



# LUTO



[ André Braga & Cláudia Figueiredo ]

*“The fire only stopped when there was nothing left to burn.”*

Luto is a transdisciplinary project, for outdoor spaces, created during an artistic residence in Tábua, a Portuguese municipality in the Central Region, province of Beira Alta.

Taking as starting point the fire of October 15, 2017, one of the biggest megafires in Europe, Luto focuses on the issues of trauma and catastrophe.

The double meaning of the term 'luto', as a process of mourning, dealing with loss – of human lives, memories, physical spaces – and as the verb fight – resilience and commitment of populations and nature to imagine other futures –, was the nuclear motto that structured our thinking and areas to address.

The extreme violence of the fire and the general sensation of being at the verge of apocalypse could only make us pose the question somewhere at the eminence of the End, when it becomes clear the urgency of a new philosophy, a new thought, a radically different political being.









The communities of trauma, the chaotic dimension of mourning processes, the criticism of anthropophagic societies, the proclamation of the earth-plant body and a certain primitivism... The testimonies collected both in loco and from various documentary sources were our starting material, but it soon became clear what we were interested in revealing: the dimensions that go beyond the local sphere of the fire and that are somehow common to various times and places.







A house in pieces, an incinerated car, an abandoned outdoor and the dark. A dark that seems to invade everything. And yet, the crackle of the fire burning working as a balm, evoking the more intimate, communitarian, calming side that will last forever. The deep duality that defines our relationship with the element fire is of great beauty.

*“Among all phenomena, fire is really the only one to which there can be so definitely attributed the opposing values of good and evil. It shines in Paradise. It burns in Hell. It is gentleness and torture. It is cookery and it is apocalypse.”* [G. Bachelard]









The voracity with which endless stretches of burnt land are being taken over by an uncontrollable plague of eucalyptus shows our inaction and inability to do things differently. The life that re-meddles in everyday life and the green that gradually enters the earth and the landscape should not make us lose the lucidity achieved.

*"The fire is alive in the roots of the trees, and rises from the ground days later, when no one is waiting'. I never forgot this image, of roots burning in silence, for days, weeks, decades. (...) An entire country burning by its roots."* [P. Moura]



## CAST AND CREDITS

Collective creation

Direction: André Braga

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Plastic conception: André Braga and Pedro Azevedo

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Light: Cláudia Valente

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Production: Ana Carvalhosa (direction) and Cláudia Santos

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