

'You are seeing things' speaks of a world where music videos play a crucial role in the construction of voice, status and identity of a whole new generation of young popular artists. Brega is an informal term applied to a whole body of mass-oriented popular music produced since the 70's with a strong association to the idea of bad taste. Rooted in a broader context of socio-economic phenomena, today Brega has incorporated sophisticated methods of production and distribution, giving account of the visibility of a burgeoning middle class reaching out of the favelas of Brazil.

Cast:

MC Porck and Dayana Paixão

Leydson Dedesso, Alan Ka, Jurema Fox, Nequin do Charme, DJ Jadson, Italo Monteiro Singleds Cass, MC Meta Safadão, Dany Bala, Allany Carvalho, Joás Junior, Lucas Santos, Fernando Pato, Victor Ronã

Crew:

Cinematographer: Pedro Sotero

Assistant director: Jerônimo Lemos

Camera assistant: Raphael Malta Clasen

Sound recordist : Phelipe Joannes e Sálua Oliveira

Electricians: Alexandre Aranha, Fernando Marinho

Executive production: Carol Vergolino e Daiana Dultra (Alumia)

Production assistant: Lara Mafra

Editing: Rodrigo Carneiro

Finishing: Frederico Benevides

Original Soundtrack: Dany Bala e Tiquinho Lira (Studio Grife)

Sound mixing and mastering: Daniel Turini e

Fernando Henna (Confraria de Sons e Charutos)

Transcription, translation and subtitles: Esdras Bezerra

Sponsor: Fundo de Incentivo à Cultura do Estado de

Pernambuco, FUNCULTURA

Support: The Arts Council of Ireland, Bienal de São Paulo,

Dubcolor, Porto Mídia

# YOU ARE SEEING THINGS

BÁRBARA WAGNER & BENJAMIN DE BURCA

Curator: Rayne Booth

17.01.2020 – 12.04.2020

The Municipal Galleries of Lisbon are pleased to present *Estás Vendo Coisas*, the first solo show by the Brazilian based artist duo Bárbara Wagner & Benjamin de Burca in Portugal. Comprised of two film installations, the exhibition showcases recent moving image works, both involving collaboration with groups of performers and artists from diverse backgrounds, and looking at how popular cultural expressions respond to socio economic conditions.

Wagner & de Burca have developed a practice centred on working with groups of artists performing within distinct genres of dance, music and other forms of self expression. In the case of this exhibition, the works focus on Brega music in northern Brazil (*Estás Vendo Coisas*, 16', Brazil, 2016) and spoken word poetry in Toronto, Canada (*RISE*, 21', Canada/USA/Brazil, 2018). In recent years, the artists have also worked with Evangelical singers, Schlager music performers in Germany, Frevo and Swingueira dancers in Brazil. They focus on creating moving image work which exists at the intersection of fine art and popular culture, documentary and fiction. In opposition to the idea of 'giving voice' to a particular group of people, Wagner & de Burca are lead by the ideas and work of the groups with whom they collaborate.

The first of the two films, 'RISE', is presented on the ground floor of Galeria da Boavista. The title refers to the acronym for "Reaching intelligent souls everywhere", which is the name of a group of spoken word artists with whom Wagner & de Burca collaborated in 2018. The film presents the work of members of the R.I.S.E.

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group, and was shot in a new subway extension in Toronto which connects the peripheries of the city with the centre. The protagonists of the film are first and second generation Canadians, mainly of African and Caribbean descent, who voice complex feelings about their society and their place within it through their spoken word and music. Wagner & de Burca have worked with this group using an approach of collaboration and agency. These performers are fully in control of how they are presented and aware of the wider context of how the work will be disseminated. Capturing transcendental moments in the work of the poets, Wagner & de Burca's lens remains an observer, seeking to understand and question what it records. Through this approach, the resulting film becomes an independent artwork which somehow defies easy categorisations.

Upstairs, the work 'Estás Vendo Coisas' goes further towards blurring the lines between fact and fiction. The protagonists, Dayana, a firefighter, and Porck, a hairdresser, imagine an alternative reality for themselves through their work as nightclub Brega singers. Brega is a form of Brazilian music popular in the Northeast of the country, a fusion of American Hip Hop, Brazilian Techno and Caribbean Reggaeton. This work examines how pop music becomes an alternative form of labour and an escape from the socioeconomic conditions that define the performers. Once again we see the strong sense of control from the protagonists over how they will be portrayed and a deep knowledge and understanding of how they can present their own image within the tropes of their particular artform.

