

With Thomas F. DeFrantz

Un/safe Conversation + Workshop

As part of the Conversas (In)seguras project, Thomas F. DeFrantz will be in Lisbon for two events: a public conversation and a practical workshop.

Un/safe Conversation Ersatz and Baroque: Elaboration as Method

In this edition of Conversas (In)seguras, Thomas F. DeFrantz explores the terms of a Baroque as it has been mobilized by Deleuze and Glissant as a gathering notion for thinking with the questions of elaboration and surface as structural aspects of performance and design. Deleuze and Glissant each approached the Baroque as a method of thinking about surface and the fold; this talk explores intersections in their perspectives with a particular interest in the ways that contemporary Black creativity arrives in a Baroque possibility, one that cuts across aesthetics of identity to predict a common fielding of surface affect as structure.

When: 14 October, 10:00–11:30

Where: Library of the School of Arts and Humanities, University of Lisbon, B 112.B

Language: English

Workshop Unfolding the Ersatz: Improvisation as Elaboration

How can we move with a Baroque sensibility? What happens when we approach elaboration as a method for improvisation and choreographic creation? In this workshop, Thomas F. DeFrantz proposes experimenting with Baroque elaboration as a way of moving and developing movement material for choreography. The notions of surface and ersatz—understood here as fake or artificial movement—will serve as starting points for exploring gestures, their transformations, and their compositional possibilities. The workshop will be experimental: the facilitator offers no ready-made answers, but proposes ways to investigate these questions through movement. Thinking with The Society of the Spectacle and Poetics of Relation, participants are invited to explore the aesthetic and political implications of artifice and surface, bringing movement practice, improvisation, and reflection into dialogue.

When: 13–14 October | 14:00–17:00

Where: Forum Dança, Travessa do Calado 26B, 1170-070 Lisbon

Language: English

Thomas F. DeFrantz is Professor of Theatre and Performance Studies at Northwestern University, with affiliations in the Segal Design Institute, Dance, and the Department of Black Studies. A leading scholar and artist in African diaspora aesthetics, dance historiography, Black performance theory, and the intersections of dance and technology, DeFrantz directs **SLIPPAGE** (slippage.org), a research lab dedicated to creating innovative interfaces for telling alternative histories. Their work includes the award-winning monograph *Dancing Revelations: Alvin Ailey's Embodiment of African American Culture*, influential edited volumes such as *Dancing Many Drums* and *Black Performance Theory*, and creative projects including *Queer Theory! An Academic Travesty* and the *Talking Dance* series. In 2017, DeFrantz received the Dance Studies Association's Outstanding Research in Dance Award.

Organisers: Gisela Dória, Maíra Santos & Gustavo Vicente (Centre for Theatre Studies, University of Lisbon)

Centre for Theatre Studies, University of Lisbon

Free participation

Limited places for the workshop. Registration by email: unsafeseries@gmail.com

Registration deadline: 10 October