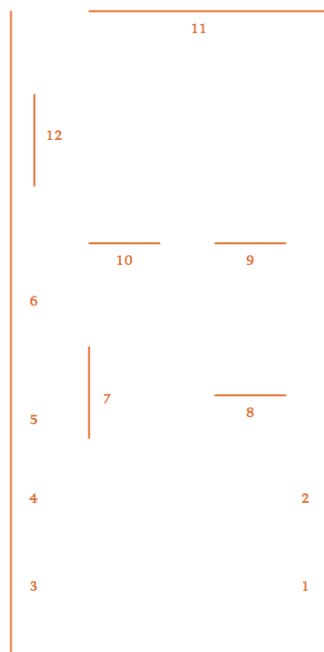




A CONSCIOUS CREATION OF SITUATIONS ALTERNATIVA ZERO 40 YEARS AFTER

Exhibition curated by Elsa Aleluia in conversation with Isabel Alves
at Kunstraum Botschaft, Berlin – Mitte

List of works and documentation from
the Estate of Ernesto de Sousa,
photos by J. M. Costa Alves and João Freire
(top to bottom, left to right)



1
Setting up the exhibition and preparation meetings / Posters exhibition (part of *Alternativa Zero*) / public performance with signs by E. M. Melo e Castro *Não há sinais inocentes* (There are no innocent signs) (with *Alternativa Zero*'s exhibiting artists António Palolo and João Conduto) / entrance of the exhibition, environment *A Floresta* (The Forest) by C.A.P.C. (Plastic Arts Circle of Coimbra) / Capas de cadernos em formato "cartucho", *Cadernos de Poesia Experimental* (publicados por António Aragão, E. M. Melo e Castro e Herberto Helder), (Notebook cover "cartridge" format), *Experimental Poetry Notebooks* (published by António Aragão, E. M. Melo e Castro and Herberto Helder), 1964-66 / spontaneous public performances.

2
Projection Room (slide sequences by Leonel Moura, Graça Pereira Coutinho, Ernesto de Sousa and others) / *Helena Almeida Pintura habitada* (Inhabited painting), 1976 and *Sem título* (Untitled), 1976 / *CCTV* / Clara Menéres *Mulher-Terra-Viva* (Woman-Earth-Live), 1977 / Joana Rosa *Quando vejo os desenhos da minha mãe* (When I look at my mother's drawings), 1976 / Ângelo de Sousa *Sem título* (Untitled), 1977 / Noronha da Costa *Caminhos sem palco: Homenagem ao M.R.P.P.* (Paths with no stage: Homage to M.R.P.P.), 1976 / general views of the exhibition.

3
Júlio Bragança *Máquina 2* (Machine 2), 1969 / Pires Vieira *Série Outubro I* (October Series I), 1976 / João Brehm *A Viagem* (The Travel), 1973 / Julião Sarmento *Inquérito a 60 artistas* (Survey

of 60 artists), 1975 / Artur Varela *Museu de Arte Moderna* (Modern Art Museum), 1973 / Álvaro Lapa *O Caderno de William Burroughs* (William Burrough's Notebook), 1973 / Robin Fior *Vernissage I* / *Alvess Sem título* (Untitled), 1969-71 / *Espaço de Relaxamento* (Relaxation Space) / André Gomes *Peregrinação* (Pilgrimage), 1977 / Mário Varela *documentation of Grupo Acre's* (Acre Group) action.

4
Workshop with children / *Ana Hatherly Poema d'entro* (Poem within), 1976 / Jorge Peixinho and Grupo de Música Contemporânea (Contemporary Music Group) *concert* / André Gomes *Conferência-acontecimento* (Conference-event) / Performance by C.A.P.C. (Plastic Arts Circle of Coimbra) / *Living Theater* (Judith Malina and Julian Beck) visiting *Alternativa Zero* / public performance by *Living Theater* in the streets of Lisbon.

5
Booklet with introductory texts by Ernesto de Sousa and Eduardo Prado Coelho, *Alternativa Zero Catalogue*, 1977.

6
Poster *Living Theater* at *Alternativa Zero*, Carlos Gentil-Homem, 1977.

7
Technical file, *Alternativa Zero* catalogue (graphic design by João Melo), 1977 / catalogue cardboard box containing artists catalogue pages / invitations / *Arte?*, stickers by Leonel Moura, 1977-97 / tickets to *Living Theater* performance / *Colóquio-Artes* art magazine n. 34 (Oct. 1977) text by Ernesto

de Sousa *Uma Criação Consciente de Situações. Alternativa Zero* (A Conscious Creation of Situations. *Alternativa Zero*) / exhibition layout / general exhibition view with Alberto Carneiro *Uma floresta para os teus Sonhos* (A forest for your dreams), 1970, in foreground / series of statements addressed by Ernesto de Sousa to the invited aesthetic operators over the production process of *Alternativa Zero* with drawings by António Sena (facsimile) / French press-release with the list of participating artists.

