

**"Phonetic Fragments of One (Self)"**  
FUNARTE "WOMEN IN VISUAL ARTS" PRIZE 2013



audio-visual performance/ installation

duration: 40'

conception/direction: Cristina Elias (Brazil)

image and video: César Meneghetti (Italy)

live sound: Yuko Matsuyama (Japan)

performers: Rosemarie Walter (Berlin, Germany), Gabriele Deroche (Berlin, Germany), Leonardo Castilho, Alexandre Ohkawa, Catharine Moreira, Isadora Borges, Luana Milani, Cauê Gouveia, Daniela Takara, Naiane Olah, Duarte Vicente, Amanda de Lima, Ana André, Leandro Almeida, Maria Rita de Oliveira (Sao Paulo, Brazil)

"Phonetic Fragments of One (Self)" is an audio-visual performance and installation that confronts the issue of the limits of communication through translations and re-translations of the novel "The Passion according to G.H.", by Clarice Lispector. Fragments of text in Portuguese, Italian, English and German comprise a soundscape that during the live event is "re-translated" by deaf performers into a silent movement vocabulary, by a visual-artist in live cinema and by a sound-artist in abstract sounds. The creative process of "Phonetic Fragments of One (Self)" starts from re-creating the 'word' through the sign language used for communication by deaf people and its subsequent artistic development in performance and movement workshops. The "defect" - the impossibility of speaking and listening - becomes a tool for expanding the means of expressing oneself.

Clarice Lispector wrote about the limits of language and the failure to express the infinite sea of feelings she had inside. The deaf and those with profound hearing impairments live the challenge of expression on a daily basis. Cristina Elias is a performance artist, who, having already studied literature and literary translation, focused her work on the translation of words into the visual field through the body and its movement.

In July/August 2013, in Berlin, Cristina Elias started an intense research process with the deaf performer Rosemarie Walter, which involves the "translation" of Lispector's writings into the German "Gebärdensprache" (sign language) and its successive artistic treatment and development in performance workshops. This process resulted in a live performance presented in the festival "Plataforma Berlin 2013" ([www.plataforma-berlin.org](http://www.plataforma-berlin.org)) and integrated in the official programme of the Brazilian Pavilion of the International Book Fair in Frankfurt – 2013. In October 2013, "Phonetic Fragments of one (Self)" won the prize "Women in Visual Arts 2013" from FUNARTE (Culture Ministry Brazil). In 2014, in Sao Paulo, Cristina Elias held a series of creative movement laboratories/workshops with 20 performers of the group Corposinalizante (São Paulo) integrated by deaf and mute performers and interpreters of the Brazilian signs language (LIBRAS). During these workshops, the performance "Phonetic Fragments of one (Self)" was recreated and performed in the MAM Museum of Modern Art (Sao Paulo) and at the MIS Museum of Image and Sound (Sao Paulo). These last two events acquired a broader scale than the premiere in Berlin: 13 Brazilian deaf and mute performers and interpreters of LIBRAS joined projected images of Rosemarie Walter in the performance, adding to her German rooted code of communication the Brazilian specificity. "Phonetic Fragments of one (Self)" will be performed for a short season again in Sao Paulo, in December 2014, at the CCSP Centro Cultural Sao Paulo.

The sign language of the deaf, likewise the various spoken and written languages in the world, is a national code. After the first "pilot project" in Berlin and the experience in Sao Paulo, we look forward to broadening the scope of research and artistic work already done through recreating "Phonetic Fragments of One (Self)" with various performers with various national/regional/cultural/social backgrounds and in different locations. This process should be reborn each time it is performed: Each live performance will be recorded and re-integrated into the successive performances, so that each "re-translation" will accumulate the results and research of the previous ones.

This audio-visual performance – that involves the body, video images, recited fragments of text and sound design, seeks in the various translations of the writings of Clarice Lispector, transformations of the original, that make of it something always alive.

