

## JOÃO FIADEIRO

### Context

João Fiadeiro's first contact with improvisation happened in 1988 where he had the privilege to study with Steve Paxton and Trisha Brown in an intensive summer workshop at Jacob's Pillow in the US. Back in Lisbon, in the early 90's, while developing and applying Trisha's strategies to composition in his choreographic work he became a devoted Contact Improvisation "ambassador" in Portugal, teaching and inviting teachers like Dieter Heitkamp, Howard Sonnenklar or Mark Tompkins which had a major influence in the local scene.

In the late 90s he started to cultivate a critical questioning on some of the assumptions associated with improvisation, particularly those defending the existence of a direct relationship between freedom and authenticity or between the immediacy of an action and its ability to protect us from power structures that reasoning, logic or thinking carry. He shared (and still shares) many of these concerns but slowly he realized that an "action faster than thought", legitimised by its "spontaneity" (and therefore considered "genuine"), was as loaded with power structures as predetermined gestures. He sensed that there was a third possible path, where one could be with (and within) the present tense while (and this "while" is key to this reasoning), is creating the necessary distance from his or hers habits in order to map the properties and the possibilities generated by the collision with the unknown.

And that's how he started to develop his own approach towards improvisation in order to study, problematize and systematize the experience of Real Time Composition.

Real Time Composition Workshop teaser  
CND & EXERCE | 2005 with João Fiadeiro  
<https://vimeo.com/140386398>

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