

FALL

Silvia Andrade Guillermo Gudiño & Emilio Chapela

15 April - 28 May 2022



GALERIE BERNAU

„Excellent friend! How sincerely you love me and devote yourself to inspire my mind until you raise it to the level of your own! A selfish pursuit had me bound and nullified until your kindness and affection tended and awakened my senses.“

Mary Shelley, Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus

In his text *Ecologies of Knowledge*, the Portuguese sociologist Boaventura de Sousa offers a way of thinking that opposes what he describes as the „logic of the monoculture of knowledge“. This logic, he argues, considers only one type of knowledge to be valid. De Sousa instead proposes to accept that there is a multiplicity of knowledge present in everything we do, both as individuals and as a species.

In contemporary capitalist societies, the type of knowledge that is accepted as valid is scientific thinking. Other types of thinking are not really considered legitimate and are often labelled as „irrational“ or „fantastical“. De Sousa believes that if we are to reverse the power logic that has led to our current state of crisis, we must change the way in which we approach knowledge. By accepting the intrinsic limitations of each type of knowledge, we can encourage dialogue between scientific and non-scientific knowledge.

If we imagine every type of knowledge in the form of a plant, each will take up space and have its own needs. Some of them will probably meander in the dark while others will rise to seek the light. When a new plant is introduced into the group, it may sometimes try to take the place of another. Other times, the new organism will grow together and intertwine with the others, generating symbiotic relationships. If we attend to the needs of just a single plant, it will quickly dominate our entire ecosystem and will render us incapable of taking care of the others. Through our own actions, we nurture only one particular way of thinking.

Today there are millions of forms of knowledge which we can still nurture and distinguish from one another. Fromm speaks of active care for life and the growth of what we love as an essential component of love. To this he adds respect for the one we love and the recognition of their independence as necessary conditions to avoid pathological and dominating relationships.

Several of these knowledge forms require patience: they are difficult to grasp and to name. They are far removed from the effectiveness and linearity of scientific knowledge. They are more associative and are perceived better with the body than with the head. In a professional context, they are rarely accepted and in modern education they are studied using the same tools as scientific thought. This serves to ignore their particularity.

Yet these wisdoms continue to sprout in millions of neighbourhoods and villages. They take many forms and are communicated using a variety of media. Some are kept alive in the stories of the grandmothers and grandfathers; others like to go out dancing and singing; others talk to us while we sleep.

FALL

Silvia Andrade Guillermo Gudiño & Emilio Chapela

15 April - 28 May 2022



The exhibition FALL by Silvia Andrade, Guillermo Gudiño and Emilio Chapela is a space created out of care for forms of thought not present in the discourses of a world that is „falling apart“. It is an artistic experiment with diverse forms of knowledge that can help to diminish the fall. If we want to create new perspectives for possible futures, we need to update, or to reconfigure, our outdated set of tools. Only then will we learn to listen to the whispers of a planet that persistently survives.

GALERIE BERNAU

Text: Juan Camilo Alfonso

References:

- Boaventura de Sousa Santos, Las ecologías de saberes, CLACSO, Buenos Aires, ARG. 2019
- Erich Fromm, Die Kunst des Liebens, Ullstein Taschenbuch, Berlin, DE. 2019