## **Video Links:**

Performance MAM Sao Paulo – April, 2014 (15’):  
<https://vimeo.com/96640372>

Performance MIS São Paulo – April 2014 (15’):  
<https://vimeo.com/96638916>

Full video – video-installation (30’):  
<https://vimeo.com/97763046>

Trailer (3’): <https://vimeo.com/71683298>

## **Cristina Elias**

performance artist, São Paulo, SP, Brasil

Concluded a Masters in Movement Studies at the "Central School of Speech and Drama" (University of London, UK). In 2011, she participated as trainee direction assistant in the production of the opera "Matsukaze", by "Sasha Walz & Guests". Since October 2012, she has been collaborating with the Butoh Dancer and director Tetsuro Fukuhara (Tokyo, Japan) in his itinerant workshops and performances "Space Dance in the tube". Along the last 5 years, she has worked in Europe with different physical performers and groups such as Gardi Hutter (Switzerland), Chapitô (Portugal), Pop Corn Cabaret – Chris Lynan, Kate MacKenzie & Co (London, UK). In 2011, she presented at the Radial System (Berlin) the live installation "Here and There [or Somewhere Inbetween]". In 2012, she co-directed the play "PAI" (text by Cristina Mutarelli) in Rio de Janeiro and started collaborating as performance artist and movement director with the visual artist César Meneghetti on the project "I/O – Io è un Altro", exhibited at the 55 International Art Biennale in Venice from 30 May to 24 November 2013. Her works concentrate on building "bridges" between different artistic codes, with a strong focus on "translating" text into movement and image.  
[www.cristinaelias.eu](http://www.cristinaelias.eu)

## **César Meneghetti**

visual artist/video maker, São Paulo, SP, Brasil

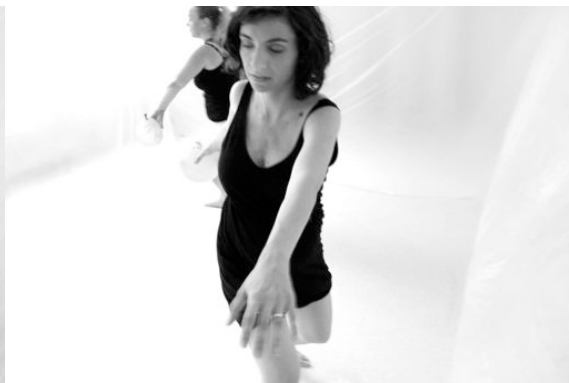
Studied fine arts at FAAP-SP, mixed media at the London Metropolitan University and cinema at Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia de Roma. Exhibited Works in over 40 countries: 55. Biennale di Venezia, Sharjah Bienal, "Bienal de Cerveira" (Portugal), MIS – Image and Sound Museum, SP, Macro – Museo d'Arte Contemporanea – Roma, Venice Film Festival, Locarno Film Festival, "Festival del Nuevo Cine de Habana", Festival "E' tudo verdade" (São Paulo, Brazil), "Mostra de Cinema de São Paulo", Transmediale (Berlin), File, Microwave, Loop, Currents, Tokyo Videoart Center, Videoformes, Videobrasil among others. FUNARTE contemporary art prize 2011, Prize "Brasil arte contemporânea 2010" of the "Bienal de São Paulo", Prize IV Interamerican Videoart Bienal (Washington, US), Nastro d'Argento 1996 and 2004 (SNCCI) and Prize "Petrobrás Cultural" 2002 and 2006.

[www.cesarmeneghetti.net](http://www.cesarmeneghetti.net)

## IMAGES



"Phonetic Fragments of One (Self)", Berlin, 2013  
Photo: César Meneghetti



Cristina Elias and Rosemarie Walter in the research workshops for "Phonetic Fragments of One (Self)", Berlin, 2013  
Photo: César Meneghetti



Poster - "Phonetic Fragments of One (Self)", Berlin, September 2013  
Photo: César Meneghetti



performance at the MAM Museum of Modern Art of Sao Paulo (April 2014)



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Movement Workshop – MAM Sao Paulo, April 2014



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