaze maybe and then in this process I have tried to reconnect with an ancestral gesture of the women of my family, there is a lot of woman in my family that are considered "crazy" in this society that have mental illnesses. It was a really strong process for me to try to pass through this gesture, it is also a history of violence against women with

mental illnesses that I have in my body. I think it can be a very healing process to try to find this gesture in an art process.

CB – It is also beautiful to hear you talking about healing because we learn how to hate ourselves or how to hate others but it is important to learn how to love ourselves, how to love our alliances, our connections, our bodies. If we talk about black bodies, trans bodies, and even my body which I have been building up since I was born, changing the mouth, changing the nose and then how to love this body that is non-conforming, non-hegemonic in this way. It is not a perfect mouth for others, you know. These groups can help us to re-elaborate this love, I was kidding that it is all about a love story.

CREDITS

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