

LIFTING THE SKY: PRACTICES TO SUSTAIN WORLDS OTHERWISE

SUBJECT

The intention of this research is to promote emancipatory and critical perspectives, specifically centered in Brazil, through art practitioners that act beyond the dominant forms of thinking imprinted around the globe by the colonial project. Artists and theorists such as Walla Capelobo, Davi de Jesus do Nascimento, Ailton Krenak, Abdias Nascimento, Malcolm Ferdinand, Marisolde la Cadena, Denise Ferreira da Silva and José Esteban Muñoz, are some of the examples I'm in dialogue with.

RESEARCH QUESTION

➤ WHAT DOES "LIFTING THE SKY" CONSIST OF?

I argue that this world, in ongoing environmental collapse, needs to learn from those who have long dealt with forms of resistance and dismantling hegemonic powers. In order to move towards a "world of many worlds" – as defended by the Zapatistas – what is the role of art practice in fabulating (but also enacting) worlds otherwise? My intention is to have a more-than-theoretical approach, taking into account not only theory "as we know it" (Ferreira da Silva) but also cosmological and artistic elements that inform each other in a reciprocal dialogue.

RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

According to a Yanomami cosmology, "the sky, though it looks light, it is very heavy; it can fall and split the earth." Drawing inspiration from relationships beyond the Western parameters, I intend to theorize that "sky lifting practices" are forms of production of thought and knowledge that through art practice not only fight for but enact a common shared world. This research is divided in four chapters: Ways of Doing; Ways of Being; Ways of Knowing and an ending chapter called Towards Other Openings. Instead of limiting comprehensions, my idea is to reflect on them as input to one another, setting a ground where the theoretical, the artistic and the cosmological share the same degree of relevance.

Photo by the author at Inhotim,
Brazil, September 2023.
Abdias Nascimento's painting
"Germinal n.2: Ankh" (1969).