The exhibition "Estás Vendo Coisas" invites us to make comparisons between two disparate communities in two different parts of the world. What unites the protagonists of these films is the strong desire for growth and development in their artistic work and in their lives; a sense that through their creativity they can transcend their surroundings and reach their goals. Wagner & de Burca present these collaborations as a snapshot of the human potential that exists all around us, but can often remain unrecognised.

## Level O

### RISE

**Bárbara Wagner & Benjamin de Burca**  
20', Canada, 2018

In the underground spaces of the Toronto Transit Commission's (TTC) new subway extension, a group of poets, rappers, singers, and musicians negotiate their status as both first- and second-generation Torontonians as well as settlers living on borrowed Indigenous land. Featuring participants from R.I.S.E. (Reaching Intelligent Souls Everywhere) EDUTAINMENT—an event that takes place weekly in Toronto's suburban community centres—RISE adopts the concept of Edutainment as a tool for the film's structure and script.

Operatic in nature, this experimental documentary looks at rhythm and poetry as forms of creative labour that constitute contemporary collectivities of diasporic belonging and mixed-cultural dialogue: the call-and-response, the recitative, and the cypher.

The tunnels they dig are visionary.

Cast and Lyrics: Duke Redbird, Linell "ES-EF" Roy, Jameel3DN, NamedTobias., Kevin Brathwaite, Shahaddah Jack, Laurette Jack-Ogbonna, David Delisca, Terence Penny, Abdulkadir "Moose" Nur, Borelson, Thunderclaw Robinson, Bidhan Berma, Akeem Raphael, Kareem Bennett, Trevlyn Kennedy, Chantal Rose, Nathan Baya, Gee Soropia, Kwazzi D. Brown, Randell Adjei, Anthony Gebrehiwot, Paul "Ohm" Ohonsi, Nasim Asgari, Timaaj Hassen, Zenab Hassan, Michie Mee, Dynesti Williams, Daniel Burton, Aliyah Suvannah Suviana  
Executive Producer: Emelie Chhangur  
Cinematographer: Pedro Sotero  
Editing: Bárbara Wagner and Benjamin de Burca  
Colourists: Alexis McCrimmon, Pablo Nóbrega  
Sound Recordist: Matt Beckett  
Sound Design / Mix: Nicolau Domingues, Caio Domingues, Paul Hill  
Original Soundtrack: Nate Smith  
Pre-production Coordinators: Emelie Chhangur, Allyson Adley  
Pre-production Assistant: Amil Shivji  
Production Manager and First AD: Chris Boni

Second Assistant Director: Katarina Veljovic  
Production Assistants: Lillian O'Brien Davis, Suzanne Carte  
First Camera Assistant: Máira labrudi  
Second Camera Assistants: Katerina Zoumboulakis, Carine Zahner  
Still Photographer: Anthony Gebrehiwot  
Gaffer: Kay Grospe, Jordan Héguy  
Key Grip: Martin Kenji  
Grip: Shamarr Barrett  
Swing: Andrei Pora  
Additional Sound Recording: Ehren Pfeifer  
Style and Hair: Khadijah Powell-Kelly  
Make up and Style Assistant: Zyrille Endozo  
Catering: Saucy Affairs  
Post-production Coordinator: Jennifer Lange  
Translation (Portuguese): Adriana Francisco

RISE was shot in Toronto, Canada, in June 2018. The film was commissioned by the Art Gallery of York University (AGYU) with the kind support of the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC). RISE was produced with support of R.I.S.E. (Reaching Intelligent Souls Everywhere), the Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto (LIFT), and Department of Cinema & Media Arts of York University. Post-Production support was provided by the Film/Video Studio at the Wexner Centre for the Arts, Ohio. Additional support was provided by Pipa Institute, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Front International, Cleveland, USA.

## Level 1

### ESTÁS VENDENDO COISAS / YOU ARE SEEING THINGS

**Bárbara Wagner & Benjamin de Burca**  
2K, HD, colour, 5.1 sound, 16:9  
18', Brazil, 2017

In the social and professional landscape of Brega music from Recife, video clips are the catalyst of an imagined future punctuated by a powerful appetite for success as encouraged by capitalism. Scripted and performed by actual members of this local industry,