Cristina *kristal* Rizzo / Diana Anselmo

Monumentum DA

A body that simply does the body.

This is a composed talk for I am making it just as I make a piece of music... my body remains the enduring reality.

The Deaf don't believe in silence.
Silence is the invention of the hearing...

did you know that humans only developed vocal cords from homo erectus onwards?

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Sara Meliti

Cristina Kristal Rizzo / Diana Anselmo

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Genesi

Monumentum is a project by the choreographer and dance maker Cristina Kristal Rizzo, which interrogates the forms of collective memory and the return of images by reflecting on the device of the Monument, as a living trace in its unfolding into corporeal matter. It began in 2022 with a solo performed by dancer Megumi Eda and a creation for ensemble. Now *Monumentum* changes form and continues, multiplying the gazes along the thread of choreography in a new stage that avails itself of the collaboration and interpretation of Diana Anselmo, Deaf and bilingual (Italia and Italian Sign Language LIS) performer, activist/co-founder of AI.Di.Qua.Artists. association. *Monumentum DA* is a dedication to their singularity.

The piece

The creation takes the form of a story, a body-to-body movement, which aims to amplify and give space to the intrinsic possibilities of sign language. Long marginalised and alienated by phonocentric processes of power that have attempted to abolish it throughout history, Sign Language is a human, living, corporeal language; it does not speak of margins but of new forms.

Monumentum DA brings into play the relationship between languages (signs and dance), observing the erosion of the boundaries between the two semantic domains.

The LIS and Diana's body are an ever-changing archive of documents; we might call them "linguistic monuments" that form a narrative into which the politics of a body can flow in a vital momentum - and thus reconnect to the shared history of a momentary collectivity. It is therefore a matter of reconsidering the expressive potentials of all bodies and opening up a space in which diversity is pure expansion of possibilities.

First study edited video (October 2023 MilanOltre Festival):
https://vimeo.com/885615849 password - DA

Full performance fixed-camera video (September 2024 Short Theatre):
https://vimeo.com/1011295940

Audiences

The performance is equally accessible to foreigner Deaf and hearing audiences: since Diana's signs have been built as part of the choreography, they will remain in LIS while the projected text will be in the local language. The final five minutes of dialogue, in English, will be translated by a local sign language interpreter.

Tech

- duration 40'
- black box space with German-style quintet
- presence of backdrop and projector
- presence of local sign language interpreter on site
- two folding chairs, preferably black
- crew consisting of CKR; Diana Anselmo; one technician.

Credits

By: Cristina Kristal Rizzo, Diana Anselmo
Choreography: Cristina Kristal Rizzo
Performance: Diana Anselmo, Cristina Kristal Rizzo
Text by: Cristina Kristal Rizzo, Diana Anselmo and Laura Pante on writings by Yvonne Rainer, John Cage, Simone Weil, Ilya Kaminsky and CKR
Theoretica support: Laura Pante, Sergio Lo Gatto
Production: Fuorimargine Centre for Dance and Performing Arts Production in Sardegna and TIR Danza
Supported by: MilanOltre Festival and Oriente Occidente
Artistic residencies: PARC - Performing Arts Research Centre, Kilowatt, Armunia.

Contacts

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La critica

“Opening astonishing windows onto other modes of communication, such as sign language (...) Stravinsky's Sacre and Reich's Drumming, performed for gestures alone, are pages of pure poetry, resonating in our minds like scores of mute beauty and searching grace.”

_(From Il Sole 24 Ore, 8 July 2024, by Roberto Giambrone)

"It is a silence that floods the ears and mind, the one at the start of Monumentum DA... What is attempted here is to blow up is the logic of phonocentric syntax (the monument to the dominance of listening) through new politics of understanding, for a performance accessible to all."

_(From Teatro&Critica, 2 July 2024, by Stefano Tomassini)

"There are two planes: dance and speech. Held together by gesture, by presence on stage. It is the key that allows us to get inside the head of a deaf person and try, if only for a moment, to see how his ears do not hear and how, as a result, one feels. So, the use of sign language on stage makes Monumentum DA a living language creation that has the ability to redefine the world."

_(From paneacquaculture.net, 8 July 2024, by Matteo Brighenti)



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