

On *Alarve* by João dos Santos Martins

João

Mouth biting a tube, a stick, a cylinder propelling the sound of his humming voice in the room

Body as an echo of past dances, as the end of their resonance in the outer ring of their ripple or is it their origin

Clothes as an amalgam of influences, the rural, the traditional, the fashion, an infant nursed by the countless adorned in a special outfit for the occasion, ready for the catwalk

What moves who
Who moves what

Lullaby
Resting poses
Unwinding weight leading to movement

Causes
Consequences
Readjusting fabric leading to movement

An itch leading to a dance, dances
Insatiable customs driving the body to execute distorted repetitions of a melody, of a motion towards forthcoming steps – from floor to standing, from less to more, minimal micro towards hindered now but articulated gestures in the future, maybe

João dos Santos Martins

Caught in between times, movements, moods, locations and modes of being
Pose pause restful moving, restless poses, trance

In-between –
a body attempting to define what once traversed it, the memories of many, grasp it, tiptoe around it, towards
a body at the crossroads of several incarnations, a vessel, an accident, caught in the area of a multitude

Liminal

A sketch or an echo
Echoes

An embryo for a dance, dances to be
An aftermath of a dance, dances that have been
A bridge between places, times, dances once apart

Singing or being sung
Moving or being moved
Dancing or being danced

Caisse de résonance

The struggle of going on
Fragile inherited rituals - maintaining
The new, the cool, the ought to be – reaching

Both

A new-born – an ancestor
A souvenir – a promise

The ecstasy as a soundtrack for the dance underlying the melodic humming - saliva,
inspiration, expiration, suction, spit, near erupting, guttural, the biology of the body, the
unrefined, the impolite - animal surviving the forced upon shapes – transfigured by an all-
consuming smile

The softness, also
The soothing
The contemplation

An avatar, we observe in awe, reverence, with fascination and discomfort
A creature taking a stroll by the riverside, landscapes, in a museum

Whether it comes from or goes towards

João dos Santos Martins in *Alarve*

Loïc Perela