

# Cristina Planas Leitão

Porto (Portugal), 1983

Choreographer, performing arts curator, teacher

## Biographical Note

She has a bachelor of arts degree in contemporary dance from ArtEZ (Arnhem, The Netherlands, 2006).

She approaches her choreographic work as an act of resistance and affection, exploring issues associated with social and political movements and their relation to the performing body within the theatre's intimate and relational space. Affection, persistence, presence and contamination are keywords. She co-created *The Very Delicious Piece* and *The Very Boring Piece* with Jasmina Križaj, the solo *bear me, FM [featuring mortuum]* and *UM [unimal]*—the latter made the top ten of newspapers *Expresso* and *Jornal de Notícias* in 2018. Her work was supported by the Ministry of Culture / Directorate-General for the Arts, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and the GDA Foundation on a regular basis.

Her body of work is documented in the series *Portugal que Dança* (RTP2, episode 2).

As a performing arts curator, she highlights her collaboration with Teatro Municipal do Porto, under the artistic direction of Tiago Guedes—as a mediator at Festival DDD since 2018, and then as a member of the programming team of the regular season (as of 2019-2020), Festival DDD (since the 2020 edition) and CAMPUS Paulo Cunha e Silva (since 2021).

Cristina was executive coordinator of the 2019 edition of DDD.

In 2011, she was one of the starters of *encontros desNORTE* (2011-2017) in Porto, and she joined the consulting group for Braga'27.

In July of 2022, she takes on the role of acting artistic director of the Performing Arts Department at ÁGORA – Empresa Municipal do Porto (Teatro Municipal do Porto, DDD – Festival Dias da Dança and CAMPUS Paulo Cunha e Silva), of which she will be co-artistic director in 2023.

Her aggregating curatorial practice focuses on the development of sustainable creation formats, new narratives and care relations in the performing arts world.

As a teacher, she highlights her ongoing training with David Zambrano, being part of the only group that is certified to teach and develop the *flying low* and *passing through* dance techniques (2010, Costa Rica), which she has been teaching at universities and studios worldwide with a somatic and unconventional approach.

She is a regular mentor and teacher at ArtEZ.

Aside from the techniques, she holds workshops around her artistic practice and the content of each choreographed piece, which are called Radical Softness, and she also teaches somatic yoga classes.

She has also been following several projects as dramaturgy and strategy consultant.

As a performer, she has worked with Gabriella Maiorino, Isabelle Schad, Flávio Rodrigues, Vloeistof, Catarina Miranda and Marco da Silva Ferreira (in the piece *Brother*). As a rehearsal director, she worked with Hofesh Shechter and Gregory Maqoma for Companhia Instável.

She practices hatha yoga (200-hour yoga teacher training).