8
Poster *Alternativa Zero* by Carlos Gentil-Homem, 1977.

9
Catalogue page by E. M. Melo e Castro, Salette Tavares, Ernesto de Sousa, Pedro Andrade and Júlio Bragança

10
Catalogue page by Albuquerque Mendes, Clara Menéres, Helena Almeida, Joana Rosa, Julião Sarmento and Alberto Carneiro.

11
Ernesto de Sousa slides of *Alternativa Zero* / Fernando Curado Matos *Alternativa Zero*, 1979, 16 mm film transferred to DVD, colour, silent, 40'00" (titles by Paulo Abreu, 2007).

12
Documents and catalogues for consultation, including, *your body is my body – o teu corpo é o meu corpo* Ernesto de Sousa poster collection, exhibition curated by Isabel Alves (Museu Berardo, 2015-16).

[excerpt from biography written by the artist in: *Luís Vaz* 73, catalogue', Lisbon, 1976]

Ernesto de Sousa was born smart. In his first years at High School he was already the editor of a newspaper... and a poet.

When he is asked about his profession, he usually replies – a specialist in general ideas. He has been working in radio, journalism, cinema, directing theatrical plays, organising exhibitions and film clubs, and writing reviews and essays on art and film. He has taught cinema in varying circumstances, and pursued studies in Ethnology and Aesthetics, and is the author of several books. At the present he is particularly interested in *mixed-media* and video communication. He has travelled from Alto Minho to Russia, realised traineeships and participated in international conferences on the study of communication and pedagogy through audiovisual methods.

As a critic, E. S. above all hates criticism and values cultural promotion. Therefore it might be more interesting to mention his anti-lecture *Da vanguarda artística em Portugal e do Mercado Comum e de uma receita que contribuirá para a resolução de alguns problemas que afligem a nossa pátria* (The Artistic Avant-garde in Portugal and the Common Market (A source income which will contribute to the solution of certain problems which afflict our Country)) (1972), and the two exhibitions organised under the auspices of A.I.C.A.: *Do vazio à pró-vocação* (From emptiness to pro-vocation) (1972) and *Projectos-Ideias* (Projects-Ideas) (1974); as well as the *1.000.011.º Aniversário da Arte* (1.000.011.º Anniversary of Art), in collaboration with C.A.P. of Coimbra, following an idea of Filliou (1974).

On 28th February 1977 *Alternativa Zero* opened at Galeria Nacional de Arte Moderna in Belém, Lisbon, 'which synthesises his project of creating a Portuguese avant-garde in aesthetic and ideologic dialogue with its international counterparts.'

your body is my body – o teu corpo é o meu corpo, catalog, 2015
Available through Livraria Linha de Sombra
linhadesombra@gmail.com

Alternativa Zero, catalogue and poster, 1977 (last copies)
Available through STET – livros e fotografias (Lisbon)
stet.info@gmail.com | <http://stet-livros-fotografias.com/>

Further information:
www.ernestodesousa.com/projects/alternativa-zero

'Under an almost full independence from the so called "international vanguardisms", I started to consider that producing an exhibition could be equivalent to the production of an art work; collective, well understood, which in the end coincides with the most noble destiny of aesthetic activity ("poetry must be made by all")', states Ernesto de Sousa in 'A conscious creation of situations' (*Colóquio-Artes*, nº 34, October 1977), an article published on *Alternativa Zero – Tendências Polémicas na Arte Portuguesa Contemporânea* (Polemic Tendencies in Portuguese Contemporary Art), exhibited between 28th February – 30th March 1977, in Galeria Nacional de Arte Moderna (National Gallery of Modern Art) in Lisbon, with the support of a recently formed Secretary State of Culture.

Curated under a critical perspective by the artist, critic and curator, the exhibition had more than 40 artists as aesthetic operators participating, initially invited through a series of written work statements to join a fluid process of communication. This open process of exhibition making resulted simultaneously in a critical reflection of a (dis)continuity and assembled presentation of Portuguese experimental and vanguard art.

In *A Conscious Creation of Situations. Alternativa Zero 40 Years After* the exhibition situates in a critical process of continuous research, through an intertwined documentation set-up of ephemera, original posters, catalogue-only artists' pages contributions, slides and photo documentation of the original exhibit, selected from the Estate of Ernesto de Sousa / CEMES (Center of Interdisciplinary Studies Ernesto de Sousa).

Replicated in Serralves Foundation in Porto and Galleria Bianca/Cantieri Culturali alla Zisa in Palermo at its 20th anniversary (1997), *Alternativa Zero* finds 40 years later on 31st March 2017 at Kunstraum Botschaft in Berlin an opening session evolving through:

6.30 pm – Isabel Alves / a conversation about the artist and aesthetic operator Ernesto de Sousa around the process of curating *Alternativa Zero* in 1977, guided by his companion of 22 years of life and art.

7.00 pm – Isabel Nogueira / an informal lecture on the context of this exhibition considering its critical statement as aesthetic operation and its polemical critical reception within a positioning in transition from avant-garde to postmodernism.

7.30 pm – Elsa Aleluia / an experimental film screening from *Alternativa Zero*'s program and filmed documentation with the artists.